

FRIDAY NIGHT FACTS

OFFICE OF FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



MITCHELL E. DANIELS, JR., GOVERNOR
ISAAC E. RANDOLPH, JR., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism Reflects the Best in Volunteer Service

"Learning from Yesterday; Preparing for Tomorrow" was the theme for the 5th Annual Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism held on March 25th and 26th at the Sheraton Hotel at Keystone at the Crossing. Participants from a variety of volunteer and service-learning disciplines attended to learn and network with the State's best and brightest practitioners in the field. Governor Mitch Daniels welcomed the 595 conference attendees in attendance at the opening ceremony along with Executive Directors Ike Randolph of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and Jackie McCracken of Indiana Campus Compact, who served as conference co-hosts. The agencies' collaboration, the first in conference history, was a partnership that welcomed members of both academia and service volunteerism from across the State.

Conference attendees engaged in over 80 breakout sessions designed to strengthen their leadership skills, network with peers, and discuss new strategies for civic engagement, service-learning and volunteer service. The breakout sessions were presented in seven conference tracks that covered areas such as; Communication and Marketing, Youth Development, Volunteer Management, Capacity Building, and Higher Education Service-Learning. Workshops featured sessions designed for introductory and intermediate-advanced learners.

The Awards luncheon held on March 25th and hosted by Angela Cain, Director of Community Affairs of Indianapolis news channel WTHR, featured keynote speaker Henry C. Lozano, Director of USA Freedom Corps. In his position within President Bush's cabinet, Mr. Lozano is tasked with implementing our country's vision for volunteerism and service in America. Mr. Lozano along with Mr. Randolph presented the Governor's Awards for Volunteer Service. Noted as Indiana's most prestigious awards celebrating the accomplishments of dedicated volunteers and practitioners; honorees were selected from the six categories of youth, service-learning, faith-based, volunteerism, national service and lifetime achievement.

Governor's Award for Volunteer Service honorees were:



Community Volunteerism

Dr. Rajih Haddawi, Bloomington

Faith-Based Contribution

Naomi Mynatt, Danville

National Service

TaShawna Williams, Indianapolis

Service-Learning

**Kathy Buck, Amanda Snyder,
Christin Meador, and Marcia Kirk,
Clinton Young Elem. School, Indianapolis**

Youth Service

Christina Pena, Ligonier

Lifetime Achievement

Helen Espinosa, Huntington

Conference attendees joined with local corporate partners in support of "a peanut butter and jelly drive" benefiting three homeless shelters from across the state. The Vincent House of Fort Wayne, Horizon House of Indianapolis, and the Haven House of Jeffersonville, were the beneficiaries of the over 350 jars of peanut butter and jelly donated by participants and the Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, Madhar Food mart, Walgreens, the French Connection Food Mart and Double 8 stores. The donations will assist the shelters in meeting the nutritional needs of their residents with over 4,020 sandwiches!

Attendees returned on Wednesday to continue participation in the second day of conference sessions and engage in the various networking opportunities held throughout venue; including a networking lunch and a national service meeting. The participants ended their conference experience by trying their luck at a raffle sponsored by the Indiana Campus Compact with lots of fun prizes donated by various Conference exhibitors.

If you didn't get a chance to complete an evaluation at the conference, you can access the survey on our website at <http://www.in.gov/ofbci/2472.htm>



Thanks

The Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives would like to thank all who volunteered at the Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism this week. Volunteers such as yourself are vital to the success of the conference and we deeply appreciate your generosity. Thanks again for all of your support.

Ian Albright
 Brian Austin
 Jennifer Baltz
 Denny Benson
 Conor Burns
 Cynthia Carter
 Anne Farrell
 Fred Harris
 Matthew Hawthorne
 Ashley Hayhurst
 Scott Hensley
 Emily Hervey
 Lucy Houchin
 Vicki Ingersoll
 Jenni Maple
 Amanda Miller
 Christopher Moeller
 Cynthia Pressley-DeMar
 Sheila R. Rivers
 Rick Rosales
 Maria Rubio
 Carrienne Scheib
 Diana Schmalzried
 Jenna Sheffler
 Thelma Slisher
 Emmeline Sparks
 Angela Spisak
 Nora Stewart
 Paula Suchy
 Nicole Swindler
 Robin Tate
 Deandra Thompson
 Amber Tink
 Bethany Warner
 Tess Williams
 Jayme Zobrist

The OFBCI staff wishes to extend their thanks to all of you who attended the conference. It wouldn't have been a success without you!





The IRS Needs Your Help!

Starting in May, economic stimulus payments of up to \$600 for individuals (\$1,200 for married couples) will be issued by the IRS based on 2007 tax returns. Parents also get \$300 for each eligible child.

You must file a 2007 tax return. That's it. But here's where the IRS needs help. Millions of people are eligible but may not know it. These are certain retirees, disabled vets and low-wage workers who normally don't file a tax return. This year, they must file to receive the payments.

You can help the IRS by spreading the word! People who have at least \$3,000 from wages or certain benefits from Social Security, Railroad Retirement and Veterans Affairs may be eligible. They need to file a return. Please, visit www.irs.gov for further details.

The White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives invites you to participate in the *Portraits of Compassion* video story contest. This contest is designed to shine a light on the countless caring Americans who offer help and hope to their neighbors in need as part of President Bush's Faith-Based and Community Initiative.



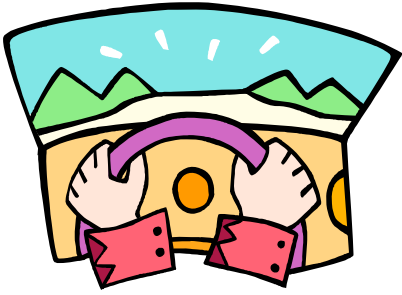
The mission of the Faith-Based and Community Initiative is to strengthen both faith-based and other community-based service organizations and to grow government's collaboration with them to aid people in need. Over the past seven years, tens of thousands of partnerships have formed between government and dedicated nonprofits, extending service and hope to millions of needy individuals both at home and abroad. The *Portraits of Compassion* video story contest is a chance to honor this vital work and inspire others to service as well.

Eligible applicants include any domestic or international nonprofit organization that has partnered with a Federally-funded program since 2001 to serve the needy. Applications must include a "video story" of three minutes or less that can be uploaded on a free online video sharing service such as YouTube, Google Video, iTunes, or ySpace. All videos must be submitted as an Internet link by May 1, 2008. To learn more or to submit an application, visit <http://www.hhs.gov/fbci/portraits/index.html>.

Winning videos will be premiered during the White House National Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in Washington, D.C., on June 26 and 27, 2008 and showcased nationally on the Conference website. This Conference is free and open to the public. Online registration for the Conference is available at www.fbci.gov by clicking on the "Washington DC" conference link at the top right corner.



Over the next three years, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Local Funding Partnerships (LFP) will continue awarding matching grants of \$200,000 to \$500,000 to highly collaborative, innovative projects working to solve health problems for vulnerable populations in the U.S. To be considered for an LFP matching grant, projects must be new, community-based and nominated by a local funder such as a community or family foundation, a corporate or independent foundation, or other philanthropy. Local funders in Indiana are encouraged to nominate a local project. For more information visit <http://www.lifp.org/index.html>



Allstate Foundation Announces New Program to Honor Safe Driving Activists In celebration of National Youth Traffic Safety Month this May, the Allstate Foundation is now accepting nominations for its inaugural Activist of the Year awards. The awards will recognize one teen and one parent who went above and beyond in 2007 to promote safe teen driving.

The Teen Activist of the Year Award is designed to recognize and reward teens for encouraging smart driving activities completed in 2007. Nominations will be judged on creativity, originality, and number of teens positively impacted by a nominee's efforts. In addition to a \$10,000 cash prize for themselves, the winning teen will designate a \$5,000 grant to a nonprofit organization of their choice which supports or promotes teen safe driving.

Similar to the Teen Activist of the Year Awards, the Parent Activist of the Year Award will recognize a parent who has gone above and beyond to promote the importance of safe driving to teens, other parents, or their community. The winning parent will designate a \$10,000 grant to a nonprofit organization of their choice that supports or promotes teen safe driving.

Anyone can nominate a parent or teen, and teens and parents may nominate themselves. Complete rules and eligibility requirements for the Teen Activist of the Year and Parent Activist of the Year Awards are available at

<http://media.allstate.com/categories/7-news-releases/releases/4379-nominations-open-for-teen>



US Team Prepares for Tajikistan Trip

Black Pine staff and Volunteer Connections of Noble County are planning to travel to Dushanbe, Tajikistan, and have been busy working out final details for their exciting trip, set to commence on April 1. The Museums Community Collaborations Abroad (MCCA) project to help improve zoo safety, education and animal care will truly get underway when the U.S. team goes to Dushanbe for a two-week visit. The team will be teaching their Tajik counterparts how to establish and manage committees, a

volunteer program, and how to put democracy to work for positive change. The ultimate goal is to implement a variety of improvement projects and sustainable programs to improve zoo safety and education for animals and visitors. Tajik team members will make a visit to the U.S. this summer. This cultural exchange is made possible by the American Association of Museums and the U.S. Department of State.

Just because we don't have any training opportunities listed doesn't mean there aren't any!

Please visit the OFBCI website at
<http://www.in.gov/ofbci/2414.htm>

If you have a training opportunity you would like considered for inclusion on our Training Calendar, please send the information to jgegel@ofbci.in.gov

