

# Arizona Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Minutes for December 2, 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.

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- Welcome, Invocation & Introductions
  - Chair Gary Kinnaman welcomed attendees at 10:07 a.m.; Invocation by Rick Knopf; attendees introduced themselves.
  - Visitor: Matthew Mellon (Emerson Fellow, Association of Arizona Food Banks)
  - Jane Wabnik brought tasty baked goods in celebration of Hanukah. Thank you!
- Review of previous Meeting Minutes.
  - Minutes from 10/28/10 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 462. SoS projects listed on [www.arizonacityfest.com](http://www.arizonacityfest.com) - approximately 120.  
The Catholic Diocese has joined the SoS efforts and has encouraged (support letter from the Bishop's office) local Parishes to collaborate within their communities for this effort.  
Billy spoke of the massive turnouts for the November Hunger Impact Day. Churches and community members were very active in collecting and packaging food; 27 projects, 600K meals for Feed My Starving Children.  
Billy asked for the Council's help in continuing to foster relationships and by assisting with sustainability efforts. More specifics will be forthcoming.  
Arizona CityFest is joining forces with The Collaboration for a New Century ([www.thecollab.org](http://www.thecollab.org)) to deliver a Community Resource Fair on February 19, 2011 at the Phoenix Convention Center. The four service pillars for the event are Housing, Jobs, Food and Health Care.
  - ArizonaSERVES. Chuck gave attendees an update on the Task Force and the website [www.arizonaserves.gov](http://www.arizonaserves.gov). Next Task Force meeting is on December 17th.  
Scott Neuman asked if the Governor's Office has considered a 6th service Issue for ArizonaSERVES. He suggests she consider adding Workforce Development to the list of Issues. Chuck will pass this suggestion on. There is currently a Governor's Workforce Council: <http://www.arizonaworkforceconnection.com/gcwp/council.asp>
  - Joyce Lopez-Powell spoke briefly about the Valley of the Sun United Way's efforts to support the retaining of Arizona's Working Poor Tax Credit, and encouraged Council member organizations to stay connected to this effort via [www.vsuw.org](http://www.vsuw.org). A one-page fact list will be sent to all members.
  - Paul Eppinger spoke of his new book "Interfaith Inspirations for Our Globalized World" and how this daily devotional is now available. Each week of the year is

- assigned a theme and each day within that week highlights a faith perspective on that theme. 20+ faiths have participated in this project. [www.interfaitharizona.com](http://www.interfaitharizona.com)
- Rick Knopf encourages Council members to attend the 12/14 “A Civil Conversation on Poverty and Hunger in Arizona” being hosted by Arizona Indicators. Details can be found on <http://acfbci.org> under News.
  - Ben Sanders spoke of a meeting of For Our City in Tempe earlier in the day. This group is supporting a new initiative calling for individuals to perform 100 hours of service per year – highlighting Arizona’s 100 Anniversary on 2/14/12.
  - Council Projects & Activities
    - Website. Chuck provided attendees with a demonstration of the Council’s website (<http://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. Poverty is more a lack of relationships, than it is a lack of resources. 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>  
A summit flier was shared with attendees and concern was voiced over the lack of “interfaith” acceptable language. Members are encouraged to offer suggestions for changes ASAP to Chuck. Here is the flier <http://wvhsa.acfbci.org/conference>  
A sub-group of our Council has offered to support this effort – thank you Jane, Berta, Gary, Rick and Chuck.
  - New Business
    - None.
  - Closing Remarks and Adjourn
    - Next meeting is January 27, 2011; 10 a.m. to 12 Noon at Food for the Hungry.
    - Chair Gary thanked the attendees, and Paul Eppinger closed with a prayer at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by  
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*Convene, Connect, Communicate & Celebrate*