

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Friday, December 5, 2008**

**Contact: Rebecca Neale**  
**202-456-7348**

**White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Highlights  
America's Next Generation of Social Entrepreneur and Nonprofit Leaders**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI) today convened its final event in a two-year *Compassion in Action* series with the “Next Generation of Social Entrepreneurship” roundtable discussion. Hosted by OFBCI Acting Director Jedd Medefind, the event spotlighted the philanthropic work of enterprising young Americans to serve needs within their neighborhoods and around the world.

These emerging social entrepreneurs are serving as leaders within their communities and identifying creative ways to meet human need by developing initiatives and partnerships with faith-based organizations, community groups, and corporate and government entities. Many of today's teen- and college-age speakers intend to graduate into professional service and ministry careers.

“Today, we spotlight the future of innovative American compassion, as our Nation's young people emerge as the next generation of social entrepreneurs. This is what the President's Faith-Based and Community Initiative is all about – honoring and expanding new efforts to address critical social ills through partnerships with those who stand at the front lines of need,” said OFBCI Acting Director Jedd Medefind.

During the discussion, panelists explained how their personal convictions led them to launch philanthropic efforts to save the enslaved, bring justice for the oppressed, deliver life-saving resources to the sick and hungry, offer support to soldiers who put themselves in harm's way, and influence widespread change to make the world a more hopeful place. Panel moderators Anita McBride, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady, and Admiral Tim Ziemer, U.S. Malaria Coordinator, praised the young leaders for taking the initiative to tackle tough problems and engage their peers to serve the needs of the less fortunate.

Joining today's discussion were young people from across the Nation interested and involved in launching philanthropic efforts to address poverty, disease and a range of other critical needs at home and across the globe. Also among those in attendance were partner organizations of the youth-led nonprofits represented by today's speakers. Panelists noted that engaging in these partnerships – with entities ranging from community nonprofits and local governments to Fortune 10 companies – required them to overcome challenges including initial doubts associated with their ages.

Following the roundtable discussion, the OFBCI host a service project for the roundtable participants, in partnership with World Vision, a faith-based international nonprofit and partner through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the President's Malaria

Initiative (PMI). Caregiver Kits were assembled to equip the 65,000 trained volunteers, supported by faith-based and community organizations, who provide home-based care for children and adults affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

In January 2007, the OFBCI launched a series of monthly *Compassion in Action* Roundtable meetings to highlight organizations, programs and policies addressing critical social needs. The roundtables convene and facilitate discussion between policymakers, government officials, philanthropists, and faith-based and community service providers around targeted issues. The events reveal the President's Initiative as a broad-based, community-centered reform agenda, showcase innovative projects and promising practices, and draw attention to government efforts to expand and support the work of faith-based and community organizations actively engaged in serving their neighbors and communities.

###