

Arizona Council on  
Faith-Based and Community Initiatives  
Minutes for September 23, 2010

The Arizona Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is dedicated to engaging and mobilizing all faith communities to improve the quality of life for our most vulnerable and impoverished people through a statewide, action-oriented collaboration of faith-based, community and governmental organizations.

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- Welcome, Invocation & Introductions
  - Attendees were welcomed at 10:10 a.m.; Invocation by C.T. Wright; attendees introduced themselves and many great activities and events were shared.
  - First time attendees: Berta Myers (Scottsdale Bible Church), Elaine Miner (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints), Julie O'Neal (Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church).
- Review of previous Meeting Minutes.
  - Minutes from 8/26/10 meeting were unanimously approved
- Updates
  - Arizona CityFest. Ben Sanders spoke about the upcoming Season of Service beginning on October 5, 2010 and the Impact Days during the season. There are now 375 churches signed up to participate in the Season of Service. The Season will begin with a Governor's proclamation (still working out the details on this) and kickoff events on October 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>. Visit [www.arizonacityfest.com](http://www.arizonacityfest.com) for details. The Service Initiatives brochure is now available on the website.  
There was much discussion around the Season of Service's Impact Day for Education which is October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Jane spoke of many examples of how Synagogue attendees serve local schools; Ben spoke of the excellent work of the Palomino Interfaith Coalition's efforts in the Paradise Valley area. Many other examples were shared how the faith community is, and can be, involved in local schools.
  - Hunger Free Communities Grant. Chuck Fitzgerald, and others, spoke of the collaboration to complete the application that is due by the end of the month. The Association of Arizona Food Banks is taking the lead on the application with many organizations involved from around the State. Vice-Chair Rick Knopf provided a letter of support on behalf of our Council.
  - ArizonaSERVES. Chair Gary and Chuck told attendees that the Task Force has met for the first time and that members have divided into Issue Teams (one for each of the Governor's 5 Issue Areas). Each Team is developing an action plan for their Issue. Next Task Force meeting is October 22, 2010. Visit [www.arizonaserves.gov](http://www.arizonaserves.gov) for information. A couple member "slots" are still available for interested parties.
  - The Suitcase Initiative. Jane Wabnik spoke of the Arizona Interfaith Coalition for Foster Children and Families, and their upcoming "Connected for Life" summit to build awareness and support for children aging-out of the State's foster care system. The event is October 21<sup>st</sup> at the State Capitol. Details are at [www.aicfcf.org](http://www.aicfcf.org)
  - Tricia Hoyt spoke of Catholic Charities' "Paths to Hope" project that will use the Circles of Support model to help move families out of poverty. Project name may change.

- Scott Neuman shared information about an effort in Coconino County with Teen Challenge and Jobs 4 Life ([www.jobs4life.org](http://www.jobs4life.org)) regarding youth job skills and character development.
- Chair Gary spoke of Movement Day ([www.movementday.com](http://www.movementday.com)) in NYC on September 20, 2010. He will be representing Arizona along with Pastor Scott Rideout, Billy Thrall, Russ Dickey and Walt Crutchfield.
- Council Projects & Activities
  - Council Website. Chuck and Tricia updated attendees on the current status of the Council's website ([www.acfbci.org](http://www.acfbci.org)). It is up and working; please submit events and articles that reflect the activities and passions of faith communities serving the vulnerable and impoverished in Arizona. Forward all submittals by email to Chuck.
  - State-Wide Conference. Vice-Chair Rick and Chuck spoke about a recent subcommittee meeting discussing the Council's role as convener; specifically, how can we pull a conference together in early 2011 to highlight, and celebrate, faith community successes in serving their local communities.
 

A group in Phoenix's "west valley" is planning a "Benevolence & Beyond" conference that seems to be the perfect fit for our Council. The purpose of the conference is to provide faith community leaders with tools, examples and connections for developing sustainable, high-impact outcomes for families in their communities. The Council agreed to help the West Valley Human Services Alliance design the conference in such a way that it can be moved around the State as needed. The conference will be on February 11, 2011 in Goodyear.

Jane suggested we become intentionally diverse when putting this conference together - not just inviting - but very deliberate to include all faiths in the design and delivering of the event. She suggested an excellent speaker for the event and will pursue getting her scheduled.

A sub-group was formed to offer support to this effort – thank you Jane, Berta, Gary, Rick and Chuck. If you did not attend this meeting and you'd like to participate in designing this conference, please let Chuck know. An email with meeting details will go out to those who have raised their hand!
- New Business
  - Fall meeting Schedule. Attendees agreed to combine the November and December meetings into a single meeting to be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Closing Remarks and Adjourn
  - Chair Gary thanked the attendees; Rick closed with a prayer.
  - Next meeting is October 28, 2010; 10 a.m. to 12 Noon at Food for the Hungry.
  - Adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by  
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