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**Contact: Alyssa J. McClenning**  
**(202) 456-7345**

**White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Hosts**  
***Compassion in Action Roundtable Focused on Education***

**WASHINGTON, DC** — The White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives hosted a *Compassion in Action Roundtable* today, August 21, 2007, titled “Real Choices for Educational Improvement: How Faith-Based and Community Organizations Help Bridge the Achievement Gap.”

“Faith-based and community organizations expand the available options for children, particularly low-income children, to receive the best possible education,” said Jay Hein, Director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. “This roundtable highlighted a variety of successful strategies being implemented by these groups to enhance student learning.”

The roundtable focused on ways faith-based and community organizations are successfully bridging the achievement gap in education. Bishop William Lori, Diocese of Bridgeport (CT), delivered remarks on innovation in education. During three panel discussions, officials from the U.S. Department of Education, approved Supplemental Educational Services (SES) providers and school officials explored top models of federal, state and privately-funded school choice programs.

The *Compassion in Action Roundtables* are monthly forums designed to examine the unique role of faith-based and community organizations in addressing the great human needs of our day.

President George W. Bush created the White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives and Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in eleven Federal agencies to lead a determined attack on need by strengthening and expanding the work of faith-based and community organizations in providing social services. For more information on the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, please visit [www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/).

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