

The Building Block

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Neighborhood hosts gun turn-in

The Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation (COEF), partnering with the Concordia and Vernon neighborhood associations, staged a neighborhood gun turn-in on Saturday, May 12, at Redeemer Lutheran Church, on NE 20th and Killingsworth in Portland.

People who turned in a firearm received a \$50 certificate of their choice from Fred Meyer, New Seasons, 76 Gasoline, Nike, Starbucks, Trail Blazers, Hollywood

Video, or QFC. People who turned in a BB or pellet gun received a smaller certificate or a pair of gloves. Of the 124 guns collected, 57 were handguns; 52, long guns; 8, BB guns; and 7, pellet guns. All these working guns will be destroyed by the Portland Police Bureau. This brings the total number of guns collected and destroyed since Ceasefire Oregon began the program in 1994 to over 6,600.

Spearheaded by Julie , a COEF board member, this turn-in was the second in a series of neighborhood turn-ins, a new concept for the organization. In the past we've collected guns at several sites on one or succeeding Saturdays around the metro area. The new idea is to focus on one neighborhood, work with the people

in that neighborhood, and have a turn-in on one Saturday at a location within the neighborhood boundaries, although anyone is welcome to turn in a gun. Last spring we hosted a turn-in in the St. Johns neighborhood, which was equally successful.

Working with Katie , chair of the Concordia Neighborhood Association, and Mary

, the city of Portland's crime prevention coordinator for northeast Portland,



Eric (left) and Paul (right) of Redeemer Lutheran Church helped clean up the church grounds while Acting Lt. Tim Sessions checked in guns at the gun turn-in on May 12. Redeemer Pastor Terry Moe invoked the guns-to-garden-tools idea during a May 10 press conference announcing the turn-in.

we were able to use their contacts to really inform the neighborhood of the event. Pastor Terry Moe graciously offered the facilities of his church and posted an announcement on its reader board during the week before the turn-in.

COEF is grateful for the financial support this event received from Providence Health System, Ainsworth United Church of Christ, Leotta Gordon Trust, and our many individual donors. We are also grateful for the certificates donated by New Seasons, Starbucks, QFC, Trail Blazers, Kinco Gloves, and Hollywood Video.

If you'd like to have a gun turn-in in your neighborhood, please contact COEF at 503/220-1669 or info@ceasefireoregon.org.

Building safe and healthy communities free from gun violence



Rise in crime tied to access to guns

“Easy access to guns and a willingness, even an eagerness, to settle disputes with them” emerge as the predominant theme of a reported rise in murder, robbery, and gun assaults since January 2005, according to an article by Kate Zernike published March 9 in the *New York Times*.

The information accompanies the announcement that during 2005 and 2006, in cities across the United States, the number of murders, robberies, and gun assaults rose, even though overall crime has been declining nationwide. Boston, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Hartford, Memphis, and Orlando were among cities where homicides increased 20 percent or more.

The statistics are contained in a new report by a national law enforcement association, the Police Executive

Research Forum. The forum surveyed 56 cities and sheriff's departments. Of the cities surveyed, 71 percent saw an increase in homicides, and 67 percent saw an increase in aggravated assaults with guns. The report is available at www.policeforum.org.

While some of the violence is random, in many cases it is between gangs or among people—often young men—who know one another. What might have been a fistfight 20 years ago now might lead to a shoot-out.

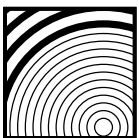
Economic and social factors are among the causes of the problem: “We seem to be dealing with an awful lot of people who have zero conflict-resolution skills,” said Chief Chris Magnus, the police chief in Richmond, California, as quoted in the *New York Times*. ♦



At the gun turn-in on May 12, left to right: Julie [redacted], Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation; Katie [redacted], chair of the Concordia Neighborhood Association; and Mary [redacted], Portland's crime prevention coordinator for northeast Portland.

The Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation (COEF) works to reduce gun violence by educating the public and providing opportunities to dispose of firearms. Since 1994, we have provided for the safe surrender and disposal of over 6,600 guns. Our affiliate, Ceasefire Oregon, works to reduce gun violence by advocating reasonable gun safety legislation and opposing irresponsible bills.

Contributions to COEF are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Contributions to Ceasefire Oregon are not tax deductible because its primary function is to work on behalf of and against proposed gun laws. If you'd like to get involved or make a donation, please contact us. Please also send us your email address. We greatly appreciate your support. ♦



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Ceasefire intensifies ASK Campaign

Ceasefire was honored to be chosen in 2005 as one of the first recipients of the *Portland Monthly* and Oregon Community Foundation's joint Light a Fire Award. We took the spirit of the award to heart: the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation (COEF) is taking steps to raise the profile of its mission in the community and increase its capacity to enhance public health and safety.

As part of these efforts, COEF is broadening and intensifying the reach and effectiveness of the ASK (Asking Saves Kids) Campaign. As you know, COEF has promoted the ASK message, which encourages parents to ask if there are guns where their children play, as a key part of its outreach and education in recent years. We now plan to take the campaign to the next level through a partnership with PAX, Inc., a national, nonpartisan gun safety organization that created the ASK Campaign in 2000.

Portland has been chosen by PAX as one of only four cities nationwide to serve as a "pilot city" for conducting a comprehensive ASK firearm safety campaign. This "pilot city" model was implemented for the first time last year by PAX in Rockford, Illinois, where the campaign has

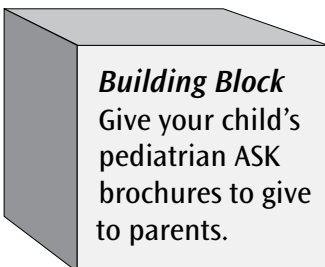
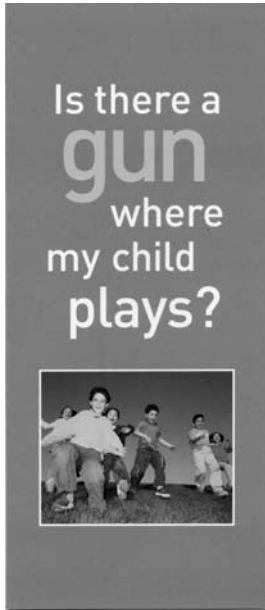
been a resounding success. (See www.rockfordasks.org.) In April, three partners from PAX's offices in New York City visited with the COEF

board and ASK volunteers in Portland. Together over two very busy days, we participated in a series of meetings with key stakeholders in our community whose support and participation will be vital to the success of ASK. The response to ASK's commonsense health and safety message was unanimously positive, and each agency offered its full support.

Our partnership with PAX will enable COEF to marshal PAX's considerable internal resources to

bring the ASK message to the homes of more than 200,000 Portland families. Through a comprehensive media campaign, including billboards, transit advertising, and broadcast public service announcements, we anticipate reaching thousands of Portlanders each day, while on a grassroots level we will engage parents directly through parent education workshops, community events, and speaking engagements.

Please check this newsletter and our website, www.ceasefireoregon.org, for news updates on this very exciting project. ♦



Volunteer opportunities at Ceasefire

These are just a few of the ways you can help with the work of the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation.

ASK Campaign

- Put stickers on ASK brochures
- Assist with ASK mailings
- Invite us to speak to your group
- Publicize education workshops

Gun Turn-Ins

- Help plan a gun turn-in
- Design the turn-in brochure

Outreach

- Assist at a COEF information table at a community event
- Invite us to staff a table at your community event

- Participate in a mailing party

History

- Organize COEF's archives and notebooks

Funding

- Research and initiate contact with foundations that are interested in our mission
- Write a grant proposal
- Telephone prospective donors
- Work on a fundraising event
- Design an invitation for an event

Please let us know how you'd like to help; contact us at 503/220-1669 or info@ceasefireoregon.org.

Thank you! ♦

Volunteer profile: Shawn

Shawn has been an active volunteer for Ceasefire organizations since 1996, when she just happened to attend a Ceasefire Oregon board meeting with a friend. Currently she is president of Ceasefire Oregon and on the board of the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation (COEF). She is a volunteer for all seasons, taking the initiative on a number of projects, and providing energy and talent to many aspects of the organizations' programs.

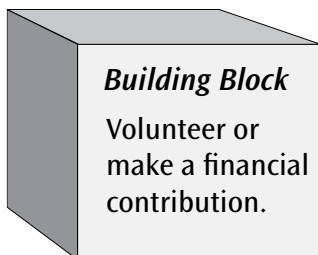
As director of marketing and communications for the United States Tennis Association for ten years, Shawn participated in the toy gun turn-in at the Rose Quarter twice. Last year she organized a toy gun turn-in in conjunction with the COEF gun turn-in; she hopes to present a toy gun turn-in next year also.

Shawn teaches a class as a volunteer at Open Meadow High School. Students examine the epidemic of gun violence in America, discuss their own thoughts and experiences, and complete projects on gun safety for local venues: public service announcements about the turn-in for radio broadcast, coloring books, flyers, and posters.

As a volunteer and board member for the COEF, Shawn has organized the publicity for the gun turn-in events every year for the past twelve years, a gift of enormous value. She has held a variety of positions, tracking finances, leading meetings, and keeping the office in good order—no small job for an organization without staff!

A graduate of Lake Oswego schools and the University of Oregon, Shawn has been alarmed and saddened by three incidents of gun violence: As a child she was accompanying her father, a policeman, on patrol one evening and witnessed a fatal shooting. A colleague of hers at the Northwest Tennis Association committed suicide with a firearm. And two years ago, a friend in Seattle was the victim of a random shooting.

We admire Shawn for her quiet strength, for seeing what needs to be done and doing it, and for her generosity of spirit and time and talent. Way to go, Shawn. Thank you. ♦



You can help prevent gun violence

Nearly 30,000 people in the United States are killed by firearms every year, 57 percent by suicide. Twice as many are injured. Gun violence in this country is a public health crisis of staggering proportions.

To reduce injuries and deaths by gun violence, we must make it more difficult for felons, fugitives, young people, and the mentally ill to obtain guns. Here are some things you can do to help prevent gun violence.

- ❖ If you have a gun that you want to keep, unload it, lock it in a gun safe, and lock up ammunition separately. The 15-year-old boy who fired into classrooms at a high school in Gresham on April 10 took the high-powered rifle he used from his home. The 14-year-old boy who took aim at a Washington County sheriff's deputy on January 1 near Hillsboro obtained the semiautomatic rifle from his father's unlocked gun safe and loaded it with armor-piercing bullets. Protect your children and your children's friends by locking up your guns and ammunition separately.
- ❖ If you have a gun that you don't want, get rid of it safely. Call your local law enforcement agency and tell the officer you'd like to get rid of your gun. The COEF website lists the phone numbers of sheriff's offices and police departments throughout the state that are willing to accept your unwanted guns. (No gift certificates are provided in return, however.) Visit our website, at www.ceasefireoregon.org, and click on "Year-Round Gun Turn-In."
- ❖ Students: If you hear that someone plans to bring a gun to school, call this number toll free: 1-866-SPEAK-UP. You can call anonymously, and your information will be passed on to law enforcement. In 81 percent of school shootings, including the recent one in Gresham, the shooters told others about their plans beforehand. You can prevent the next school shooting by calling 1-866-SPEAK-UP.
- ❖ Before sending your children to play at someone else's house, ASK those parents whether there's a gun in the house and, if so, whether it is safely stored. Don't permit your children to play in homes where there's a gun that's not locked up. Help us spread the ASK message.
- ❖ Call or write your legislators and urge them to enact legislation to prevent gun violence. To read bills in the Oregon legislature that Ceasefire Oregon supports and to obtain contact information for your state and federal legislators, please visit the Ceasefire Oregon website, at www.ceasefireoregon.org, and go to the Legislation page.

These are just some of the things that you can do personally to help reduce gun violence. For more information, to volunteer to do more, or to make a financial contribution, please contact the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation at 503/220-1669 or info@ceasefireoregon.org. ♦

In 2004, the latest year for which data are available, 11,624 people in the U.S. were homicide victims killed by gunfire. That's 32 people per day.

Another 649 people were unintentionally killed by guns in 2004, and 16,750 people committed suicide with a gun. In other words, in the U.S., about 80 people per day were killed by gunfire in one of those three ways. A total of 29,569 people were killed by gunfire in the U.S. in 2004. (Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System, available at www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars.)

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Ceasefire Oregon monitors bills

Ceasefire Oregon, the legislative advocacy affiliate of the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation (COEF), has been closely monitoring the firearms bills introduced during the 2007 session of the Oregon legislature. When we went to press in mid-June, the legislature had passed two firearms bills, HB 2300 and HB 2334. Both bills have been signed by Governor Kulongoski.

HB 2300 clarifies the grounds on which a concealed handgun license can be revoked. HB 2334 adds to the list of those who cannot obtain a concealed handgun license in Oregon (1) people who have been convicted of an offense involving a controlled substance, with some exceptions; (2) people who have been dishonorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces; and (3) people who must register as a sex offender in any state.

Under Oregon law, a county sheriff must issue a concealed handgun license to any applicant who meets the minimum statutory criteria, listed in Oregon Revised Statutes 166.291, which is available via the legislature's website, www.leg.state.or.us. As of January 2, 2007, the number of Oregonians who had a license to carry a concealed handgun was 93,399.

For more information about the bills before the Oregon legislature, and to download a pamphlet summarizing Oregon's laws, or the lack thereof, concerning gun violence prevention, please visit the Ceasefire Oregon website, at www.ceasefireoregon.org.

One simple thing you can do to help prevent gun violence is send your email address to Ceasefire Oregon, so it can notify you about important developments in the Oregon legislature and Congress and ask you to contact your legislators when necessary. Ceasefire Oregon and COEF promise not to inundate you with email, and will share your email address only with each other.

Please send your email address to info@ceasefireoregon.org. Thank you. ♦