

BUILDING POWER FOR THE COMMON GOOD

The Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good (MACG) is a broad-based organization, including religious congregations, labor locals and community non-profits in the Portland metropolitan area. MACG operates under the conviction that individuals in these institutions can develop as leaders capable of acting with others, to build civic power and bring about social change. MACG is an affiliate of the national Industrial Areas Foundation.

MACG has two primary goals:

- To help strengthen each member institution through training and development of leaders and fostering relational cultures that are action-oriented
- To enable member institutions to collectively exercise power in the public arena and negotiate with government and business leaders for common good interests

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since its founding assembly in 2002, MACG (rooted in the Portland Organizing Project) has focused on building power around issues affecting the lives of people in member institutions. MACG has trained over 1,000 of these people in leadership and community organizing skills. Here are a few highlights of actions in which MACG leaders have used their power to effect change for the common good.

Jobs:

- MACG worked with the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council to win 800 prevailing wage jobs with benefits and training in the \$1.2 billion South Waterfront Development.
- MACG's SustainableWorks team helped shape a bill passed by the Oregon legislature establishing wage, benefit, and training standards for workers on residential energy efficiency retrofit projects. MACG negotiated similar standards for a city-wide Portland pilot.
- MACG leaders helped shape a bill passed by the Oregon legislature establishing wage, benefit, and training standards for workers on residential energy efficiency retrofit projects statewide, and MACG negotiated similar standards for a city-wide Portland pilot which will include a neighborhood component MACG leaders requested.

Housing:

- MACG won \$75 million in additional funding for affordable housing units in the City of Portland, increasing the city's ten-year production goal by 3,359 units.
- MACG negotiated with Clackamas County to designate \$500,000 for transitional housing to help people move from prison into the community.

Community Health & Safety:

- MACG leaders negotiated with the Portland City Council to create a \$200,000 fund and enforcement mechanism to restore neighborhoods by decontaminating 45 properties used in the production of methamphetamines.

Health Care:

- MACG was a key ally in saving the Oregon Health Plan Standard for 110,000 low-income Oregonians.
- MACG was a key ally in educating legislators and passing legislation forming the Oregon Prescription Drug Program (OPDP), to provide prescription discounts up to 40% to ANY Oregonian, including 400 people from MACG institutions.
- MACG was a primary Oregon health reform ally, building power to pass landmark legislation extending health insurance to 60,000 adults and 80,000 children; 95% of Oregon children will now be covered by health insurance.

AND MUCH MORE!

Institutional Development:

MACG-trained leaders continually use their leadership skills to strengthen, organize and serve their own institutions:

- PHOENIX RISING Transitions adapted the MACG leadership training to prepare 150 convicts for life outside of prison and effective participation in public life.
- St. Andrew Catholic Church leaders negotiated with Providence's North Portland Medical Clinic to set aside a designated number of spaces to serve uninsured people referred from their parish and emergency services ministry.
- St. Charles Catholic Church leaders responded to the deterioration of their neighborhood and used their organizing skills learned at MAGG to organize the 42nd Ave. Business Association.

Transformative Power:

"I used to be utterly cynical about American public life. It was like a rock in my shoe. I developed enough calluses to live with it, and believed doing charity and volunteering was all that I could do. Then came the great turning – a MACG basic training in which I saw how I could change the system and structures that create the need for charity in the first place."—**Stan Aschenbrenner, Lake Oswego United Methodist Church**

"I'm a long time MACG leader because I believe in the relational process which builds power for individuals and institutions to act on what they value. I have seen many people transformed, including my own congregation."—**Pastor Terry Moe, Redeemer Lutheran Church.**

The Laborers' Union has been working for over a hundred years fighting for family wage jobs for all workers. In order to make that real, we need real allies such as those we've found in MACG. Working together with our organizing partners throughout the community we can build a strong meaningful labor movement.— **Ben Nelson, Laborers Union**

—By its very nature, MACG tears down the walls between organized labor, church, and community, and helps us build relationships regardless of our differences. I am proud to be part of an organization that actually works to bring about change at the very root of issues that affect all of us, and helps people realize that change lies in our hands.!! —**Boe Ellis, Operating Engineers, Local 701.**

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MACG is an affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation, www.industrialareasfoundation.org