

January 15, 2007

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Note from Director Jay Hein

"Any definition of a successful life must include service to others." These words were spoken by President George H.W. Bush and they reflect a core value of the Bush family as well as a thread that connects the leadership of the 41st and 43rd Presidents of the United States.

New research from the Corporation for National and Community Service illustrates that service to others is an American value, as well. In its report entitled "Volunteer Growth in America: A Review of Trends Since 1974," CNCS's report shows that volunteering has increased 32 percent over the past 16 years. Remarkably, the volunteer rate for Americans age 65 and older has increased 64 percent since 1974.

Additional research indicates that Americans volunteer through religious charities more than any other type of organization. One such man who translates his private faith into public service is the head coach of the Indianapolis Colts, Tony Dungy. In addition to being an NFL coach, Dungy was instrumental in founding the All Pro Dads program aimed at preparing fathers to be more active in their children's lives. Volunteering countless hours to the cause, Coach Dungy has helped thousands of men become better dads by contributing to the program's expansion to multiple NFL cities, 40 NFL spokesmen and 360 Dad's Day chapters across the United States.

I was recently privileged to honor Coach Dungy for his selfless service by presenting him with the President's Volunteer Service Award on behalf of President George W. Bush. This award was established by President Bush to recognize the best in the American spirit and to encourage



Jay Hein presents Coach Tony Dungy with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

all Americans to improve their communities through volunteer service and civic participation.

Martin Luther King, Jr., famously said that we can all be great because we can all serve one another. During his lifetime, Dr. King encouraged Americans to come together to strengthen communities, alleviate poverty, and acknowledge dignity and respect for all human beings. Service, he realized, was the great equalizer. On January 15, 2007, hundreds of thousands of Americans will celebrate the 21st anniversary of the Martin Luther King, Jr., federal holiday by making it a "Day On, Not a Day Off" by participating in service projects in their communities.

President Bush has set the bold goal of increasing the number of Americans who volunteer each year by 10 million in five years, to reach some 75 million in 2010. To answer this call to service, please visit www.volunteer.gov or call 1-877-USA-CORPS to identify volunteer opportunities in your community.

White House Summit on Malaria



On December 14, 2006, President and Mrs. Bush hosted a White House Summit on Malaria. The Summit brought together international experts; corporations and foundations; African civic leaders; and faith-based and nonprofit organizations to raise awareness of malaria and to mobilize grassroots efforts to save millions of lives in Africa.

At the Summit, Mrs. Bush announced that the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) will launch the Malaria Communities Program, a \$30 million initiative to build independent, sustainable malaria-control projects in Africa by providing grants to African NGOs and religious groups to support malaria-control work. These initiatives will protect children and families and will help citizens take charge of their own health.

Melinda Gates, representing the philanthropic sector at the White House Summit, announced an \$83.5 million commitment by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to combat malaria. The funds will expand access to bed nets, treatment, and other malaria control tools; speed research on vaccines and additional prevention methods; and boost global advocacy to fight the disease.

PMI, a five-year, \$1.2 billion program launched by President Bush in June 2005, challenges the private sector to join the U.S. government in combating malaria in 15 of the hardest-hit African countries. PMI seeks to cut malaria's mortality rate by 50 percent in these target countries, freeing their citizens from the grip of this debilitating disease.

Admiral Timothy Ziemer, Coordinator of PMI, announced at the White House Summit in December, "I am looking forward to working with Jay Hein of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to host a follow-on meeting with interfaith leaders to tap into their talents and human potential and to learn how we can effectively work with African faith and civic partnerships. This is just one aspect of engaging broader faith and community based efforts in the Malaria Communities Program."

To learn more about the President's Malaria Initiative, visit www.fightingmalaria.gov.



First Lady Laura Bush meets with Melinda Gates prior to their participation in the White House Summit on Malaria.

Compassion in Action

At a recent White House Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in Charlotte, North Carolina, Director Jay Hein recognized the good work of Land of Sky Regional Council, located in Asheville, North Carolina. Land of Sky demonstrates that high performing organizations should not be defined by the size of their budgets, but rather by their outcomes.

Land of Sky Regional Council received a Program for National Significance grant for \$16,000 from the Corporation for National and Community Service in September 2005. Land of Sky leveraged this federal investment to recruit

52 volunteers to develop disaster relief training kits and individual disaster preparedness plans for members of their community, exceeding their initial goal of recruiting 40 volunteers. In addition to developing preparedness plans, Land of Sky trained people in their community to help conduct disaster relief services in times of crisis.

Land of Sky ultimately served 300 people and 100 families, 70 percent of which developed disaster preparedness plans and kits. The organization exemplifies the value of government partnering with effective social service groups to meet local community needs.

WHOFBCI Accomplishments in 2006

Competitive Federal grants to faith-based organizations (FBOs) increased for the third straight year in FY2005. More than \$2.1 billion in grants were awarded to religious organizations in FY2005 by seven federal agencies. This is up from last year (FY04) when \$2.004 billion in grants were awarded to faith-based groups across the same agencies.

In March 2006, President Bush signed Executive Order 13397 creating the Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Created in response to Hurricane Katrina, the Center is charged with coordinating DHS's efforts to remove regulatory, contracting, and other programmatic obstacles to the participation of faith-based and community organizations in the provision of disaster relief and recovery services.

In 2006, the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives hosted nine conferences, providing training, legal and technical assistance to over 5,500 new and potential Federal grantees. Since 2002, the Office has hosted 28 conferences across the country, training over 26,000 people.

In February 2006, President Bush signed the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, which reauthorized welfare reform and also extended for five years a policy called Charitable Choice, which protects the religious identity of faith-based organizations providing federally funded social services. The law also makes Charitable Choice applicable to state-administered funding under two new grant programs -- the Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Initiatives.

In August 2006, President Bush signed the Pension Protection Act of 2006, which included new charitable giving incentives totaling about \$1.4 billion over ten years. These incentives include enhanced deductions for donations of food inventory and a provision under which individuals can transfer money from an IRA to a charity with no tax penalty.

Key Agency Accomplishments for 2006

USDA removed a key barrier to the work of faith-based and community organizations offering drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs. This action also supported individuals seeking help for their addictions to make an important personal choice as to which recovery program they enter without fear of losing their food stamp benefits. The policy guidance letter, signed by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Michael Johanns, underscored that a faith-based or community drug or alcohol treatment facility does not need to be licensed by the state in order for its residents to qualify for food stamps. As long as a facility is recognized by the State's Title XIX agency as furthering the purpose of rehabilitating drug addicts and/or alcoholics, the residents of the facility may retain food stamp benefits and the facility itself may be an authorized food stamp retailer.

The Veterans Administration used its loan guarantee for multifamily transitional housing for a homeless veterans pilot program to complete construction on the St. Leo Center in Chicago, Illinois. This project, constructed in partnership with the Catholic Charities of Chicago, will provide housing, health, employment and other services to 141 homeless veterans. Although the facility just opened, St. Leo's is full and has a waiting list of 150.

The Department of Labor's pioneering prisoner-reentry pilot project, **Ready4Work**, concluded its three-years of operations with strong results in reducing recidivism and improving employment outcomes for ex-offenders. With 4,465 adult ex-offenders served, participant recidivism rates are an impressively low 1.9% at 6-months after release, and 5.0% at 1 year after release. Both figures are about half the national average for ex-offenders with similar criminal and social backgrounds.

The Department of Labor's **SHARE Network** enables states to create expansive Web-based referral systems between One-Stop Career Centers and FBCOs that provide supportive services that One-Stops don't have, like transportation, childcare or clothing for a job interview. SHARE also locates "Access Points" to One-Stop resources within volunteer-staffed FBCOs in underserved neighborhoods. North Dakota was the first state to implement the SHARE Network. Today, in a state with a population of less than 700,000, more than 2,500 unique visitors each month use the state's SHARE Network to research and locate providers of workforce-related services. Eight states are currently implementing SHARE Networks, and eight more will launch SHARE in 2007.

The Department of Labor's **Grassroots Grants** enable small faith-based and community organizations to partner with local One-Stop Career Centers, with a special focus on the hardest-to-serve clients. A new evaluation revealed that FY 2005's 48 Grassroots grantees used their modest \$25,000 grants to leverage a remarkable 14,275 volunteer hours. In addition to other services, they helped 1,460 high-need individuals to enter employment; significantly, 1,007 of these individuals were enabled to retain their jobs for at least 6 months. This year, 557 organizations applied for Grassroots Grants—more than for any other DOL grant program. Fifty-five winners received grants of \$50,000-75,000 each.

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) at the Department of Commerce invested \$3.5 million in 2006 in the **St. Patrick Center (SPC)**, the nation's largest private-sector assistance program for the homeless in St. Louis, Missouri. These funds will support Project BEGIN (Business, Employment, Growth, Incomes and Neighborhood) which will provide in-house job training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities in partnership with light manufacturing and service-oriented businesses that will lease space from SPC. SPC will also offer workforce training skills in conjunction with Ranken Technical College, through a comprehensive Trades Training Program. Project BEGIN will demonstrate the effectiveness of bringing meaningful jobs and valuable trades training directly into a professionally-operated social service agency that deals with a large number of minority and impoverished clients.

In 2006, our Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives hosted 110 workshops, providing grant writing training to over 9,500 new and potential federal grantees. Since 2002, our Centers have hosted over 350 workshops across the country, training over 30,000 people.



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