

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INFORMATION ABOUT THIS EVENT

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INFORMATION ABOUT THE EVENT'S SPONSOR

Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation

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A Festive Event in Olympia on Sunday May 22 Invites the Public to "Turn the Budget Around"

The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) invites people of all ages to a festive event focusing on changing federal budget priorities from war to peace. **The family-friendly "Turn the Budget Around" event will occur from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday May 22 at Heritage Park near 5th and Water in downtown Olympia.**

Congress continually increases the budget for war while severely cutting the federal budget's domestic programs that help people. Congress is decreasing funding for education, Head Start, health care, services for seniors and children, job training, land and water conservation, and transportation.

Public opinion polls show that the American people want to reverse Congress's priorities and **"Bring Our Billion\$ Home."** Large majorities want to stop the wars, cut the military budget, and use the savings to fund education, health, alternative energy, care for the environment, and other job-creating activities.

The whole community will have a chance to **Turn the Budget Around** from **1:00 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday May 22 at Heritage Park** near 5th and Water in downtown Olympia. People will gather to build a wall of boxes representing the federal budget. Each box will show visual images of a military cost on one side and a social program of similar cost on the other side. The organizers encourage people to decorate boxes at home and bring them to the park. They may also use the cardboard boxes and art supplies that the organizers will provide at the park. This is a great activity for kids, youth groups, adults, and various organizations!

After decorating the boxes with bright colors, participants will build a wall representing the **military budget**, then dance around it, knock it down and **re-build the wall with the boxes facing the other way to show the peace-oriented images** to represent better uses for our taxes. This event will help neighbors visualize the kind of community they want.

Please bring one or several completed cardboard boxes and/or cardboard boxes to decorate on-site. Art materials will be provided, along with information about our military budget.

Three lively groups will perform music at this festive event. At 1:00 the *Artesian Rumble Arkestra* will play street band jazz. At 2:00 *Today We Are* will perform lively music featuring Sean on the accordion and Molly playing a mean cello. *A motley samba group* will lead us in dancing around our wall and knocking it down and building something new.

You'll have opportunities to make origami peace cranes. You can send them and/or postcards to Congress.

We'll invite you to flush weapons down a giant toilet – and receive \$27 billion savings.

For details about **Turning the Budget Around** event call Pat Holm at 357-4151.

This is part of the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's **"Bring Our Billion\$ Home"** campaign to change the federal budget's priority from making war to serving human needs. The Olympia FOR has worked for peace and social justice since 1976. It is part of a national and international pacifist organization that has been active since 1914 in Europe and 1915 in the U.S. For more information about the Olympia FOR contact Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org or visit the Olympia FOR's website, www.olympiafor.org.

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