

Arizona Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Minutes for October 28, 2010

The Arizona Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is dedicated to engaging and mobilizing all faith communities to improve the quality of life for our most vulnerable and impoverished people through a statewide, action-oriented collaboration of faith-based, community and governmental organizations.

- Welcome, Invocation & Introductions
 - Chair Dr. Gary Kinnaman welcomed attendees at 10:07 a.m.; Invocation by Rev. Jan Flaaten; attendees introduced themselves.
 - Visitor: Matthew Mellon (Emerson Fellow, Association of Arizona Food Banks)
- Review of previous Meeting Minutes.
 - Minutes from 9/23/10 meeting were unanimously approved
- Updates
 - Arizona CityFest. Billy Thrall gave an update on both the Arizona CityFest and the Season of Service (SoS). Churches/community organizations signed-on to the SoS now stands at 435. SoS projects listed on www.arizonacityfest.com is 120.
There was much discussion around the Season of Service's Impact Day for Education which occurred on October 23rd; over 3,000 volunteers were engaged.
The Catholic Diocese has joined the SoS efforts and has encouraged local Parishes to collaborate within their communities for this effort.
The "Why not 5?" campaign is underway. The campaign encourages participants to pray for 5 people, serve for 5 hours, and invite 5 people to the CityFest on March 19th and 20th.
Leadership group has been formed and will convene regularly to work on SoS sustainability after the current SoS ends in March of 2011. The goal of this group is to provide structure for sustaining relationships, care and solutions.
 - Hunger Free Communities Grant. No update is expected until January or so, when the grant awardees will be announced. The Council reaffirms its partnership role in Convening, Connecting, Communicating and Celebrating around the Grant activities.
 - ArizonaSERVES. Chuck gave attendees an update on the Task Force and the website www.arizonaserves.gov. He demonstrated the current website tools and asked for Council member feedback as soon as possible – especially on the usability and content on the "Foster Care Participation" page. All Task Force information, including meeting announcements, agendas and minutes can be found on the website by clicking on the Task Force tab.
 - Scott Neuman shared information about an effort in Coconino County with Teen Challenge and Jobs 4 Life (www.jobs4life.org) regarding youth job skills and character development. He also spoke of Kids Hope USA (www.kidshopeusa.org) and encouraged other communities to look at this 1 on 1, faith community member to student, mentoring model. Scott also spoke of "Touch One Life" which is a 1 on 1 service model. Finally, if you are interested in understanding Micro-business and how your community could benefit, or if you're interested in any of these other programs, please contact Scott directly at sneuman@coconino.az.gov

- Joyce Lopez-Powell spoke briefly about the Valley of the Sun United Way's Project Connect efforts, and encouraged Council member organizations to stay connected to this effort via www.vsuw.org
- Council Projects & Activities
 - Website. Chuck provided attendees with a demonstration of the Council's website (www.acfbci.org). It is up and working; Council members are encouraged to submit events and articles that reflect the activities and passions of faith communities serving the vulnerable and impoverished in Arizona. Forward all submittals by email to Chuck.
 - Summit. Chuck updated everyone on the West Valley Human Services Alliance's planning of a "Benevolence & Beyond" Summit on February 11, 2011. The purpose of the summit is to provide faith community leaders with tools, examples and connections for developing sustainable, high-impact outcomes for families in their communities. The idea would be to package the Summit in such a way as to allow it to be conducted in any community in Arizona. Registration is open for faith leaders at <http://wvhsa.acfbci.org>
Joyce suggested having PAFCO's Timothy Schmaltz as a speaker at the event.
A sub-group of our Council has offered to support this effort – thank you Jane, Berta, Gary, Rick and Chuck.
- New Business
 - The November and December Council meetings are being combined into a single meeting to be held on December 2nd.
 - There was much discussion regarding how we sustain the Council long term. There appears to be a convergence of efforts in Arizona (CityFest, ArizonaSERVES, our Council, etc.) that our council is well positioned to assist. So questions were raised about how the Council remains relevant and effective regardless of economic and political climates. How should the Council measure its effectiveness? How do we use PR? The website? Our own organizations? No answers, just questions. ☺
 - There was also discussion regarding how we as individual leaders are doing. Chair Gary spoke of how his book "Leaders that Last" speaks to the issue of sustainable leadership.
- Closing Remarks and Adjourn
 - Next meeting is December 2, 2010; 10 a.m. to 12 Noon at Food for the Hungry.
 - Chair Gary thanked the attendees, and closed with a prayer at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
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 Faith & Community Initiatives
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Convene, Connect, Communicate & Celebrate