



# 2013 PEACE HOUSE ANNUAL REPORT



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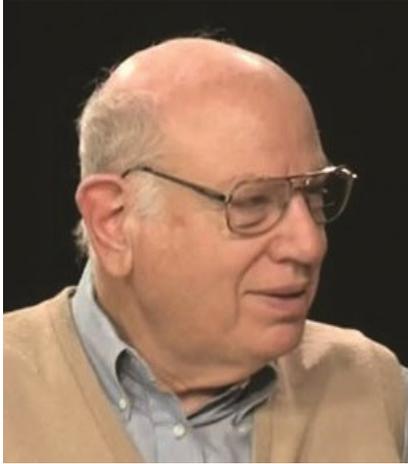
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*Front cover photograph: Reaching out to SOU students on fall semester orientation day as part of our Young Activists initiative. Photo by Karen Jeffery. Back cover photograph: One of dozens of quotations on the "Peace Wall" at the September 21st Global Feast for Peace in Ashland.*



## Letter from Herbert Rothschild, Chair, 2013

*Dear Supporters and Friends,*

*On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Peace House, I'm proud to offer you this report on our organization and its work during the last calendar year.*

*Because a major part of our mission is to help involve residents of the Rogue Valley with crucial peace and justice developments in the larger world, it isn't possible to gauge the success of the organization entirely apart from the way the world goes. In that regard, 2013 was a mixture of breakthroughs and frustrations.*

*As an organization, however, Peace House is healthy, thanks to widespread community support. We secured both the human and financial resources we needed to carry out the many activities we planned.*

*The programs largely under our own control went well. Uncle Foods Diner continued to attract dedicated volunteers, individual and foundation gifts, and large numbers of very poor and homeless people who need its services. And our outreach to young activists got off to a promising start.*

*The most encouraging developments in policy areas we try to impact were related to U.S. foreign and military policy in the Middle East. The switch from threat to diplomacy in our relations with Iran was the culmination of two years of hard work by the national peace movement and Peace House as a part of it. Similarly gratifying was the successful resistance to President Obama's intended military strike on Syria.*

*The biggest frustration was the inability at the national level and in Oregon to pass reasonable gun regulation after the massacre at Sandy Hook persuaded a large majority of Americans that such laws are needed. There is some chance for gains in Salem early in 2014 and even more hope that the City of Ashland will adopt new safety measures this year.*

*The never-ending quest to cut military appropriations and properly fund domestic programs was both helped and hurt by the federal budget "sequester." The budget passed in late 2013 funded the military at a level 15% lower in real dollars than four years ago. Unfortunately, many domestic programs, including ones that serve the neediest Americans, took hits at least that large, sometimes larger.*

*These matters, with an emphasis on Peace House activities related to them, are covered in more detail in the following pages. I hope what you read there will justify the faith you have placed in our organization.*

# Some highlights in photographs

*Right:* In February, U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley came to lunch at the invitation of Peace House.

*Below and small photo at right:* The Peace House entry in Ashland's Fourth of July Parade extolled the contributions of whistleblowers Daniel Ellsberg, Bradley Manning, Julian Assange, and Edward Snowden.



*Below:* Peace House hosted a program honoring a delegation from Japan in connection with the observance of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days.



*Right:* An average of 20 people per month attended our Happy Hour Peace Talks to learn about a variety of issues and how people in the Valley are addressing them.



# Challenging Militarism

After more than two decades of armed interventions and occupations, in 2013 diplomacy triumphed over war in U.S. Middle East policy. Perhaps the American public is just exhausted by a decade of war with nothing to show for it except damaged veterans and huge debt. Or perhaps we are at last learning the lesson that our unconscionable and fruitless war on the Vietnamese should have taught us 40 years ago: that we cannot impose our will on the world by force, no matter how unrivalled our capacity for wreaking destruction.

**IRAN** Shortly after assuming the Iranian presidency in August, Hassan Rouhani signaled his willingness to enter negotiations with the West over his nation's nuclear program. The ensuing diplomacy was just what diplomacy should be, with accommodation on both sides. To the dismay of the Israeli government and its slavish supporters in the U.S. Congress, an agreement was quickly reached that recognized Iran's right under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty to enrich uranium for civilian purposes but put in place mechanisms to assure that it could not develop nuclear weapons.

The intense education and advocacy that Peace House had done around this issue in 2012 continued into 2013, beginning with a two-day conference in February that we co-hosted with the UN Club at SOU. We called it "Debunking the Clash of Civilizations: Understanding Islam and the Middle East." More than 100 townspeople and students learned, among other things, the status of Iran's nuclear program and nonviolent approaches to assuring that it remains peaceful in its capacities and purposes.

After Rouhani's election, we joined peace activists across the nation in urging President Obama to seize the new opportunity. More recently we helped frustrate the effort in Congress, orchestrated by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), to scuttle the agreement. Both our U.S. Senators resisted AIPAC's pressure.

**SYRIA** Given President Obama's commitment to diplomacy, not war, with Iran, his intention to launch a military strike on Syria was as puzzling as it was distressing. He announced it in late August after a poison gas attack for which the Assad government may or may not have been responsible. Secretary of State John Kerry's explanation to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee of what our missile attack would accomplish made no sense, and his use of the "domino effect" argument was outrageous. It didn't wash in Congress, thanks to a rapidly organized and loud national outcry. Russian Premier Vladimir Putin's timely diplomatic intervention spared the Administration a humiliating defeat. Far more important, it led to the dismantling of Syria's chemical weapons arsenal.

Peace House mobilized grassroots pressure on both our U.S. Senators and U.S. Representative Greg Walden. Sen. Merkley and Rep. Walden committed to opposing the attack. Wyden remained silent until Putin let him, as well as Obama, off the hook.

**HOW PROGRESSIVES GAVE PEACE WITH IRAN A CHANCE**

Since November, MoveOn members have been mobilizing to avoid an unnecessary war with Iran. Today new sanctions were shelved - a huge victory

**150,000** PETITION SIGNATURES IN NOVEMBER

**JANUARY:** MOVEON WORKED WITH BERIM.ORG TO GENERATE MORE THAN **10,000** PHONE CALLS TO CONGRESS DEMANDING DIPLOMACY

**IN EARLY FEBRUARY,** MOVEON.ORG AND BERIM.ORG FLEW MOVEON MEMBERS TO WASHINGTON, DC FOR MEETINGS WITH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES

**FINALLY,** Senator Chris Murphy authored a MoveOn Petition asking the Senate to give negotiations a chance

**IT HAS 63,000 SIGNATURES**

The National Journal quoted two Democratic Senate aides saying that the impressive volume of calls and activism from constituents supporting diplomacy were instrumental in the decision to shelve new sanctions

**MoveOn.ORG** DEMOCRACY IN ACTION



**DRONES** We joined the national outcry against the illegal, immoral and counter-productive use of drones to assassinate alleged terrorists in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia. As part of our effort, for several months we promoted a weekly call-in to the White House on Tuesdays, when President Obama sits with his national security advisors and selects targets. The attacks have diminished significantly—for instance, 21 in Pakistan through September, 2013 versus 117 in 2010. And in October the U.S. delegation pledged to a largely hostile UN General Assembly that our government would take measures to avoid the

sizable civilian casualties the drone strikes were causing. None of this, however, is acceptable to Peace House. Assassination without judicial process and by remote control must stop altogether.

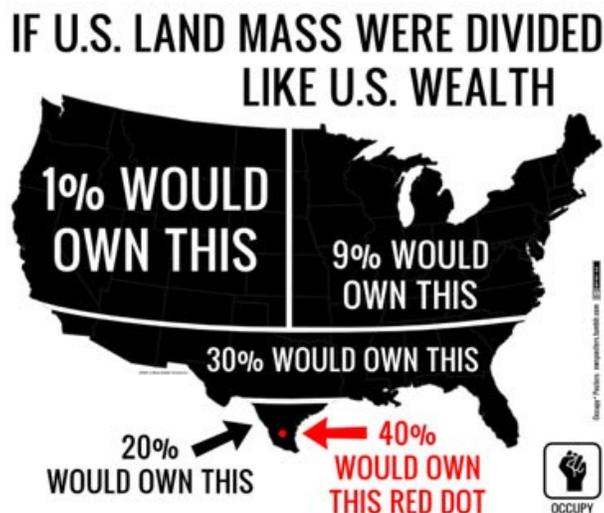
**TRUTH IN MILITARY RECRUITING** Our program to help young adults make an informed choice about joining the military was largely on hold in 2013 because, uniquely among our programs, we lacked the human resources to conduct it.

The one action we did take was in conjunction with the film “The Invisible War,” which documents the widespread incidence of rape in our armed forces and the military’s failure to address the problem effectively. We encouraged

SOPTV to air the documentary, which it did on all three of its channels in May and early June. We then prepared flyers about the film and the ugly reality it reveals. With the help of Rogue Valley Veterans for Peace and Citizens for Peace & Justice, we distributed almost 1,000 flyers at high schools in Medford, Phoenix, Ashland, and Grants Pass.



# Seeking Economic Justice



Along with climate change, economic inequality promises to be the unhappy reality shaping life for the long-term. There are no easy fixes for either condition, but there are meaningful measures to take. Following two years of educating people in the Rogue Valley and beyond on the federal budget, deficits, and debt, in 2013 Peace House focused on some of those measures. The results were mixed.

**A FEDERAL BUDGET FOR REAL SECURITY** At the end of 2012, tax rates on the wealthy were raised modestly—not enough to alleviate the perceived need for belt tightening. Spending decisions were put off until 2013, and for most of the year the “sequestration” dictated allocations to discretionary domestic programs and the Department of Defense.

The peace movement wanted military spending not to exceed its sequestration cap when a new budget was adopted, plus increased funding of human needs, infrastructure revitalization, and environmental programs, including green energy. We got half a loaf.

In FY2014 (began October 1, 2013), the Department of Defense will get \$612 billion. That doesn’t include \$11 billion for the Department of Energy’s nuclear weapons program and \$10 billion for military construction. While an unjustifiable amount, it is \$20 billion less than 2013 in nominal dollars (more when adjusted for inflation). And because that figure includes \$92 billion for the war in Afghanistan, next year should see a greater drop even Obama persuades the Afghani government to allow us to keep some troops there.

Domestic programs did not get the increased funding they need, though the picture is uneven. For example, overall both Education and Health and Human Services went up a bit, Housing and Urban Development went down.

In addition to lobbying our two U.S. Senators for our spending priorities, Peace House concentrated on getting the Valley’s social service community to become active in advocacy, something most people in it historically have been reluctant to do.

Our major push was to hold a briefing on the budget negotiations in September and invite representatives of major organizations to attend. The briefing was conducted by a field organizer of D.C.-



Katherine Philipson of FCNL

based Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). There was an excellent turnout by representatives of ACCESS, Easter Seals, Head Start, and United Way of Jackson County, to name a few of the 20. Later, we encouraged them to help protect the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps) from major cuts when the Farm Bill, an appropriation separate from the annual budget, was being reauthorized.

**AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL** In 2012, the average cost of health care for an American family of four exceeded \$20,000. Inability to cover those costs through insurance or household income contributed to 62% of personal bankruptcies that year. The Affordable Care Act doesn't do a lot to contain rising health care costs, and it still allows private insurers and their associated administrative costs to add about 20% to the nation's health bill. Nor does universal coverage mean adequate coverage.



Single payer health insurance ("Medicare for All") is the only solution to the problem. Candidate Obama espoused it; President Obama dismissed it. It's what the majority of Americans, including the majority of physicians and other health professionals, say we want.

In conjunction with Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice, in February Peace House organized a busload of people from Jackson and Josephine Counties for a lobbying trip to Salem. Our 47 advocates joined hundreds more from across the state to lobby for single payer in Oregon. An important first step was taken when the state legislature passed a resolution mandating a cost-comparison study of several systems. Even Central Point-area State Representative Dennis Richardson, who rarely votes our way, supported the bill.

Health Care for All Oregon (HCAO) is guiding the sustained effort. Its goal is to have a proposition on the state ballot in 2016 authorizing funding for the system. Success will depend on education and organizing in the next two years. Peace House, as a member of HCAO, is playing a part.

**OTHER WORK** A campaign for increasing the minimum wage to a living wage just began to gather steam in late 2013. Peace House will work in collaboration with groups like Oregon Action and Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice to promote the cause in Oregon and in D.C. Jeff Merkley is championing the cause in the U.S. Senate. . . . We continue to serve as fiscal agent for Jackson County Move to Amend, which is part of the national campaign to loosen the stranglehold that the super-rich have on U.S. politics.

# Uncle Foods Diner

This one social service program of Peace House continued to serve a large number of the Ashland area's neediest residents with a nutritious meal every Tuesday evening. Uncle Foods Diner also continued to be the primary way poor people accessed information about other services and received some of them, such as medical and dental care from La Clinica's mobile unit. Finally, it is a place where needy people interact with others on equally respectful terms.

In 2013, 4,852 meals were served, down slightly from a record 5,349 the previous year. We are concerned that cuts in the SNAP program (Foods Stamps), the first of which occurred in November with deeper cuts to come in 2014, will significantly increase demand, especially among households with children.

We are encouraged by the community support Uncle Foods continues to enjoy. A stable core of volunteers assures smooth functioning each week. And the outpouring of financial help was wonderful. Multiple grants, listed below, as well as several generous individual donations, funded the work. Then there was Empty Bowls.

**EMPTY BOWLS.** In the second year since we assumed responsibility for this event from the Soroptimists and transformed it from a ceramics sale only to a community meal, some 150 people paid \$25 apiece for a bowl and the delicious soup volunteers filled it with. Soups, bread, and dessert were donated by Amuse, Black Sheep Pub and Restaurant, C Street Bistro, Greenleaf Restaurant, Maren Faye Caterers, Pangea, Spoons, and Standing Stone Brewery. Zoe Alawon, Regina Ayars, and Julie Wiley planned and directed the event. Bowls were contributed by Clayfolk, Southern Oregon Clay Distributors, and Ashland Art Gallery, as well as students in the SOU Ceramics Department and seniors in Sarah Sievert's Spanish class at Eagle Point High School. Many people were volunteer servers and waiters.



For their financial support in 2013, we would like to thank the West Family Foundation, the Robert and Frances Chaney Family Foundation, the Oregon Community Foundation, the Anna May Family Foundation, the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation, the Sid and Karen DeBoer Foundation, the Ashland Food Coop, FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program, and Trinity Episcopal Church. Special gratitude for First United Methodist Church, site of the meal and full partner in the work.

# Building a Culture of Peace in Ashland

For the second year in a row, David Wick of Pathways to Peace, Eric Sorotkin of Ubuntu Peace Works, and Herb Rothschild of Peace House resolved that Ashland would observe the International Day of Peace in a significant way. But they wanted to make sure that the 2013 event would lead to sustained work in building a culture of peace.

**GLOBAL FEAST FOR PEACE** The event was ambitious—a Global Feast for Peace, such as was being planned in a number of cities around the globe. They expanded the planning committee to include Melanie Crumé, a Peace House volunteer, Kathleen Gamer and Trevor Thorn-dike of the UN Club at SOU, and Patricia Sempowich of Reuniting America. The committee lined up Wesley Hall at First United Methodist Church for the venue, got endorsements from many segments of the Ashland community, built an attractive and uplifting program, got out the word, and took care of the logistics.



More than 160 people attended, rejoiced, and danced to the music of Ecstatic Dance. Council member Pam Marsh read a proclamation from Mayor John Stromberg, who was out of town. Among other aspects of the program were a reflection from internationally renowned peace teacher

Gary Zukav, a message of greeting from Ashland's sister city Guanajuato, and songs by the Rogue Valley Peace Choir.

**CULTURE OF PEACE INITIATIVE-ASHLAND** People signed up at the event to work on sustained, intentional peace-building in Ashland. The result of subsequent meetings was the formation of CPI-Ashland. Its mission statement is as follows:

*Our goal is an Ashland that identifies itself as a culture of peace, both as a commitment to itself and a self-presentation to the world. Integral to achieving that goal are*

- *Official guidance of this enterprise by the City of Ashland through a peace commission.*
- *A commitment by the Ashland School District to institute peace education and nonviolent conflict resolution throughout the schools.*
- *On-going, inclusive explorations of what it means to be a culture of peace, identification of ways to more completely realize that culture, and frequent publicizing of peace-building work.*
- *The awareness by all segments of Ashland of how they are already building a culture of peace, and their commitment to develop further that dimension of their activities.*
- *The widespread use of Peacebuilding tools that emphasize mutual respect and restoration of right relationships.*

The work, with the participation of Peace House, is well under way. To become involved and to endorse the creation of a peace commission, visit the website at <http://www.cpi-ashland.org/#>

# ENCOURAGING YOUNG ACTIVISTS

Aware that both our board members and our volunteers are mostly over 60, early in 2013 we made a commitment to connect with young activists and to encourage their development. One avenue was to increase our presence on the Southern Oregon University campus, our near neighbor. The other was to offer training opportunities.

**WORK AT SOU** We previously had worked on some programs with the United Nations Club. That relationship and work intensified last year, beginning with the conference on Islam and the Middle East mentioned in “Challenging Militarism.” It continued with other events,



including Maxine Kaufman La-custa’s talk on resisting the Israeli occupation of the West Bank plus the Global Feast for Peace. Kathleen Gamer, founder of the club, has been our closest collaborator, and she joined our board this year.

SOU’s two new programs—the Social Justice House and the Green House—were conceived to attract and groom activists.

Peace House is one of the community partners of the Social Justice House. And we formed a relationship with Shaun Franks, who has played a major role in “green campus’ work at SOU. Shaun joined our board in the fall.

**DAY OF TRAINING** Fifteen people ages 16 through 30 attended the November 16<sup>th</sup> Young Activists Training put on by Peace House and Oregon Action. The day-long event featured presentations on the challenges young people are inheriting, the anatomy of a successful campaign for change, and small group work constructing their own campaigns.



As the photos accompanying this story display, there was more racial and ethnic diversity among the participants than is usual in our work. We were delighted.

A highlight of the day was a stirring lunch-time speech by Sharon Gary-Smith, executive director of the McKenzie River Gathering Foundation. Telling the story of her own struggles as a black woman, Sharon effectively communicated the sense of possibility against the odds.

# Financial report

## FY2013 Income and Expenses

### Income

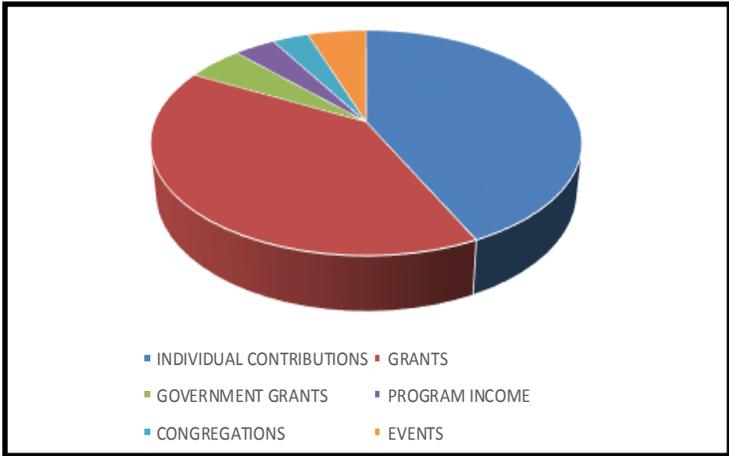
Contributions	
Individual contributions unrestricted	14,243
Individual contributions restricted	1,173
Major donor contributions unrestricted	10,000
Major donor contributions restricted	<u>2,000</u>
<i>Subtotal contributions</i>	<i>27,416</i>
Grants from private sources	
Edna Wardlaw Trust	10,000
Oregon Community Foundation	5,000
Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation	4,000
Sid and Karen DeBoer Foundation	2,500
Anna May Family Foundation	2,500
Chaney Family Foundation	1,500
Ashland Food Coop	<u>in-kind</u>
<i>Subtotal grants</i>	<i>25,500</i>
FEMA grant	3,207
Congregational support	2,074
Administrative income	
Room rental administration	2,400
Other	<u>810</u>
<i>Subtotal administrative income</i>	<i>3,210</i>
Program income	2,373
Special events	3,346
Miscellaneous	<u>91</u>
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$67,779</b>

### Expenses

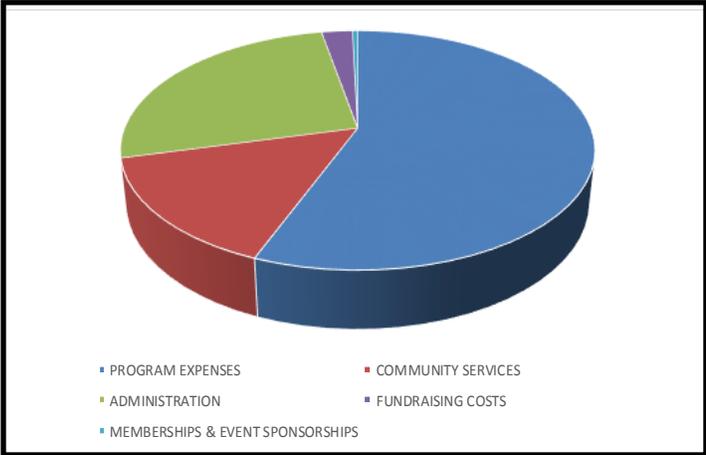
Programs	
Uncle Foods Diner	17,812
Other programs	15,614
<i>Subtotal programs</i>	<i>33,427</i>
Community Services	
Communications	7,240
Meeting space offering	1,762
<i>Subtotal community Services</i>	<i>9,002</i>

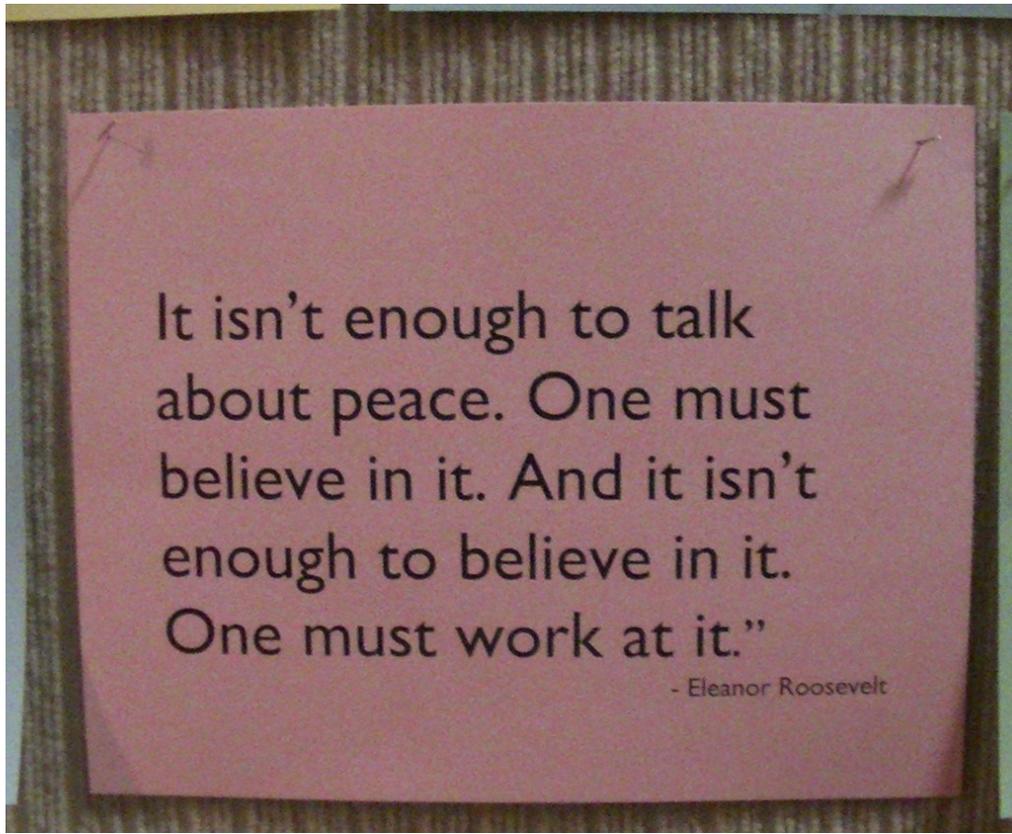
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Coalition memberships and event sponsorships	250
Administrative expenses	
Office management (wages + payroll taxes)	7,927
Accounting services	950
Building maintenance and utilities	3,600
Insurance	480
Printing and postage	642
Office supplies	414
Bank service fees	259
Taxes + governmental fees	816
Staff and board development	78
Miscellaneous	<u>389</u>
<i>Subtotal administrative expenses</i>	<i>15,555</i>
Fundraising	
Printing	826
Postage	308
Other	<u>269</u>
<i>Subtotal fundraising</i>	<i>1,503</i>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>59,737</b>
<b>Net income</b>	<b>\$8,042</b>



EXPENSES BY CATEGORY





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