

## WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

There is so much to be done, and so much that we can do—rather than we COULD do—if more members were to get actively involved. We would love to see CURE accomplish even more, but we need actively involved members to work on planning, organizing, and on keeping track of what's happening and what needs to happen next.

Telephone numbers: Portland: [503-977-9979](tel:503-977-9979) / Outside Portland: [1-866-357-CURE \(2873\)](tel:1-866-357-CURE). For information about Support Group Meetings, Orientations to ODOC and to Release (Multnomah County), leave a message and someone WILL call you back. We are not able to accept collect calls.

1631 NE Broadway #460, Portland, OR 97232 or [tbs2k2@comcast.net](mailto:tbs2k2@comcast.net), or [www.oregoncure.org](http://www.oregoncure.org).

### MEMBERSHIP in Oregon CURE provides:

- ☆ a purpose and pathway for achieving safer communities;
- ☆ a voice to advocate for improvements in the criminal justice system;
- ☆ information and resources to support local and national efforts to create safety, prosocial skills and attitudes, and hope for incarcerated citizens;
- ☆ opportunities to gain knowledge and skills to help others.

Prisoner .....\$3.00/year  
Individual .....\$15.00/year  
Family .....\$25.00/year  
Sustaining.....\$50.00 – \$100.00/year

Sponsor.....\$100 – \$250/year  
Benefactor.....\$250 and more  
Organization.....\$50.00 and more

*Donations and memberships are tax-deductible.*

**Oregon CURE**  
**1631 NE Broadway #460**  
**Portland, OR 97232**

“The object of the law is to reform criminals and prevent crime, and not to punish maliciously or from a spirit of revenge.”

# OREGON C.U.R.E.

## CITIZENS UNITED FOR REHABILITATION OF ERRANTS

Winter 2006

VOLUME 25

## National CURE Board Meeting

Jan Singleton

Hosted by the Oregon Chapter of CURE, the annual meeting of the board of directors was held October 7-10, 2005, in Portland, Oregon, with representatives of 21 chapters in attendance. The first day consisted of CURE advocacy training by Chair Kay Perry (MI), with each state chapter represented receiving its own notebook specifically prepared for that state. The second day was filled with



discussions concerning the pros and cons of the privatization of prisons and whether or not National CURE should amend its position on this issue. The third day, Sunday, was filled with reports from various criminal justice advocates, discussions, and the sharing of information by Oregon CURE chair, Cindy Van Loo, and several members of the Steering Committee, concerning activities and programs in Oregon and Oregon CURE's working relationship with the Oregon Department of Corrections. Finally, on Monday, the last day of the meeting, the board re-elected its executive committee and voted to change the name "National CURE" to "International CURE" because National CURE has received special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the

United Nations. The board also voted to amend its previous position against privatization of prisons (the only controversial issue on the agenda) by stating that " \* \* \* [W]e recognize that private facilities do exist and may be built. We continue to oppose them. However, when such private facilities do exist, they should operate under a contract that obligates them to meet \* \* \* requirements, and clearly states the penalties for failure to comply. Such facilities should be monitored \* \* \* by governmental jurisdictional authorities with the competence to judge compliance." The meeting ended on a positive note, with Charlie and Pauline Sullivan inviting everyone present to attend the International CURE Convention to be held June 24 through 27, in Washington, D.C.

### **Thank you!!**

Cindy Van Loo, Oregon CURE Chair

Thanks to all of you who sent in your membership renewals and/or donations as a result of our recent fund-raiser letter mailed in November. So far, we have received responses from 80 people with a total of \$4,300 being collected. Our goal is \$8,000. If you have not mailed in your membership renewal, it is not too late. If you have questions or didn't receive a fund-raising letter, please contact us at the number on the back of this newsletter. Because of the limited resources available to our incarcerated citizens, Oregon CURE decided not to send this letter to them; however, we want to thank them for their continued support. Our incarcerated citizens make up about one-third of our members.

# History of CURE

CURE was born at 6 a.m. on Sunday, January 2, 1972, in San Antonio, Texas, when five buses filled with families of prisoners left for an all-day journey to the visiting rooms of prisons in East Texas. Many of the family members had not seen their loved ones in more than ten years, because of the travel expense, physical limitations, fear, language barriers, and other reasons. From that day, Texas CURE members went on to introduce bills into the Texas Legislature, which marked fundamental changes in the Texas Department of Corrections.

This all began from the vision and hard work of Charlie and Pauline Sullivan, two individuals who went to Washington D.C., in 1985 to expand CURE to a national organization, believing if you can "survive prison reform in Texas, you can survive it anywhere." You may wonder who these remarkable people are.

Charlie was born in Mobile, Alabama, on November 11, 1940, the second oldest of five children, and a former Roman Catholic priest.

Cindy Van Loo, Oregon CURE Chair

Pauline was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on July 17, 1938, the 12th of 13 children, and a former Roman Catholic nun. They were married in the '70s after being introduced on a blind date that mutual friends had arranged.

The Sullivans became interested in criminal justice reform after visiting friends who had been incarcerated for anti-Vietnam War protests. They were both subsequently jailed, as well, during the anti-war protests in May 1971 in D.C. Following the events of the Attica prison uprising, which occurred while they were in D.C., they returned to Texas in September 1971 to do prison work.

We are fortunate to have Charlie and Pauline as co-founders and co-directors of International CURE. They are amazing individuals who work tirelessly for the causes they believe in. By choice, they live on a "poverty" level income. Their reward is seeing their efforts make a difference in the lives of prisoners and their families and friends.



2005 Steering Committee (Left to Right) Carol Singer, Dana Anderson, Jan Singleton, Judy Farrell, Terry Stein, Cindy Van Loo, Sandi Meyer

### ☆ STEERING COMMITTEE ☆

Cindy Van Loo .....Chair  
 Sandi Meyer .....Vice Chair  
 Terry Stein.....Recording Secretary  
 Jan Singleton ....Corresponding Secretary  
 Judy Farrell .....Telecommunications  
 Coordinator

### Members At Large

Dana Anderson, Mike Van Loo, Aba Gayle,  
 Tammy Anderson, Mike Giertych,  
 Gretchen Hite, Kris Vala

## Do you know someone who has a newly incarcerated loved one?

Monthly intake orientations continue in Portland and Salem. Check our website at [www.oregoncure.org](http://www.oregoncure.org) for times and locations or call (503) 977-9979 (Portland area) or 1-866-357-CURE (2873) (outside Portland).

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### Change of Address

Please contact us if you have a change of address and would like to continue receiving our newsletters. You may either write us at 1631 N.E. Broadway, #460, Portland, OR 97232, or call us at (503) 977-9979 (Portland area) or 1-866-357-CURE (2873) (outside Portland).

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**Windermere**

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 825 NE Multnomah St., Suite 120  
 Portland, Oregon 97232-2158

## Oregon CURE Annual Meeting

Sandi Meyer

The annual meeting of Oregon CURE was held on Saturday night, October 8, 2005. From National CURE's regional meeting that weekend, we were fortunate to have CURE representatives attend from many chapters throughout the United States. Three staff members of the Oregon Department of Corrections were also in attendance.

One of the featured speakers was Buffy Nelson, representing the CURE-SORT (Sex Offenders Restored through Treatment) chapter, who held us all in rapt attention as she cited studies over the past few decades indicating that most sex offenders are great candidates for rehabilitation-

-if they receive treatment! Buffy stunned the group by giving such information as "the sex offender recidivism rate is about 5%\*\*\*" . In other words, if we, as a society, wanted to, we could solve this problem by addressing it!

We also were fortunate to have Co-Founder/Co-Director of National CURE, Charlie Sullivan, speak to the group about the early beginnings of CURE. Charlie and his wife, Pauline, are tireless and dedicated advocates for prison reform. It was heartwarming and inspiring to hear Charlie's story, and to know that there are still many people in the world who do things because it's the right thing to do.

## Judy Farrell Appointed to Western Prison Project's Board of Directors

Cindy Van Loo, CURE Chair



Judy Farrell, who has been a member of Oregon CURE for more than a year, has recently accepted a position on the Board of Directors of the Western Prison Project. In addition to her role with the Western Prison Project, Judy continues to work tirelessly for Oregon CURE as its Telecommunications Coordinator. Both Oregon CURE and Western Prison Project are very lucky to have Judy.

**Congratulations, Judy!**

Would you like to advertise your business in this newsletter? Please send your business card along with a check payable to "Oregon CURE" in the amount of \$25 to: Oregon CURE, 1631 S.W. Broadway, #460, Portland, OR 97232 and we will print your card here in our next issue.

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## HOME FOR GOOD RE-ENTRY CONFERENCE Gretchen Hite and Kristine Vala

Oregon CURE was invited to attend the second annual "Home for Good Re-Entry Conference" held last October 2005 and sponsored by the Oregon Department of Corrections ("DOC"). "Home for Good in Oregon" is a corrections, community, and faith-based partnership for re-entry into the community from prison. Six members of the CURE steering committee were able to attend the conference, which was held at Kah-Nee-Ta, a resort in Central Oregon. While we applaud the DOC's desire to keep our accommodations money with a native Oregon company, it was difficult for some to attend because of the distance from the metropolitan areas of the state and cost-prohibitive for other participants to stay overnight.

The focus of the conference was "A Gathering of the Village." The presentation message was loud and clear -- education and employment are two of the greatest needs for the released prisoners. What wasn't so clear was how to provide these requirements with the present lack of funding and resources.

The conference provided a forum for a much-needed start that must continue to gain momentum with the involvement of all concerned parties. If you're going to be getting out of prison soon, you can send a kyte to your counselor to fill out a Home for Good application for information on programs or services that may be available to you in the community you will return to.



## Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

Terry Stein

Kimberly Hendricks, PREA Coordinator at ODOC, attended CURE's January Steering Committee meeting to explain PREA and ask for Oregon CURE's support for a grant from the Federal government. She explained that PREA is in effect from the time a person is in custody in the back of a police car until they're off postprison supervision. The intent is to protect anyone in custody or on supervision from sexual assault and/or coercion or solicitation. There are several things the grant would be used for: technology and equipment upgrades, staff and prisoner training, and increased coordination between ODOC and local corrections agencies.

One of the things that would be affected would be prison housing assignments: predators and possible victims would not be housed together. Also, victims would not necessarily be moved or placed into protective custody where they lose their jobs and some privileges (even though they have not been at fault).

Since most of CURE's members have family members or friends who are prisoners, we are completely in support of eliminating, or at least reducing, the occurrence of sexual assault or coercion in prison. Therefore, we unanimously agreed to write a letter in support of the grant application.

Please note, Oregon CURE is not a resource for legal advice. The Oregon State Bar Association has a lawyer referral service: 503-684-3763 or 1-800-452-8260.

### POEMS / STORIES NEEDED

Send us your artwork, poems, short stories, favorite quotes, etc. for review and consideration in publishing in future newsletters. All entries should be sent directly c/o Oregon CURE, 1631 S.W. Broadway, Suite 460, Portland, OR 97232



### Interested in starting a group in your area?

Call CURE at 503-977-9979 (Portland) or 1-866-357-CURE (2873) (Outside Portland).  
Are you fluent in Spanish and interested in starting a Spanish-speaking group? Call CURE to volunteer.

### CURE SUPPORT GROUPS – MEETING MONTHLY

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday  
11:00 am–12:30 pm  
Salem Religious  
Science Center, Bldg D  
2495 Lancaster Drive NE  
Free Parking

503-873-4363  
(Aba Gayle)

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday  
7:00 pm–8:30 pm  
Beaverton Community  
Center  
12350 SW 5th, Suite 100  
Free Parking

503-350-0236  
(Gretchen)

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday  
7 pm–8:30 pm  
Marie Callender's Restaurant  
Library Room  
1300 Valley River Drive  
Eugene, OR

541-935-1182  
(Ken)

## Support Group Changes

Gretchen Hite

The **Portland Support** group meeting, held the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Multnomah County Library, Gregory Heights Branch, will be discontinued until further notice. Thank you, Sue, for three years of dedication, compassion, and understanding.

The **Eugene Support** group has changed its meeting location to Marie Callender's Restaurant, Library Room, 1300 Valley River Drive, Eugene, Oregon.

The **Beaverton** and **Salem** locations remain unchanged. All meetings are confidential - and are usually attended by only a handful of people, so if you are interested in remaining anonymous and meeting with people in similar situations, please attend.

Look on our website at [www.oregoncure.org](http://www.oregoncure.org) for dates and times of meetings.

– Our Thanks –

Oregon CURE hereby expresses our sincere gratitude to Metro Print of Portland for its donation of printing services: With their help we are able to do more with our resources.



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