



# State of the Church Council

## 11.2011

**340** Christian churches within **15** member denominations and **50+** ecumenical, interfaith, faith-based and community organizational partners in King and South Snohomish Counties

### Who

did the Church Council serve during 2011?

**10,068** people served directly

**348,777** people served indirectly through advocacy

youth, homeless, low-income, immigrants, working people, elders, the sick, . . . and your faith community

## 2011 Accomplishments. Unity, Compassion, Justice



### Crossroad for ecumenical and interfaith **unity** and understanding:

- **Weekly Update**, via e-mail, connecting people of faith to events and opportunities for engagement
- **Listening tour** of congregations and the formation of a social justice congregational network
- Nine **ecumenical and interfaith gatherings** including the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Worship Service; the Interfaith Service of Remembrance, Comfort, and Hope on the 10th Anniversary of 9/11; and Interfaith Prayer Breakfasts both for Port Truck Drivers and for Immigrants

*Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St. James Cathedral, 2008. Photo taken by Maria Laughlin.*

### Incubator for ministries of **compassion**:

This year we hosted 15 programs:

- **4 direct service agencies** (HomeStep, The Sharehouse, Friend to Friend, and Sound Youth VISTA). These programs provide for supportive housing, furniture for those who have experienced homelessness, match volunteers as nursing home companions, and place young adults for a year of service with local youth.
- **11 ministries and task forces** (The Rauschenbusch Center for Spirit and Action, Washington New Sanctuary Movement, Mission for Music and Healing, St. Petersburg Sister Church, ARB Mission Media and task forces concerned with 6 regions of the world). These efforts connect people to people, offering education and training for action through linking people of faith throughout the region and beyond.



*Sound Youth show graduation pride for the camera of their AmeriCorps mentor.*

### Champions of social **justice**:

We mobilize the network of faith communities to advocate on behalf of social and economic justice for the marginalized. During 2011, The Church Council participated in **more than a dozen campaigns**.

Among the successes:

- The City of Seattle approved **paid sick leave** for all workers.
- The King County Council **protected bus service** from drastic cuts.
- Two wins assisted **"tent cities"**: Seattle City Council approved expedited siting of tent encampments on church property. The Church Council helped to facilitate a semi-permanent location for Nickelsville.
- We helped **preserve immigrant people's access to driver's licenses** in Washington state.



*Executive Director Michael Ramos speaks at Nickelsville as it moved back to its original location on W. Marginal Way.*

We welcomed back to the Church Council the **Rev. David Bloom** as an organizer for our Social Justice work.

## New Steps for HomeStep

This year saw a new phase in the life of HomeStep, a transitional housing program that we helped to birth and nurtured for 22 years. In the Church Council's history many of our sponsored ministries have graduated into a life of their own outside the Council. This year we helped HomeStep move into the Compass Housing Alliance, where their mission will be more richly supported in its next phase of life. We celebrate their promising future.

With HomeStep having transitioned successfully, we are more focused, nimble, and efficient, better able to respond to the urgent needs currently arising. We have the bandwidth to discern, adopt, and incubate more ministries. We are confident that this organizational size represents good stewardship.

## Plans for 2012

- **Advocate for the well-being of people on the margins** in the 2012's budget and election debates.
- **Distribute materials and offer trainings to congregations**, bringing our moral values to the marketplace.
- Equip faith communities to be advocates by **strengthening and structuring the social justice congregational network**.
- **Extend the listening tour** of congregations throughout King and South Snohomish Counties.
- **Welcome 2 - 3 additional ministries** under the Church Council's umbrella.
- **Redesign our communications system** to provide for frequent updates and interaction.

## Ways to Connect



- **Be a prayer partner** -- pray for our ministry and the collective ministry of the congregations of the Church Council.
- **Connect with the community** -- sign up for the Weekly Update (e-mail newsletter of events) to learn about and share interesting ecumenical, interfaith, and social justice related events and news.
- **Invite us in** -- to listen, to worship, and/or to speak.
- **Take Action** -- sign up for our Action Alert emails.
- **Join the network** -- encourage your congregation to participate in our social justice congregational network.
- **Volunteer** -- join our crew of behind-the-scenes angels
- **Spread the word** -- become a fan on Facebook!
- **Share the wealth** -- make a pledge or a gift of financial support.
- **Think ahead** -- include the Church Council in your legacy planning.

## Upcoming Ecumenical and Interfaith Events

- **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:** Tuesday, January 24, 2012
- **Interfaith Advocacy Day in Olympia:** Tuesday, February 14, 2012
- **Church Council's Annual Assembly:** Thursday, March 29, 2012

### The Church Council of Greater Seattle

2701 First Avenue Suite 240, Seattle, WA 98121

206-525-1213

[info@thechurchcouncil.org](mailto:info@thechurchcouncil.org)

[www.thechurchcouncil.org](http://www.thechurchcouncil.org)

[www.facebook.com/churchcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/churchcouncil)

**Grounded in faith. Working for justice.**

\*Please note that each ministry raises their own funds for their operations. Gifts to the Church Council support the Ecumenical and Social Justice ministries and can be designated to support other core operations.