



January 22, 2007

State and Local Strategies Profiled in National Publication

The National Journal featured the President's Faith-Based and Community Initiative in a recent cover story entitled, "Leaps of Faith," by Paul Singer and Brian Friel. Interviewing Federal and state officials, the article highlighted methods used to encourage grassroots efforts and to "professionalize and stabilize" the thousands of small, grassroots charities located in communities across the country. Jay Hein, Director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, emphasized that the faith and community initiative is really about locating small, locally based charities and helping them get access to government assistance that had been otherwise mostly available to larger, more established organizations. According to Jedd Medefind, Director of the Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives at the U.S. Department of Labor, the grassroots element is important as it helps organizations "draw upon volunteers that share the same ZIP code as the problem – [that] have a personal commitment to the people they are serving."



State officials agree. Krista Sisterhen, former director of the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in Ohio, described how her state's officials viewed the Initiative as a means to "improve the way government purchases...and gets social services delivered." To help reach that goal, the state developed a curriculum on organizational development and management which it uses to train community

groups around the state. To date, over 2,000 groups have benefited from the training.

The Initiative is also crossing party lines with offices being established by governors and mayors of both major political parties. Richard Cizik, vice president for governmental affairs at the National Association of Evangelicals, observed in the article, "to collapse the faith-based initiative into partisan politics is to miss the larger reality of public-private partnerships and to ignore where the action is today." Currently, there are 33 states and over one hundred cities that have an office or liaison for the Initiative.

In December, the state faith and community liaisons were invited to the White House. As the Roundtable on Religion and Social Welfare Policy reported, the conversation was driven by the liaisons rather than the White House—creating an opportunity to share effective strategies and to collaborate on various efforts. Tammy Payne, Idaho's liaison, captured the meeting's theme by saying that the Initiative "truly is going to be imbedded and live in our communities."

For more information regarding states with an office or liaison for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, visit www.fbc.gov.

To view the full National Journal article, visit www.nationaljournal.com/about/njweekly/stories/2007/0105nj1.htm.

To view the full Roundtable article, visit www.religionandsocialpolicy.org/newsletters/article.cfm?id=5749.

If you are interested in receiving our weekly e-newsletter "OFBCI Update", visit www.fbc.gov and click the Join Our Mailing List link.

Compassion in Action Roundtable: Grassroots Solutions for Reducing Youth Violence

On January 16, 2007, Director Jay Hein welcomed over one hundred community and faith leaders; local, state, and Federal government officials; and school administrators and teachers to the White House for the first “Compassion in Action Roundtable” focused on Grassroots Solutions for Reducing Youth Violence. The roundtable launched a monthly series that will highlight organizations, programs and policies that are addressing critical social needs.

The Honorable Paul McNulty, Deputy Attorney General of the U.S. Department of Justice, opened the event by describing the issues underlying youth violence and the Federal government’s role in addressing these concerns. Mr. McNulty commented on the violent nature of music, television and video games which surround today’s youth and how this violent culture has contributed to increasing gang violence across the country. Emphasizing that Federal dollars alone cannot change this culture, he outlined the importance of faith-based and community organizations in meeting the long term goals of reducing crime rates and youth violence.

Mr. McNulty noted his appreciation for the work of individuals like Bob Woodson, founder of the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise (CNE) and twenty-five year veteran in the fight against youth violence. He cited Woodson’s role in establishing the Violence Free Zone Initiative and implementing other strategies to address substance abuse, teen pregnancy and poor education. Mr. Woodson recognized youth advisors as an essential component of the Violence Free Zone Initiative’s success. Youth advisors are drawn from the same cultural and geographic zip codes as the youth they serve. They act as moral mentors and life coaches who transform the culture and encourage change in violent youth through support and acceptance.

Dr. John Deasy, CEO of Prince George’s County Public Schools, also praised the Violence Free Zone Initiative, highlighting the results the program has produced within his own school

district. In the program’s first year at Prince George’s County Public Schools, the number of violent incidents dropped from 130 to 50. Michael Grebe, President and CEO of The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, attributed the success of the Violence Free Zone Initiative to several factors, including their grassroots, nonpartisan and non-ideological nature. He highlighted the program’s ability to be a win-win situation for all those involved: public officials, philanthropists, and most importantly, the youth themselves. Mr. Grebe concluded by praising the program for its ability to provide results in a cost-effective manner, with a focus on overall accountability.



Pictured left to right: Curtis Jones, Jr., Billy H. Stanfield, Robert Woodson & Derrick Compton

Five leaders of grassroots organizations were highlighted for the roles their groups have played in implementing Violence Free Zones: Gwendolyn Poles Sands, CEO and Executive Director of Visions Unlimited in Atlanta, Georgia; Billy Stanfield, Founder and Executive Director of New Vision Youth Services in Baltimore, Maryland; Omar Jahwar, Founder of Vision Regeneration in Dallas, Texas; Curtis Watkins, Founder and President of the East Capitol Center for Change in Washington DC/Prince George’s County, Maryland; and Ramon Candelaria, Executive Director of the Latino Community Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Each of these community leaders shared how Violence Free Zones have helped youth to realize their potential in situations where hopelessness previously prevailed.

To learn more about the Violence Free Zone Initiative, visit www.cneonline.org.

View from the Federal Agencies

FBCOs Win Grants to Fight HIV/AIDS through the New Partners Initiative

In December of 2006, the United States Agency for International Development announced the first round of New Partners Initiative (NPI) grants. Twenty-three grants were awarded to organizations that will work in 13 of the 15 countries that make up the focus of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). These grants will last three years and will provide a total of up to \$72 million. Many of these partners are faith-based groups, including the Catholic Medical Mission Board, Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, Church Alliance for Orphans, and Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, Inc.



President George W. Bush announced NPI on World AIDS Day, December 1, 2005. A part of PEPFAR, NPI is a \$200 million initiative (through FY2008) that will fund HIV/AIDS prevention and care in 15 PEPFAR focus countries.

For more information on the resources provided through NPI, visit www.pepfarnpi.com.

Workshops for Organizations Interested in Tutoring Low-Income Students

The U.S. Department of Education Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is conducting a series of free technical assistance workshops for organizations interested in tutoring students from low-income families who attend Title I schools that are in their second year of school improvement, corrective action or restructuring. The workshops will also include information on No Child Left Behind, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program (funding for after-school programs), grant writing, grant administration and capacity building.

The next four workshops will be held in:

- 1) Los Angeles, CA on January 25th
- 2) Miami, FL on January 30th
- 3) Tampa, FL on February 1st
- 4) Dallas, TX on February 7th

For more locations and to register online for these technical assistance workshops, visit www.ed.gov/about/inits/list/fbci/regform.html. If you are unable to register online, please call (202) 219-1741.

Centers For Faith-Based & Community Initiatives In the Federal Agencies

Department of Agriculture
202-720-3631
www.usda.gov/fbci

Department of Commerce
202-482-4355
www.commerce.gov/fbci

Department of Education
202-219-1741
www.ed.gov/faithandcommunity

Department of Health & Human Services
202-358-3595
www.hhs.gov/fbci

Department of Homeland Security
202-447-3342
www.dhs.gov/fbci

Department of Housing & Urban Development
202-708-2404
www.hud.gov/offices/fbci/index.com

Department of Justice
202-514-2987
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fbci

Department of Labor
202-693-6450
www.dol.gov/cfbci

Department of Veterans Affairs
202-273-7499
www.va.gov/opa/fbci

Small Business Administration
202-205-9037
www.sba.gov/fbci

U.S. Agency for International Development
202-712-4080
www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_partnerships/fbci/

Corporation for National & Community Service
202-606-5000
www.nationalservice.gov

The Faces of Compassion

The White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI) recognizes that the work of touching and transforming lives is often undertaken by committed citizens operating with big hearts and shoestring budgets. OFBCI aims to strengthen and support the work of these neighborhood healers. For this reason, OFBCI hosts regional conferences throughout the country to help social service providers better understand the President's Initiative and how to more effectively compete for public and private resources.

On January 18th, at the 29th White House Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in Seattle, Washington, Director Jay Hein spoke about the importance of local communities meeting local needs. He recognized six local organizations as "Champions of Compassion" for their outstanding work in Oregon and Washington. One of these groups was the Salvation Army Harbor Light Center in Portland, Oregon. Harbor Light has received grant awards from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for its programs to house homeless veterans.*

James Meiser, a veteran whose life was turned around by the program, told the audience how



Pictured left to right: Greg Joseph, Jay Hein, & James Meiser

grateful he was for the help he received from Harbor Light. James came to Harbor Light cold, hungry and sick after being released from jail. Although skeptical that the Salvation Army could help him, he was desperate to be well and to kick his drug habit. Mr. Meiser shared at the conference, "Harbor Light gave me a place to stay, food, clothes, and most of all encouragement...I've come to believe that if all the armies of the world were like yours [Harbor Light] the world would be a better place. Yours is an army that fires bullets of hope, grenades of compassion, and atomic bursts of love." Mr. Meiser credits Harbor Light with providing him hope and bringing success to his recovery efforts.

Other "Champions of Compassion" included: The Bethlehem Inn in Bend, Oregon; William Factory Small Business Incubator in Tacoma, Washington; The Center for Empowerment in Seattle, Washington; The Compass Center in Seattle, Washington; and SE Works in Portland, Oregon.

*Harbor Light has been a recipient of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Per Diem program since 2003. The Per Diem grant ranges from \$215,000 to \$220,000 per year, depending on the number of veterans living at Harbor Light. In 2006, Harbor Light received a VA Capital Grant for \$466,000 to create 24 new beds for its Veterans Emergency Transition Shelter (VETS) program. The Capital Grant is being used to improve and expand Harbor Light's capacity and will help double the number of veterans served from 24 to 48.

When America serves others in this way, we show the strength and generosity of our country. These deeds reflect the character of our people. The greatest strength we have is the heroic kindness, courage, and self-sacrifice of the American people.

President George W. Bush, January 2007



**FAITH BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE
THE WEEK AHEAD**
Monday, January 22, 2007 | Saturday, January 27, 2007

Monday, January 22

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE: Steve McFarland addresses the National Institute of Corrections and American Corrections Association Winter meeting on reentry
Tampa, Florida

Tuesday, January 23

WHITE HOUSE: President Bush delivers the State of the Union Address
9:01:30 PM (EST)
United States Capitol | Washington, DC

Wednesday, January 24

WHITE HOUSE OFBCI: Jay Hein speaks at the National Association of Evangelicals Student Leadership Conference
Washington, DC

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE: Steve McFarland addresses the Executive Council of Progressive Baptist Conference
Houston, Texas

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR: Scott Shortenhaus exhibits and speaks at the SAHMSA Access to Recovery 2007 Winter Grantee Conference entitled, 'Optimizing Outcomes through Sharing Knowledge' (Access to Recovery Conference).
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT: Rob Bogart addresses the Unlocking Doors Conference highlighting affordable community housing efforts.
Los Angeles, California

Thursday, January 25

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES: Greg Morris addresses the Access to Recovery Conference. HHS CFBCI also exhibits at the event.
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE: Miriam Moore addresses the Bureau of Justice Assistance Regional Conference
Baltimore, Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION: Education conducts its No Child Left Behind, Supplemental Educational Services and 21st CCLC Technical Assistance Workshop
Los Angeles, California