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**In this Issue:**

**Phoenix Hosts State Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiative** ..... 1  
**Arizonan Receives President’s Volunteer Service Award** ..... 1  
**Governor Napolitano Looks at FBCO Accomplishments in Arizona** ..... 2

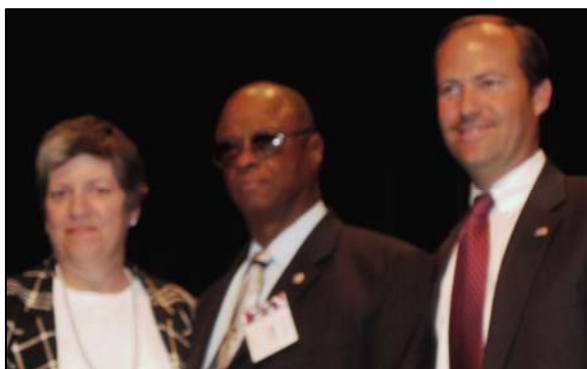
**Phoenix Hosts State Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiative**

On May 15-16, 2007, the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives partnered with the state of Arizona and Governor Janet Napolitano to host over 1200 community leaders for a two day conference in Phoenix.

WHOFBCI Director Jay Hein described the conference as a crucial gathering of leaders – a “compassion cluster” – and spoke of the prime opportunity to harness the full potential of partnerships between state and local governments and non-profit and public sectors.

During the two-day conference, federal and state government officials joined leaders from the academic and non-profit realms to conduct workshops on a range of topics including community and economic development, HIV/AIDS, building faith-based and community responses, capacity building, legal issues and equal treatment regulations for government program administrators, supporting veterans and their families, and substance abuse recovery.

**Arizonan Receives President’s Volunteer Service Award**



*Governor Napolitano, Bishop Barnwell, Director Hein*

Arizona volunteer Bishop Henry Barnwell of Phoenix received the President’s Volunteer Service Award on May 16, 2007, at the Arizona FBCI Conference. White House FBCI Director Jay Hein presented the award to Barnwell, who has served as a Juvenile Detention Chaplain with the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) for the past 30 years.

Under the leadership of ADJC Director Michael Branham, Bishop Barnwell was instrumental in the

construction of the chapel at Adobe Mountain and works as much as 10 hours a week as a volunteer chaplain. He has been a cornerstone to the juvenile detention community and has consistently provided not only chaplaincy, but leadership and mentorship to other chaplains.

In addition, Bishop Barnwell has led the effort to engage faith leaders on issues affecting poor and vulnerable populations, including HIV-AIDS, child welfare, substance abuse, human rights issues, Operation Good Neighbor relief and recovery for the 2005 hurricane victims and more. Bishop Barnwell is a leader in the African American Christian Clergy Coalition, a volunteer effort to increase awareness and engagement of African American clergy in community issues.

The Council on Service and Civic Participation presents the President’s Volunteer Service Award annually to promote the importance of volunteerism and encourage citizens to engage in their local communities.

## Governor Napolitano Shares Vision For FBCO Accomplishments in Arizona

Building on the theme of innovation, Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano discussed the role of faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) at the White House Regional Conference. As the fastest-growing state in the union, Arizona's population will reach over 12 million by 2030.

Napolitano stressed that successfully developing a solid human infrastructure will be a mark of successful growth, stating: ".....where the faith-based initiative comes into play...[it] helps to make sure that our young people are safe, healthy, begin school ready to learn and graduate ready for 21<sup>st</sup> century so that the state that they are coming into provides them with opportunity...[and] so that Arizona will be not just a great place to grow up in, but a great place to grow old in."

"The challenge is to reach across jurisdictional and party lines, or whatever boundaries separate us. We

must understand that [when we] work together we are stronger than [when we work] apart. When we bring together all the people in this room and multiply by all the people you represent and know; add all the people those folks know, all of a sudden we have not disparity, but unity across the state of Arizona to make sure this state is moving forward in a common direction that invests in our human infrastructure."

Napolitano emphasized that FBCOs represent a creative, innovative way of thinking about how to grow the state of Arizona. "We have chosen to live here and to raise our families here, and all of us must be thinking about our partnerships and how we work together on our human infrastructure. Our future is very bright indeed."