

The Building Block

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Ceasefire receives Light a Fire Award

Ceasefire Oregon is one of 48 nonprofits, companies, and individuals who received the *Portland Monthly* magazine's inaugural Light a Fire Awards. The awards recognize organizations and people who inspire and nurture the greater Portland community. The magazine and the Oregon Community Foundation partnered in creating the awards last year to acknowledge the community stewards who provide essential services and support.

The awards reception was held on October 25 in the new wing of the



Portland Art Museum. Award recipients were divided into 15 categories. Ceasefire was one of five nonprofits receiving the Best-Kept Secret Award, for organizations “doing critical work, with little fanfare.”

Shawn [redacted], who attended on behalf of Ceasefire, said of the event, “It was the most beautiful and inspiring occasion I have ever attended. To be in the same room with all these people and organizations who do so much to make our community and lives better was both very special and a great honor.” ♦

Salem Gun Turn-In raises awareness

Held on October 8 in the parking lot of the Jason Lee United Methodist Church in Salem, the Salem Gun Turn-In was staffed by the Salem Police Department and Ceasefire volunteers, an enjoyable and successful collaboration. Ninety-five guns were turned in at the site, four of which were then identified as stolen. A committee of Salem citizens planned the event along with board members from the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation.

One couple who gave us their gun told us that they wanted the gun out of the house because their grandchildren were often there.

Two other couples accepted \$50 certificates to Life Source Natural Foods in exchange for their firearms. They were planning to donate the certificates to the local food bank.

Another family told us that they had been waiting and watching many years for this opportunity to dispose of their firearm.

Financial support for the event came from the Juan Young Trust, the Independent Physicians Association (Salem), VanAtta Public Relations, Life Source Natural Foods, the Portland Trailblazers, and many citizens.

The Salem *Statesman Journal*, the *Keizer Times*, and Channel 2 KATU provided excellent coverage of the event. We are reprinting in this newsletter, with permission, a *Keizer Times* editorial about the gun turn-in because it accurately describes what the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation is trying to accomplish.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the Salem Gun Turn-In such a success. ♦

Building safe and healthy communities free from gun violence



Gene Heidt Memorial Fund is established

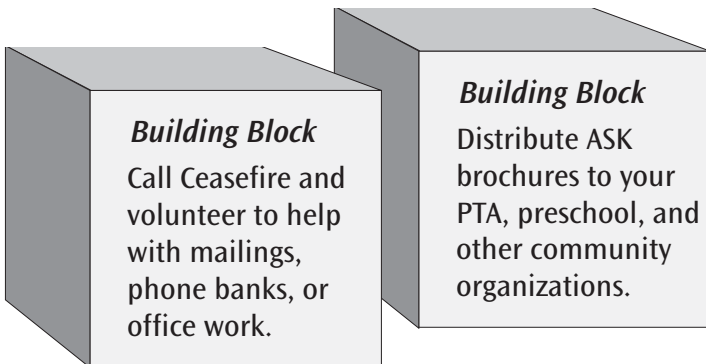
Following the tragic gunshot death of Gene Heidt in Beaverton last fall, his family requested that remembrances be sent to the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation, and we established the Gene Heidt Memorial Fund. We have received many generous donations from Gene's family, friends, and co-workers. All donations are greatly appreciated. The Ceasefire Foundation Board has decided to honor this young man by using the donations for two purposes: the neighborhood gun turn-in program and the ASK (Asking Saves Kids) program. For more information about memorial funds, please call the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation at 503/220-1669. ♦

Donate your old car to support Ceasefire

The Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation has teamed up with Volunteers of America to offer our friends and supporters a new way to support our programs.

Donate your old car to the Volunteers' vehicle donation program, and Ceasefire will receive 50 percent of the net proceeds when the program sells the car. And you will be entitled to take a tax deduction. You can also donate a motorcycle, truck, RV, or boat, and you won't be charged for towing.

To donate your vehicle, please call the Volunteers of America at 503/239-7944 (Portland), 503/375-7306 (Salem), or 541/344-7087 or visit its website, www.voaro.org. ♦



The Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation 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 nearly 6,300 guns. Our affiliate, Ceasefire Oregon, works to reduce gun violence by advocating reasonable gun safety legislation and opposing irresponsible bills.

Contributions to the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Contributions to Ceasefire Oregon are not tax deductible because it lobbies for gun laws. If you'd like to get involved or make a donation, please contact us. Please also send us your email address. We are all volunteers, and we greatly appreciate your support. ♦



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“Is there a gun where my child plays?” Just ASK!

The acronym “ASK” stands for “Asking Saves Kids.” What to ask? “*Is there a gun where my child plays?*” The ASK campaign is designed to educate parents (and grandparents!) about the need to ASK if there are guns in the homes where their children play.

June 21, 2005, was National ASK Day last year, and many volunteers from the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation spent numerous hours preparing for this big event. A press conference was held at Emanuel Hospital in Portland, and speakers included a trauma surgeon, ASK volunteers, and victims of gun violence. Governor Ted Kulongoski and Mayor Tom Potter declared June 21, 2005, Asking Saves Kids Day in Oregon and Portland, respectively. Several radio and TV stations ran stories on the ASK campaign in conjunction with this event.

This year National ASK Day will again be on June 21—because that’s the first day of summer, a time of year when children play more often in other homes.

The Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation has been hard at work educating Oregon’s medical community about the ASK campaign. Every Oregon pediatrician received two mailings last year, including brochures titled “Is there a gun where my child plays?” The brochure was developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and has tactful suggestions for parents on how to approach this delicate subject. To date, over 6,000 ASK brochures have been sent to Oregon pediatricians’ offices to educate the families they serve.

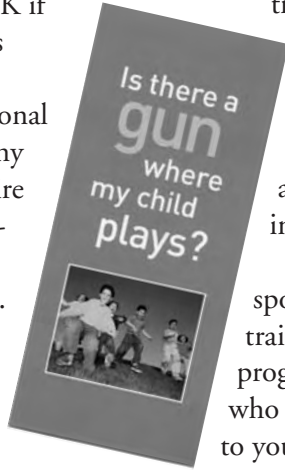
This spring, our goal is to do an additional mailing to every family-

practice physician in Oregon. That’s another 940 MDs! These mailings provide free starter supplies of ASK brochures, order forms, and information on the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation. Our hope is that these doctors will make asking parents about gun safety a part of their practice (just as they ask about stress, exercise, smoking, etc.).

Last spring, Ceasefire sponsored a speakers bureau training session for our ASK program. We now have speakers who are ready and willing to talk to your group (school, church, PTA, preschool, etc.) about gun safety and how to ASK.

Would you like to help spread the message to ASK about guns where children play? Here’s how you can get more information or get involved:

1. Add your name to Ceasefire’s ASK database by sending a message to ASK@ceasefireoregon.org or calling us at 503/220-1669.
2. Volunteer to help stuff envelopes at our mailing parties.
3. Request some ASK brochures from us and start passing them out!
4. Visit www.paxusa.org. This national website has a wealth of information about the ASK campaign, including a very informative Parent/Community Guide.
5. Invite us to give a presentation to your community group about the importance of ASKing.
6. Make a donation to the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation for our ASK activities. The brochures cost us 15 cents apiece, so your tax-deductible contribution of \$15 would enable us to buy 100 ASK brochures! ♦



Ceasefire Board members speak at First Unitarian Church of Portland

On January 4, three members of the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation Board spoke to a group at the First Unitarian Church of Portland. Called the Alliance, the group was formed well over 100 years ago, and it now meets once a month for lunch. Over 50 people attended on January 4.

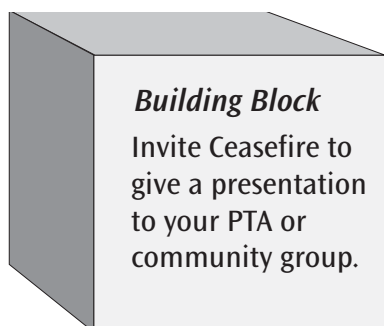
The presentation was titled “Looking Down the Barrel at Gun Issues.” Julie spoke first, briefly describing the public health crisis caused by the high rate of gun ownership in the United States. She illustrated how the story of early cowboy life in the West has been altered by the entertainment industry for over 100 years to glamorize the gun. She

talked about the Second Amendment and the way it has been used in error by the NRA, the National Rifle Association.

Jean described the 12-year history of Ceasefire Oregon and the Education Foundation: the origins, activities, programs, accomplishments, and awards received, including, most recently, a Light a Fire Award. She told several anecdotes from the gun turn-in events.

Kelly spoke about the ASK program and showed a short video clip of an emotional testimonial given at a Million Mom March by a mother whose son was shot and killed at a friend’s home. Kelly used an audience member to model how parents can ask the parents of their children’s friends if there are guns where the children will be playing. Following the presentation, the board members answered questions from the audience.

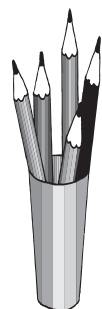
This presentation is ready to “go on the road.” If you know of a group of people who would be interested in the presentation, please tell them about Ceasefire and ask them to call the Ceasefire office at 503/220-1669. ♦



Ceasefire Oregon + Open Meadow High School = Safer Community

Ceasefire Oregon volunteers Sebastian and Shawn have gone back to high school once a week to teach a class about gun safety and related issues to a group of high school students at Open Meadow High School in St. Johns. The class began in the winter of 2005, and originally the students were to design and implement a service project to be completed in June. After five months, the school felt strongly that the discussions were engaging and relevant to many of the students and requested that the class continue in the fall, and so it did.

To date, the students have devised a survey to explore high school and middle school students’ attitudes and perceptions about guns, safety, and personal protection. This winter the students will present the survey to their classmates and to their partner middle school. The class hopes to conduct a gun turn-in this May in the St. Johns neighborhood. ♦



Dispose of your gun—any time

If you have an unwanted firearm in your home and want to dispose of it before the next Ceasefire gun turn-in, go to www.ceasefireoregon.org, the Ceasefire website, where you'll find a list of law enforcement agencies all over the state that will accept firearms year-round.

Gun donors, however, will not receive gift certificates in exchange for their firearms as they do at Ceasefire gun turn-ins. Nor will they enjoy the anonymity they get under the no-questions-asked policy of the Ceasefire events.

If you want to dispose of a gun, just call the name and number listed under your county or city for instructions. At present, 22 agencies from La Grande to Enterprise to Portland are listed. Over the years, the number of people wanting to dispose of guns at times other than the annual gun turn-ins has increased, prompting Ceasefire to offer Oregonians the information they need to get rid of their unwanted weapons. The guns become the property of the receiving agency, which sets forth the manner in which guns will be received. ♦

The following Keizer Times editorial appeared in the September 23, 2005, issue of the Keizer Times and is reprinted here with permission.

Turn-In event offers safe way to dispose of unwanted guns

Local residents have a chance to make their homes a little safer for themselves and their children next month. The opportunity is the Gun Turn-In Day, set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 8 at Jason Lee United Methodist Church, and sponsored by Salem Police and the non-profit organization Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation.

The goal is not to take guns away from law-abiding citizens, but to encourage them to take stock and get rid of weapons they don't want or need. The program is voluntary, and springs from a heart-felt concern about the risks of gun proliferation in our homes.

Consider the statistics. Oregon Health Trends in 1999 estimated that firearms are present in 51 percent of all Oregon homes. In 23 percent of those homes — and 16 percent of the homes with both guns and children present — the weapons reportedly were kept loaded and not locked up. That is a strong argument for gun safes and other precautions if you do choose to keep guns at home.

As a nation, we have a long tradition

of keeping weapons in our homes to protect our families and property from criminals. And the sponsors of this program are not saying that right should change.

However, it's important to note that the largest portion of the gun death toll in America is not crime-related. Federal statistics indicate that more gun deaths can be attributed to suicide than homicide. Sadly, the dead include children. According to the Oregon Health Division, 71 percent of the state's firearm suicides of people age 10–24 from 1994–97 occurred at home. That's a good reason to keep such weapons locked up, and it's also the likely reason that the American Academy of Pediatrics goes a step further. The academy urges parents of depressed youngsters to remove firearms and ammunition from the home.

So residents who have such concerns, or those who simply have guns collecting dust in a closet or under a bed, should take advantage of the turn-in event. Those who do will receive merchandise certificates, and perhaps a little peace of mind. — SC

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In 2003, the latest year for which data are available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 30,136 people in the United States were killed by firearms. Many more were injured.

Here's how you can help reduce gun violence:

- ❖ If you own a gun, consider getting rid of it. If you keep the gun, store it unloaded and locked in a gun safe. Lock up ammunition separately.
- ❖ ASK if there are guns where your children play and, if so, whether they are stored safely. Help us spread the ASK message. (See inside.)
- ❖ Make a generous financial contribution to Ceasefire Oregon or the Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation.
- ❖ Volunteer. We need all kinds of volunteers, including office assistants, fundraisers, grant writers, event planners, and people to help with large mailings. You name it, we need it. Tell us how you'd like to help. ♦

A get-acquainted lunch for Ceasefire volunteers

Ceasefire will host a get-acquainted lunch in late March for Ceasefire volunteers and prospective volunteers. If you have not yet volunteered for Ceasefire and would like to join us, please call the office, 503/220-1669, and leave your name, address, phone number, and email address. You will be most welcome! ♦

