



February 12, 2007

In this Issue:

Jay Hein Meets with Leaders from the Charitable Sector..... 1
Reentry and Recidivism Symposium in Ohio 1
Earned Income Tax Credit Resource Toolkit 1
Live Telecast on Faith-Based and Community Economic Development 2
Food Stamp Outreach Grants 2
The Week Ahead: Faith-Based and Community Initiative 3

Jay Hein Meets with Leaders from the Charitable Sector

On February 8th, Director Jay Hein spoke to CEOs of national nonprofits at a meeting hosted by Independent Sector. Led by Diana Aviv, Independent Sector is a coalition of charities, foundations, and corporate giving programs working to advance the common good by leading, strengthening, and mobilizing the charitable community. Director Hein shared information about the Administration’s compassion agenda and outlined his vision for the White House Office of

Faith-Based and Community Initiative for the coming two years.

Organizations in attendance included the National Council of Nonprofit Associations, YMCA of the USA, Youth Service America, American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, the Corporation for National and Community Service, Alliance for Children, Catholic Charities and the Islamic Society of North America.

Reentry and Recidivism Symposium in Ohio

The Institute for Excellence in Justice, a partnership between the Criminal Justice Research Center at Ohio State University and the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, hosted the *Faith-Based Programming, Reentry, and Recidivism Symposium* in London, Ohio, on February 9th. Steven McFarland, Director of the U.S. Department of Justice's Task Force for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, delivered the keynote address to 175 attendees from faith-based and community organizations on the essential role that private voluntary groups play in rehabilitating offenders. The symposium aimed to facilitate an ongoing dialogue between research,



faith, and corrections communities. Workshop presenters discussed the impact of faith-based programming on crime prevention and pro-social behavior, Federal funding for reentry, as well as the legal issues surrounding faith-based programming and collaborations.

For more information about the State of Ohio’s services for ex-offenders, visit:
www.drc.state.oh.us/web/offenderreentry.htm.

For more information about the President’s Prisoner Reentry Initiative, visit:
www.ojp.gov/fbciprogrammenu_reentry.html.

Earned Income Tax Credit Resource Toolkit

Organizations partnering with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to provide free tax assistance to the public now have a new resource to assist them in

their work. On February 1st, the IRS sponsored an Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Awareness Day and announced the availability of an EITC resource

toolkit. EITC is a tax benefit for people who work, but do not earn a high income. People who qualify for EITC may pay less or no Federal tax. The IRS toolkit provides useful information on EITC rules and qualifications. It also includes tips on completing returns, holding successful events, and more. Community organizations can utilize the

toolkit to help inform eligible workers about the tax credits, motivate them to file their tax returns and connect them to free tax filing assistance.

For the more information regarding the Earned Income Tax Credit, visit www.irs-etc.info/SPEC/.

Live Telecast on Faith-Based and Community Economic Development

The Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) is sponsoring a telecast for organizations interested in launching small businesses to aid in economic development. The telecast, focusing on the impact faith-based and community organizations have on economic development, will be held on February 21st, between 3:00PM–4:00PM (EST).

The telecast will feature Jay Hein; Senator Kit Bond of Missouri; and Sandy Baruah, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development. Assistant Secretary Baruah will highlight two award winning organizations during the telecast. The William Factory Small Business Incubator, located in Tacoma, Washington, was recently recognized by the White House Office of

Faith-Based and Community Initiatives for its efforts to provide economic literacy skills to small businesses and job opportunities for low-income



and unemployed residents within Tacoma-Pierce County. The St. Patrick Center, located in St. Louis, Missouri, received a Department of Commerce EDA award for Excellence in Economic Development in the category of Community and Faith-Based Social Entrepreneurship.

To register for this telecast, visit:

www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=121463.

Food Stamp Outreach Grants

On December 11th, Secretary Mike Johanns of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded nearly \$1 million to 14 faith-based and community organizations for their efforts to improve access to, and awareness of, USDA's Food Stamp Program for eligible low-income households. The Food Stamp Program, administered by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, is the cornerstone of Federal nutrition assistance programs and provides crucial support to working poor and needy households.

"The Administration is committed to ensuring that people who are eligible for food stamps can access benefits with dignity and respect," said Secretary Johanns. "Faith-based and community organizations are uniquely positioned to help us reach those in need with information about this critical nutrition safety net."

The majority of the Food Stamp grantees will work with senior service programs, food banks or food pantries, healthcare providers, housing programs, and other faith-based and community organizations in order to customize outreach to the needs of the targeted community.



For more information on the Food Stamp Program and outreach grants, visit USDA's Food and Nutrition Service website at www.fns.usda.gov.

For more information on other programs that may be of interest to faith based and community organizations, visit USDA's Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives website at www.usda.gov/fbci/.

**FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE
THE WEEK AHEAD**
Monday, February 12, 2007 | Saturday, February 17, 2007

Monday, February 12

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES: Mike Costigan addresses the 10th Annual Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration/Center for Substance Abuse Prevention Faith Symposium entitled, "Faith-Based Organizations & Community-Based Organizations: Approaches to Prevention Programming for Results and Accountability," part of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America's Annual National Leadership Forum.

D.C. Convention Center
Washington, DC

Tuesday, February 13

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION: Shayam Menon participates in the No Child Left Behind, Supplemental Educational Services, and 21st Children Creative Learning Centers Technical Assistance Workshop.

Sheraton Baton Rouge Convention Center
Baton Rouge, LA

Wednesday, February 14

THE WHITE HOUSE: President and Mrs. Bush participate in a roundtable conversation on volunteerism with noted social capital scholar Robert Putnam and economist Arthur Brooks, author of a recently released book on American philanthropy.

The White House
Washington, DC

Thursday, February 15

THE WHITE HOUSE OFBCI: Office hosts the Compassion in Action Roundtable entitled, "Controlling Malaria in Africa—The Unique Role of Faith-Based and Community NGOs."

Eisenhower Executive Office Building 450
Washington, DC