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## For Immediate Release

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# News Release

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### Oregon's First Environmental Justice Group Celebrates 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*"Fifteen Years of Feisty!" event raises money to protect environmental health and ecosystems*

**EUGENE, ORE.** – In a time when there is renewed awareness about the dangers of chemical exposure for health and quality of life, the value of strong environmental health advocacy has never been more important. Beyond Toxics invites the community to celebrate their fifteenth anniversary of environmental campaigns. Beyond Toxics works to guarantee environmental protections for all Oregonians and help communities find effective, lasting, healthy solutions.

The Eugene-based organization has led a number of important statewide projects that guard Oregonians against harmful pollution such as field burning, ground water contamination and air pollution.

The anniversary celebration, *"Fifteen Years of Feisty!"* is planned for Friday, February 5, 5:30 – 8:30pm. The event venue is Capitello Wine Bar at 540 Charnelton Street in Eugene. Local comedienne Leigh Anne Jasheway will be the Master of Ceremonies and Auctioneer. Halie Loren and members of the Sugar Beets will offer music throughout the evening.

Founder and environmental visionary, Mary O'Brien, is making a special guest appearance at the celebration. O'Brien is now Utah Forests Program Director for the Grand Canyon Trust and lives in Utah.

Two *Fabulously Feisty Friends* community awards will be given to longtime community activists Ruth Koenig and Cary Thompson. Koenig was a participant in the 1964 Mississippi Summer Black Voter Registration Project and has lived an active life of solidarity and commitment to communities beset by violence, pollution and displacement. Cary Thompson is the founder of Helios Resource Network and has been a primary force, often behind the scenes, in many popular social justice and environmental programs for the greater Eugene area.

Party goers will sip on Capitello wines and enjoy a light supper catered by Alma Catering. Live auction items include vacation packages and pamper packages.

Board President, David Monk says, "Beyond Toxics is known for our willingness to tackle difficult, seemingly intractable issues, and provide leadership for major changes in environmental laws and policies. That is why we have often been called *feisty and tenacious* by our members."

In addition to the festivities, the organization will feature a short film and announce their program goals for the coming year.

Tickets are \$30 in advance, available on the Beyond Toxics website; or \$35 at the door. For more information, contact the staff at 541-465-8860 or [info@beyondtoxics.org](mailto:info@beyondtoxics.org).

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