



***RUSSIAN-SPEAKING YOUTH LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE***
April 27, 2012

December 21, 2011

Dear Friends of the Russian/Ukrainian Community of Oregon:

The Russian Speaking Youth Leadership Conference (RSYLC) of Oregon needs your help. With this request letter, we the volunteer fundraising committee of the Conference, are soliciting donations for the Sixteen Annual Conference event scheduled for April 27, 2012, at Clackamas Community College.

The Russian speaking population in the Portland-metro area has been growing rapidly since 1989 and is now reaching a total of 150,000 residents. This population growth has brought with it many challenges including a disproportionate high school dropout rate among Russian-speaking youths, lack of culturally appropriate services for newly arrived Russian-speaking immigrants and refugees, lack of awareness about community's norms and laws, and consequently an increased number of other problems as a direct outcome of these challenges.

Over the last sixteen years the conference served an instrumental role in bringing the Russian-speaking youth together to discuss these challenges and develop meaningful opportunities and ways to address them on the community wide level via youth, parent, school and other community involvement. Past participants have included high school students from Portland Public Schools, Centennial, David Douglas, Parkrose, Gresham, Milwaukie, Silverfalls, Woodburn, Beaverton, Vancouver, Washington, Salem and other school districts. This year we expect at least 300 young people and guests from various parts of Oregon and SW Washington to participate in the event.

In past years, we have been able to conduct the conference on a relatively small budget based on donations from small immigrant owned businesses and companies that employ large numbers of community immigrants. The total estimated budget for this year would be about \$18,000.

If your organization is interested in donating to the conference, we would greatly appreciate your input in any amount you find appropriate.

All donations would be recognized as donated from your establishment at the event, in the news releases applicable to the conference promotion, and in the local newspapers. This letter and our letter of Thank you indicating your exact donation are sufficient documentation of your donation for tax purposes. All donated monies will be directed to the East European Coalition (E.E.C.) and are tax deductible as a charitable contribution (Federal Tax ID 26-4140853 / E.E.C. is a 501 (C3) organization). Donations should be sent to: East European Coalition, 2141 SE 113th Ave., Portland, OR 97216. Checks should be paid to the order of: East European Coalition. Please note on the check RSYLC or Russian Speaking Youth Leadership Conference. We thank you for your help!

For more information about the conference, please call Vadim Riskin (Chair) at (503) 805-2097, e-mail: vriskin@pps.net, Galina Burley, E.E.C. (360) 721-5710 or Roman Shabashevich, E.E.C. Board Member at (503) 467-8731.

Thank You,

The Fundraising Committee of RSYLC 2012

www.eecnorthamerica.org