

THE COMMUNIQUE

A Chehalis River Mutual Aid Network Newsletter



Hello from CRMAN

By The Collective

Chehalis River Mutual Aid Network is a grassroots group of community members in so-called Grays Harbor County, WA engaged in political direct action.

Our goal is to create mutual aid projects that meet the needs of the communities and identify affiliate groups in need of amplification, assistance, or support. We are also working directly with the community to find needs, gaps in services, and resources in need of distribution.

Our main projects are currently centered in food sovereignty and advocacy for the unhoused but we hope to see many diverse projects evolving out of this work. We also network outside the region through affiliated organizations who provide both resources and inspiration for this project.



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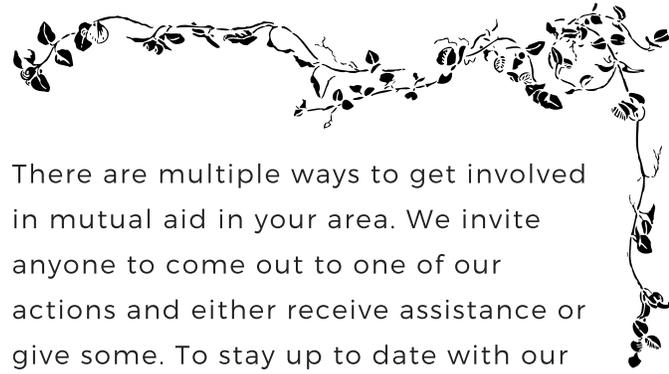
What is Mutual Aid?

Wikipedia defines mutual aid as "A voluntary reciprocal exchange of resources and services for mutual benefit. Mutual aid projects are a form of political participation in which people take responsibility for caring for one another and changing political conditions."

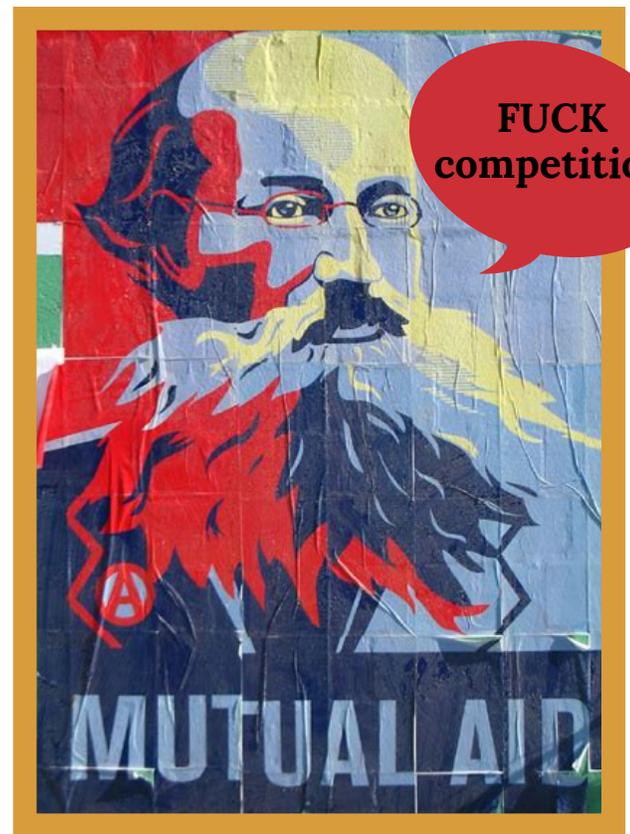
Mutual aid is arguably as ancient as human culture. People in every society in every time period have worked together to ensure their communities can survive. Mutual aid has been practiced extensively in marginalized communities, notably in Black communities, working-class neighborhoods, migrant groups, LGBT communities, and others.

The term "mutual aid" was popularised by the anarchist philosopher Peter Kropotkin in his essay collection *Mutual Aid: A Factor of Evolution*, which argued that cooperation, not competition, was the driving mechanism behind evolution. Kropotkin argued that mutual aid has pragmatic advantages for the survival of humans and animals and has been promoted through natural selection.

This recognition of the widespread character and individual benefit of mutual aid stood in contrast to the theories of social Darwinism that emphasized individual competition and survival of the fittest, and against the ideas of liberals such as Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who thought that cooperation was motivated by universal love.



There are multiple ways to get involved in mutual aid in your area. We invite anyone to come out to one of our actions and either receive assistance or give some. To stay up to date with our public actions follow us here and on Mastodon, Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, or look through our current projects on our website to learn more.
chehalisrivermutualaid.noblogs.org/



MAY DAY HISTORY

May 1st is May Day.

The Haymarket Affair is generally considered significant as the origin of International Workers' Day held on May 1, and it was also the climax of the social unrest among the working class in America known as the Great Upheaval.

From labor historian William J. Adelman:

"No single event has influenced the history of labor in Illinois, the United States, and even the world, more than the Chicago Haymarket Affair. It began with a rally on May 4, 1886, but the consequences are still being felt today. Although the rally is included in American history textbooks, very few present the event accurately or point out its significance."

TASL Under Fire

By The Ash from which we rise

We recently published an article about the neglect that the City has shown towards TASL and the subsequent conditions of the camp - because its not a shelter. We talked about the dangerous conditions in place prior to the fire (cause unknown) as well, things like moldy pallets and damaged tents. We also looked at how residents not being allowed to heat themselves properly and safely contributed to the unsafe conditions there. Lastly we examined the monthly budget of TASL and discovered that 90% of the budget, a full \$18,600, is for so called security. Do the residents there feel secure? What could the residents have done in their own camp by the river with the monthly budget of TASL?



ISO

- Free Working Fridges AND Hosts
- Clean, Dry Pallets
- Grocery Bags
- AM/FM Radio
- Backpack/ Stuff Sack
- Pediasure/ Shelf Stable Broths
- Guitar/ Saxophone

UPDATES: CRMAN, SOAP SCUM, SHELTER

By The Collective

CRMAN Updates - We really want to make space for more community meetings. We see this work as radical political direct action, and by coming together as a community to discuss our lives and our futures, we can start to make much needed plans for securing ourselves the liberation, security, and safety unavailable to us currently.

These meetings will hopefully serve as a rallying point for our small but growing group, a way to hear directly from the community on what the needs are, as well as furthering our attempts to be as accessible as possible. If you cannot make these meetings, a report back will be included in our newsletters.

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We have had a lot of recent interest in joining our efforts and/or lending occasional assistance and we are actively working to write up quick and easy how to's in order to clarify what roles (known playfully as "blocs") we have envisioned and as many low-barrier ways to plug in as possible. Stay tuned for that.

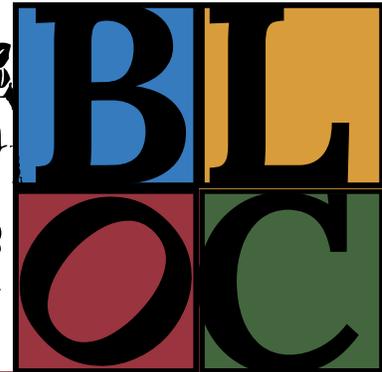
We want to grow this network and all we need is you. We typically call work parties for events outside of our normal Saturday meals. We are actively looking for help running our various gardens around town. We are also looking for artists of all types to lend their creativity to our projects like painting community fridges or building free pantries. That infrastructure will inevitably also need people to tend to them, maintain and clean them. Whatever your passion or skill is we need you. You are a vital part of this.

SOAP Scum - We continue to monitor this hate group as it seemingly transitions to full blown neo-fascism. They have moved from simply cleaning trash and posting pictures to locating and invading encampments and disclosing the locations publicly. We fully intend to support the community in it's attempts to stay safe from this group. As they escalate their tactics we will do our best to keep people informed to their actions through our various platforms and publications. Many groups throughout the region are adopting similar tactics and we are also coordinating regionally to counter this growing threat.

Shelter News -

The County commissioners are expected to continue holding up the funding of Chaplains on the Harbor's proposed low-barrier 40 bed shelter. They are looking at legal next steps and alternative funding options, we await further direction from them. While we support this shelter we realize that we cannot wait, and that 40 beds is not enough. Now is the time to leverage our shared values of autonomous direct action and self-determination into creating a community of resistance to state and right wing violence. We cannot allow the state to simply refuse the very ability to survive from us. We can no longer rely on these institutions to bring about the world we desire, we must take this into our own hands and stop asking for permission.

We hope to see you in the streets, living, loving, resisting. Let's go get free.



**LABOR BLOCS
NEEDING HELP**

Garden Bloc

Help us run our community and guerrilla gardens

Art Bloc

Help us by creating art for banners, fridges, flyers, posters, meals etc.

Fridge/Pantry Bloc

Help us find hosts for fridges. Help us keep them clean and stocked.

Maker Bloc

Help us with various small builds and craft projects like garden beds or pantries.