



## **What is Occupy Wall Street? Reclaiming Our Democracy!**

**It's on the news and all over the internet, but what is the Occupy Wall Street Movement about?**

For countless people in our rural and small town communities in Oregon, there is a deep frustration about inequality in our nation;

It feels like our votes don't matter,

Our voices don't reach Salem, much less D.C.,

AND the rich are getting richer while we fall on hard times.

People all over Oregon are disillusioned with **OUR** elected officials and **OUR** economy.

**People in our neighborhood are being seriously harmed by:**

Getting too little for our hard work

Dwindling resources going to sustain the wealth of the 1%

Basic health care being beyond our reach

Taxes are unfairly collected at higher percentages from the poor than from the wealthy

Years of family investments and savings lost to banks while our tax dollars bail them out.

We watch as roads and bridges crumble, schools decay, and social safety nets we paid to assemble are raided for private profit. We vote for officials who promised to look after our needs but only pursued the interests of their biggest donors.

Fed up with all of this? **We are too!**

**The 1,500 Occupy events taking place across the country are the only public place where these conversations are happening.** The Occupy movements across the world, including rural Oregon, are about **changing the conversations everyone is having.**

The Occupy Movement wants to develop a society that works for the 99% of Americans, not just the wealthiest 1%. The conversations come from We The People, not the centers of money and power.

**The Occupy Movement has an invitation for each of us:**

- Take a bite into our seemingly impenetrable political-economic system
- Build a deeper understanding of the sources and the impacts of our neighborhood crises
- Name it: Wall Street funnels wealth to the top 1% while leaving the rest of us behind.

**What is the occupy movement trying to do?**

The Occupy Movement is bringing the voices of the people directly to Wall Street and to the government. We are not asking an organization or a political party what to demand, whom to confront and to whom to grant immunity. We are uniting a people to insist on representation in our own government.

**We believe that what the vast majority of the people want and need should matter in a democracy.**

What to get connected in? We can connect you to other occupiers in your town.

Rural Organizing Project: 503-543-8417

Check out Occupy Rural Oregon on Facebook!