



# Oregon CURE

Spring 2011  
Volume 37

*Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants*

A Newsletter for Families and Friends of Incarcerated Individuals

1631 NE Broadway, #460 Portland, OR 97232

(503) 977-9979 (Portland Area) 1-877-357-CURE (Outside Portland)

## ***National Prisoner's Family Conference***

Three Oregon CURE board members attended the National Prisoner's Family Conference, which was held at the Doubletree-Lloyd Center in Portland on February 23 -25, 2011. In its third year, the NPF conference was a three-day event complete with speakers and breakout sessions on topics pertaining to incarceration and the myriad of folks who support the people who find themselves living within the criminal justice system. The goal of the conference is to build bridges through networking to improve the quality of life for the prison family and thereby improve the quality of life for our communities. In attendance were people from all over the United States. We enjoyed meeting educators, employees working within the criminal justice field or a supporting line of work, CURE board members from other states, and many other families with a loved one in prison.

The session opened Thursday morning with a presentation facilitated by Alison Coleman, Executive Director of Prison Families of New York and her daughter, Cicely. Alison spoke of the challenges faced by having a loved one in the prison system, (Alison's husband, Cicely's father) and what brought them to their activism to work with the New York Department of Corrections and to help people on the outside through this period in their lives by advocating for changes in rules, regulations, laws, policies and practice and the fact that this work would involve statewide organizing. Alison spoke about visiting her father in prison and how even as a young child she could see the visible shift in her father's attitude as he left the visiting room, and his family and returned to his life behind bars. For additional information about PFNY, please visit their website: [www.prisonfamiliesofnewyork.org](http://www.prisonfamiliesofnewyork.org).

Oregon CURE presented Thursday morning on "Getting through a Prison Sentence Inside and Out". The session was well attended by people working within the criminal justice system. We discussed the orientations co-facilitated with the Oregon DOC and Community Corrections and the monthly support groups offered throughout the state.

The lunch speaker for Friday's session was Alexandra Natapoff, PhD, who spoke of Criminal Informants and the erosion of American Justice. According to Alexandra, our criminal justice system utilizes "snitches" extensively. We were informed of the impact on the informants as well as on their families and the communities in which they operate.

One of the Friday afternoon breakout sessions was "When Your Child is in Prison – A Mom's Panel"; the three speakers were Brook, Morna and Catherine. Oregon CURE asked them to write about their experiences:

Catherine's words, "The day my teenage son was arrested and sentenced to 4 years in state prison my entire world fell apart. The intense grief, pain and devastation were so severe and all-consuming that I remember wondering if it was possible to die of a broken heart?? How could something hurt so badly? I had no place to turn and no one in my life who understood what I was going through. I knew it was going to take a god miracle for me to survive this living nightmare. In my despair I quickly realized there was little support or sympathy for the mother of a convicted felon. I was filled with shame and too embarrassed to tell anyone what our family was going through. In my grief I desperately began trying to find someone who could help. Today, I am a proud volunteer with Prison Fellowship and the group leader for the moms in the battle support group. It is a joy for me to give back the same love, compassion and hope that was extended to me during the darkest days of my life."

Brook's words, "The first time I sat in a courtroom and watched my son come in shackled hand and foot I thought I would sob out loud. I only controlled my sorrow by realizing that the proceedings were not about me -- I was there to support my son. So, I swallowed my grief and smiled at my son and sat up straight so he could see that his family was in the room and in support of him no matter what. He was sentenced to 7 years in the penitentiary for his crime. I learned that families of prisoners are not always treated with courtesy and respect. But I also learned that I was getting to spend hours of quality time with my adult son -- time that I would never have been able to spend with him if he hadn't been in prison. Even in what I would have originally called a horrible situation, I found warmth and love I would not have imagined to exist.

*Continued on Page 2*

Oregon CURE  
1631 N.E. Broadway, #460  
Portland, OR 97232



## Oregon CURE Mission and Goals

Our mission statement:

To reduce crime by advocating for effective criminal justice policies and practices.

Our goals are:

Provide information and education to the public

Continue to develop a positive working relationship with the Oregon Department of Corrections and related agency partners.

Increase membership, funding base and support to incarcerated citizens, their families and friends.

Develop and maintain the administrative infrastructure necessary to achieve the above goals.

*To ensure you receive your copy of the Oregon CURE Newsletter, please remember to send us your change of address so we can update our database.*

### ***Please Note: Effective Immediately***

Due to the high cost of printing materials Oregon CURE will now begin charging \$2 each for booklets requested. **We will continue to provide all items free of charge to incarcerated individuals.** Those booklets currently include: "Sometimes You're the Hammer, Sometimes You're the Nail," "Free-er – but Not Free," and "Keeping Love Alive." When making your request, please include a check made out to Oregon CURE. Thank you.

## Salem Support Group Guest Speaker

Mr. Craig Prins, the executive director for the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission spoke to the Salem Support Group on Saturday, April 2. Mr. Prins was appointed to the Commission in 2004 by Governor Kulongoski. The Criminal Justice Commission's purpose is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state and local criminal justice systems by providing a centralized and impartial forum for statewide policy development and planning. The commission is charged with developing a long-range public safety plan for Oregon, which includes making recommendations on the capacity and use of state prisons and local jails, implementation of community corrections programs and methods to reduce future criminal conduct.

In March 2011, the CJC (Criminal Justice Commission) released their report titled "Study of the Application of Measure 11 and Mandatory Minimums in Oregon". The analysis began with the 1994 Ballot Measure presentation to Oregon voters. Crimes were isolated and attached to mandatory minimum sentences which were determined to be the minimum required for justice to both the victim of the crime and society. Included in the findings is the fact that 70% of people charged with a M11 offense are not convicted of that offense; instead it is common practice for District Attorneys to offer plea bargains in order to reduce the charge and thereby the associated sentence. **The logical conclusion to this data then, is either the mandatory minimum is not necessary or the plea bargain to lesser charges with shorter sentences is an injustice.** If the offender committed a M11 crime, and the sentences in the voter's pamphlet are the "minimum for Justice" and 70% don't get such a sentence, then either the sentence is not necessary in the 70% of the cases that are resolved with a plea to a lesser charge or the mandatory minimum sentence was NOT necessary in those cases. Measure 11 is the cause of shifting the balance of determining sentences from the Judge to the D.A.

M11 was intended to have 4 results:

1. Incapacitation – to remove from society people found guilty of certain offenses
  - a. This has not worked out as 70% of people sentenced under M11 are first time offenders and not career criminals
2. Deterrent – to put the fear of prison time on people so they avoid criminal behavior
  - a. This has not worked out as most juvenile crimes (for example) were not intentional but reckless. Deterrents may work with white collar offenses; but hold minimal sway over youthful offenders or people who are in need of substance abuse treatment
3. Predictability of Sentencing – to even out the range of sentences
  - a. This has not worked out as the sentencing matrix developed in 1989 identified habitual offenses with increased sentencing. The predictable results of M11 were applied instead to youth and people who could be better served by treatment programs instead of prison sentences
4. Comparable Sentences – to even out sentencing throughout the state
  - a. This has not worked out as sentencing continues to vary between counties; particularly rural to urban

The analysis included a review of the individual aspects of M11 convictions:

1. Private attorney or public defender?
2. Age of offender
3. Gender of offender
4. County where the offense was committed

Mr. Prins explained that another conclusion determined by the analysts is that in rural counties it is more likely that everyone may know each other, whereas in urban areas, the anonymity of the people involved changes the perspective of everyone. The result of this has been higher incarceration rates from Oregon's cities.

If you have access to a computer, the full report can be downloaded:  
[http://www.oregon.gov/CJC/docs/Measure\\_11\\_Analysis\\_Final.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/CJC/docs/Measure_11_Analysis_Final.pdf)

### ***Beaverton Support Group, Continued from Page 4***

Deputy Director Morrow discussed a number of bills that could impact DOC before the legislature. He advised that the Judiciary Committee would be going into OSP to tour the facility in early March. We appreciated the time that Deputy Director Morrow spent with the Beaverton group and were pleasantly surprised at the understanding and consideration he portrayed for our concerns, in particular, his closing statement: "People are incarcerated as punishment – not for punishment".

## Sister Helen Prejean – Portland Visit by Kris Vala, Oregon CURE

Compassionate, caring, dynamic, optimistic, humanitarian, are all qualities that describe Sister Helen Prejean, who came to Portland on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010, to share her message of restorative justice. She was invited by Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty and also participated in a week of activities in Eugene sponsored by the Conflict Resolution Institute at the University of Oregon as well as the Oregon Peace Institute. Sister Helen Prejean wrote “Dead Man Walking,” a best-selling book published in 1993 and which later became an Oscar Award-winning movie. Her journey to abolish the death penalty began when she was asked to correspond with a death row prisoner, and then became his spiritual adviser. In her Portland visit Sister Prejean told the audience that the United States is one of the few nations that still practices the death penalty and she raises the very real concerns of 128 people wrongfully convicted in this country as well as the disproportionate number of poor people of color who are on death row. She also described the disparity in how the death penalty is seldom applied if a person of color was killed.

Sister Helen believes that we are spiritual beings and that there is no dignity in this court mandated execution – not for the prisoner and not for the prison staff who oversee the act.

Sister Helen Prejean believes that the families of victims need support and healing – not vengeance. She remains hopeful that the death penalty will be abolished.

The United Nations concurs with her goals. In 2007 the General Assembly adopted a moratorium on the death penalty. The vote was 104 – 54 with the United States, China, Iran Sudan and Syria opposing. Although the document is not binding legally, it shows that many in the international community agree with Sister Helen Prejean.

## “A Second Chance...” by Alicia, Oregon CURE Support Group Facilitator

On October 21, 2010 I attended a community event held in Salem, Oregon. The program “Giving People a Second Chance” brought people together to learn about issues and barriers faced by adults reentering their community following incarceration. Speakers included Marion County Commissioner Janet Carlson, Oregon State Senator Jackie Winters, Oregon Dept. of Corrections Director Max Williams, Supreme Court Justice W. Michael Gillette, and Salem/Keizer Business Leader Dick Withnell.

Janet Carlson spoke about stepping out of our comfort zone and making a difference in people’s lives. Jackie Winters shared personal stories about her late husband Ted Winters, how in 1968 Governor Tom McCall made a difference by taking a chance in the work release program, which allowed Ted to work under him. She spoke about the importance of giving chances to individuals who are returning back into society from incarceration; individuals who need our help so that their gifts can shine. Max Williams spoke about the Governor’s Reentry Council being an opportunity to bring all players who have a role in successfully transitioning offenders back into the community.

Michael Gillette shared a heartwarming story about his son Quentin, who was released in February 2010 after serving 7 years in prison. He spoke about the challenges his son is experiencing after being released. He shared his belief that “people who are damaged are still repairable”.

Dick Withnell challenged all of us present to be involved when there’s a need. Upon release people need a community to support them and to give them a second chance.

The Marion County Reentry Initiative is a collaborative effort involving community corrections, education, law enforcement, and non-profit agencies. Working together to rebuild lives, promote community safety, and save taxpayers money by breaking the cycle of criminal activity. The initiative helps those reentering society by giving them access to opportunities for assistance with housing, employment, job skills development, mentoring, transportation, and treatment for mental health and addiction barriers. This was a very engaging and inspiring event, I wish more people in our community could have been a part of it so that they would be willing to give ex-offenders a second chance.

*Would you like to contribute to Oregon CURE? Subscribe to our Oregon CURE Newsletter? Please write to the address below and sent the amount for the contribution type: Inmate (\$3), Individual (\$15), Family (\$25), Organization (\$50), Other (\$\$\$).*

Oregon CURE, 1631 NE Broadway, #460, Portland, OR 97232  
Telephone: (503) 977-9979 (Portland area), 1-877-357-CURE (2873) (Outside Portland)

## Oregon DOC Updates

**SB 371:** Oregon CURE was informed that the following article appeared in each of Oregon's prison newsletters: *Senate Bill 371 (SB 371) has created interest among the inmate population and with family members and friends. This bill authorizes the Department of Corrections (DOC) to award inmates up to 54 days off each year of their incarceration (15%). Inmates convicted of aggravated murder, murder or treason under ORS 166.005; or sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of release or parole are not eligible. If SB 371 passes it will become effective on June 30, 2011.*

*In order for a bill to become law, it must pass both the Senate and the House of Representatives in identical form. A bill can change many times before it is passed in its final form. If the Governor signs the bill, it will become law on the effective date.*

As of this date, there is NOT a clause for SB 371 to be retroactive, if passed. This means that the 15% earned time would NOT be applicable for anyone convicted prior to the date that this bill becomes law. It would affect ONLY those people convicted after that time. This means that for M11 offenses, cost savings for the state would not be realized until at least 70 months after passage.

**DOC Phone Service Provider:** We appreciate the phone calls we received from our readers to advise us of the exorbitant and immediate phone call increases. We all received a surge of adrenaline in early February when debit charges for local phone calls almost tripled; and collect charges for local calls doubled. The Oregon DOC received multiple complaints from both people inside and their families outside. DOC staff addressed the situation immediately and was able to reduce the costs for phone calls to their previous rates. The DOC is in the process of finalizing a contract with a new phone service provider. Oregon CURE has advocated for maintaining the costs of local calls and to also reduce the cost of collect intrastate and interstate phone calls.

## Lobbying at the Capitol by Bonnie Nusser, Oregon CURE

Oregon CURE has the opportunity to lobby with the Oregon State legislature and the Oregon Department of Corrections. We had just that opportunity on April 1, 2011. House Bill 3285 was recently introduced by the Oregon Department of Corrections (ODOC) to the Oregon State Legislature, "Authorizing the Department of Corrections to assess and collect certain fees from inmates." The House Judiciary Committee was hearing testimony on this and several other recently introduced bills. The Judiciary Committee is comprised of ten members of the Oregon House of Representatives.

In attendance to give testimony were Gretchen Vala, Oregon CURE and Brian Belleque, Oregon Department of Corrections (ODOC) Westside Institution Administrator. Mr. Belleque stated the 14,000 plus people incarcerated in the state of Oregon should share in the cost saving measures sought by the ODOC by having their inmate accounts accessed a fee such the same as a bank might. He did share with the committee that families and friends funded 60% of the Inmate Trust Accounts. Gretchen Vala acknowledged that in addition to funding the Inmate Trust Accounts loved ones also funded phones accounts and drove to outlying institutions. And, Oregon CURE had a question. What percentage was going to be charged against the Inmate Trust Account? Mr. Belleque was asked this question by one of the panel members. His response was the ODOC did not as yet know what percentage they wanted to charge.

Representative Wayne Krieger, R-Gold Beach, District 1, responded that he did not want to pass a bill "without knowing what we are obligating people to."

The Judiciary Committee opposed passage of HB3285.

A work session was scheduled by the DOC to further discuss this issue. On April 22, 2011 the DOC Committee amended the bill to read: Assess and collect fees from inmates from funds to be credited to or received for deposit in inmate trust accounts, not to exceed five percent of the amount of the credit or deposit, to offset the costs of administering inmate trust accounts. The next public hearing and work session is scheduled for May 10, 2011.

To our many contributors, we THANK YOU for your generosity! We know times are hard. If you've not yet had an opportunity to donate, we welcome any amount you can send! Our entire income is generated from your donations. All of our expenses go towards fulfilling our mission and goals. As you know, our board is comprised of volunteers who contribute countless hours to this organization. Please join us in our advocacy effort.

## Maintaining Good Nutrition In Prison, Part II by Judy Farrell, Oregon CURE

In the Fall issue of the Oregon CURE newsletter, I discussed some of Michael Pollan's food rules and some of the reasons why it makes sense to pay close attention to what you eat while in prison. Whether you are in prison for a year or for life, you can exert control over what you eat.....if you choose. Admittedly, your choices are limited, and it takes some self-discipline to pass up the lip-smacking items that are processed with excessive sugars, salt and chemicals. However, remember that the Western diet, discussed in the last newsletter, is, and this is a fact, the bottom line cause of type 2 diabetes and obesity, 80% cause of cardiovascular disease, and more than a third of all cancers. So when you seriously think about all the difficulties associated with incarceration over which you have no control, at least you do have control over what foods you choose to put into your body. With good nutrition and consistent body movement, you can greatly improve your chances for improved health.

The commissary is filled with tempting items manufactured by corporations that spend and make billions discovering what products (not food) appeal to our tastes. These products contain salt, sugar, fructose syrup, dyes, and chemicals to the degree that the original natural food is no longer recognizable. Then, the manufacturers place these products in plastics that provide further risk to our health. However, there are a few items available for those who have the funds to purchase them--the inflated commissary prices are unfortunate and a whole other subject.

Here's the list:

Oatmeal	Dried fruit	Brown rice	Peanut butter
Farina	Coffee	Powdered milk	(preferably
Raisins	Tea	Honey	without any
	Nuts		additives)

As you read this, I can almost hear the groans! Remember, hopefully you are not smoking, drinking booze or using drugs and so your body is already thanking you. Think about going the next step, treating that body like a temple by feeding it real food. Of course you can treat yourself---like a pint of Ben and Jerry's Cherry Garcia once a month. At meals, avoid processed meats, and desserts, stoke up on vegetables and fruits and grains; then supplement with oatmeal and some of the other foods listed above.

As I visit the prisons, I notice at each one plenty of unused grounds that could be growing vegetables and fruits year round. Truly, there is something so wonderful about digging in the dirt planting and harvesting and then, EATING REAL FOOD. I encourage you folks in prison to organize and propose growing a large garden for vegetables and fruits. For those who might be interested, it is possible that Oregon State University or other food gardening experts would assist in the design and planning of the garden. For older folks in prison, it is possible to grow vegetables in raised beds that do not require kneeling. This is not pie in the sky dreaming...there are prisons around the country that see the value in gardening and providing fresh produce, and demonstration projects are popping up.

EAT FOOD. NOT TOO MUCH. MOSTLY PLANTS.

IT'S NOT FOOD IF IT'S CALLED BY THE SAME NAME  
IN EVERY LANGUAGE. (THINK  
BIG MAC, CHEETOS, OR PRINGLES.)

AVOID FOOD PRODUCTS WITH THE WORD "LITE"  
OR THE TERMS "LOW-FAT"  
OR "NON-FAT" IN THEIR NAMES

EAT ONLY FOODS THAT HAVE BEEN COOKED BY  
HUMANS

STOP EATING BEFORE YOU ARE FULL.

EAT WHEN YOU ARE HUNGRY, NOT WHEN YOU  
ARE BORED.

EAT SLOWLY.

The good life is all about choices.

Resources: Following books by Michael Pollan:  
Food Rules: An Eaters Manual  
The Omnivores Dilemma  
In Defense of Food  
Bring It to the Table, On Farming and Food

## Support Group NEWS!!

**N.E. Portland Support Group:** The Oregon CURE support group held in N. Portland has moved to the Woodlawn United Methodist Church on the corner of NE 15<sup>th</sup> and Dekum. The group will continue to meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm and will be facilitated by Wanda and our newest facilitator Pastor Teliis. It can be helpful to meet with and speak with people who are experiencing similar situations by having a loved one in prison.

### **Beaverton Support Group Guest Speaker:**

We invited Deputy Director Mitch Morrow, Oregon DOC, to speak at our March support group meeting in Beaverton. Topics covered were Phone Services, the Governor's budget for Corrections, and 2011 legislation that will impact the department. Mr. Morrow stated that the general public is led to believe that crime is out of control due to media sensationalism. According to a report produced by the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office, Oregon's violent crime rate dropped 51% between 1995 and 2009, the second largest drop of all states. The property crime rate in Oregon is the lowest since 1955. However, in spite of these facts, a 2010 survey found that 50% of Oregon respondents thought crime was more prevalent than in the previous year. The Criminal Justice Commission estimates that incarceration, which would include Measure #11, explains about one third of the drop in crime. Deputy Director Morrow suggested that we review reports from both the Legislative Fiscal Office and the Criminal Justice Commission.

**Phone System:** on February 1, DOC received multiple complaints from people in prison and their families that phone call rates had increased. This was the FIRST indication to DOC of the immediate rate change which took effect without notification to DOC. DOC contacted the Oregon Department of Administrative Services and VAC and it was determined that VAC could NOT increase phone rates without DOC permission. DAS reviewed the contract and concluded that the contract requires a 30-day notification prior to rate changes to collect calls and a mutual agreement between VAC, DAS and DOC on any rate changes to debit calls. The state demanded that rates be returned to previous levels, and for the extra charges to be repaid. The DOC is in negotiation with a new provider. Some of the things they are looking for are: eliminating deposit and service fees, and eliminating set up fees so there is no penalty for dropped or short calls. The new system would provide deposit kiosks at all DOC facilities. DOC is also looking at the possibilities of: incoming voice mail, electronic messaging and video conferencing. Currently, revenue from phone usage supports treatment programs, transition and release services, phone management and equipment for each institution to include exercise equipment, incentive program awards and television access.

**Governor's Budget:** The final budget will not be complete until June, after it goes through the Ways and Means Committee and a vote by the full legislature for adoption. If all current programs and salary/benefit obligations were rolled forward, then DOC would have experienced a 21% increase to their budget for the 2011-2013 biennium. However, the Governor has recommended only a 3.8% increase. As a result, budget reduction proposals were submitted. The Department of Correction's budget was reduced by \$47 million. It is not yet known whether the reduction will result in wage freezes or furloughs. Although 2.4% standard inflation was eliminated for all programs, inflation above the standard was approved for medical services and supplies in Health Services. A few key elements in the Governor's Balanced Budget include: DRCI medium remaining vacant, continued suspension of non-mandatory training, no funding for building the prison in Junction City and cutting non-mandated programs by \$16.4 million which could include COG classes and Parenting programs. The Governor's Balanced Budget assumes that Ballot Measure 73 will be rewritten so that DOC would not see a population growth and that Measure 57 will be suspended until January 2014 adding two years to the current suspension. The Governor also anticipates modifying certain Measure 11 sentences and adopting a 15% earned time credit in use at the federal level.

*Continued on page 5*

**Support Group Meeting Information** Please visit our website [www.oregoncure.org](http://www.oregoncure.org) for additional information!

**New NE Portland Location: 1425 NE Dekum St. Portland. Call for Times!**

**Our Support Groups and Facilitators are:** Call for Times and Locations. **Additional information is available on our website!!!!**  
[www.oregoncure.org](http://www.oregoncure.org)

**Beaverton:** Gretchen (503) 350-0236  
**Eugene:** Ken (541) 935-1183  
Dave (541) 344-7612

**John Day:** Julie (541) 932-4446  
**Salem:** Alicia (503) 930-0330

**Medford:** Sam (541) 944-3304  
Adelia (541) 772-9680

**NEW LOCATION NE Portland:**  
Pastor Teliis (503) 422-1154

## ***National Prisoner's Conference continued from page one***

Morna's words, "The detective who arrested our son said he should get about one year for what he did. At the moment that sounded so horrid. Now, 9 ½ years later – we wish he would have been right. The prosecutors rule the day in our court system in our State and fear tactics of a looming 54 year sentence caused us to agree to a plea bargain of 22 years. Your class "A" goody-two-shoes family now has one big black mark looming in front of their reputation. When life seems the darkest is when the light shines the brightest. Our family of 6 has gone through fiery trials that we never thought we could endure. There were times when we thought suicide was the only answer. Fortunately, we didn't go there. Instead we have worked very hard as a family to try to make the best of horrid circumstances. "

The attendees for the mom's panel were amazing, strong women, some mothers, some employees working in the field. All had powerful words to share that left us all feeling supported, empowered, and connected with a handful of new "friends." What we learned is that we were all resilient. Although we had faced a terrible tragedy in our family, we have found ways to continue to connect with others, and support and encourage the many other families who find themselves thrown into the criminal justice system. This rejuvenation is what keeps us moving forward in our efforts to continue to find ways to advocate for reform in our criminal justice system and to reach out and support other families like ours.

### ***Publication Notice***

This newsletter is a publication of Oregon CURE. Oregon CURE is a 501 (c) (3) organization whose goal is to reduce crime through criminal justice reform.

The opinions and statements contained in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Oregon CURE.

Contributions of articles, letters to the editor, notices, etc., are welcome, but may be edited or rejected for space considerations.

Articles may be copied in its entirety with credit going to the author or to the publication.

### **2009-2011 Board of Directors**

Gretchen Vala – President  
Kris Vala – Vice President  
Bonnie Nusser – Secretary  
Judy Farrell – Treasurer  
Meredith Wexler – Corresponding Secretary

Newsletter Editor: Bonnie Nusser  
Contributions and Inquiries can be directed to:

Oregon CURE  
1631 NE Broadway, #460  
Portland, OR 97232  
Telephone: (503) 977-9979 (Portland area)  
1-877-357-CURE (2873) (Outside Portland)

Website: [www.oregoncure.org](http://www.oregoncure.org)

Oregon CURE is an all-volunteer organization. Oregon CURE volunteers typically work at other jobs. Volunteers answer letters.

We appreciate the letters you send and do read them. We try, but are not always able to answer every letter individually.

Oregon CURE is not a service organization. Do not send us any legal documents. We do not offer legal services or provide legal advice.

## ***Ontario, Oregon Argus Observer, April 29, 2011***

The front page story was entitled "Cranes and clothing B'Gosh". OshKosh B'Gosh offered to donate clothes for the relief effort in Japan, in return for origami cranes on a one to one basis. SRCI Superintendent Mark Nooth learned about this project at an Ontario Chamber of Commerce forum and took the project back to his staff who then requested assistance from the prisoner population. Within 7 days, approximately 3,000 people (almost the entire population at SRCI) participated in the crane folding project and completed more than 50,000 cranes. Along with the amount made by members of the Snake River Japanese American Citizens League, the total came to over 59,000 cranes which amounts to a donation of more than 59,000 articles of clothing that will be sent to Japan.

## ***CURE Updates...***

Beginning April 1, 2011 the Oregon DOC will accept electronic deposits to inmate trust accounts. To deposit funds electronically, you can visit the Oregon DOC website ([www.oregon.gov/DOC/faqs.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/DOC/faqs.shtml)) and click on one of the links to be taken to the electronic deposit providers' website. There are fees for using these services that range from \$3.95 (for a deposit of up to \$20.00) to \$11.95 (for a deposit greater than \$200.00). The DOC will continue to accept cashier's checks and money orders through the mail with no additional fees.

Oregon CURE was recently advised by the DOC that people in Oregon 's prisons will be able to start and maintain savings accounts outside of their DOC trust accounts. At this time there will be no restrictions as to which financial institutions people can access for their outside accounts. Please let us know if you'd like additional information about this topic in a future newsletter. West Coast Bank, 122<sup>nd</sup> and NE Airport Way in Portland is currently setting up accounts for Oregon prisoners.