

Good Afternoon, my name is Julio Vazquez senior. I am a member of CAG, the Civic Action Group of Sisters Of The Road. I became involved with Sisters about a year ago. I believe deeply in Sisters philosophies of non-violence and gentle personalism. We believe in the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King's ways of loving and treating people with dignity and respect. Loving one another, even our perceived enemies.

We at Sister have a saying "in here, there are no strangers, just friends we have never met". We work on building personal and stable relationships which help people to change their own lives. We help people empower themselves to do what they can do for themselves.

Due to my addictions and mental illness I became homeless in 1994. I was again homeless in 2006. When I came to Portland in 2006, I came here to get clean and sober. My doctor had told me if I kept going I was going to die. I am in recovery now, and have been for 15 months. Many people have helped me, to become the person I am now, therefore I think it is my turn to give back.

CAG uses the Margaret Mead quote "never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, commented citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

As the Reverend Doctor King said "Social change will not come overnight, yet it is a eminent possibility" he also stated "love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy in to a friend"

I feel, In the long run, we will become stronger, we will triumph over injustices, but we must continue that long march.

I would like to thank you for coming here today to help us honor a great man, the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King.