

Arizona Council on  
Faith-Based and Community Initiatives  
Minutes for August 26, 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
  - Vice-Chair Rick Knopf welcomed attendees at 10:10 a.m.; Invocation by Paul Eppinger; attendees introduced themselves.
  - Guests: Maile Weigele and Mike Richardson (both for Billy Thrall), Russ Dickey and Eric Hannah (both with Lift Up America), Jerry Mendoza (APS).
- Review of previous Meeting Minutes.
  - Minutes from 7/22/10 meeting were unanimously approved (M – Jan; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Mike)
- Hunger in Arizona
  - Before she began her presentation, Ginny Hildebrand was approved unanimously for membership on the Council. Ginny, President of the Association of Arizona Food Banks ([www.azfoodbanks.org](http://www.azfoodbanks.org)), spoke about the issue of hunger in our state. While hunger is found virtually every where one looks, children, those with disabilities and the elderly are hardest hit. Ginny's presentation will be sent to all Council members. Ginny also asked for the Council's (and its member's organizations) for letters of commitment with regards to a Hunger Free Communities Grant that her organization is applying for from the USDA. The grant, should it be awarded, will provide funds for Assessment and Planning around county specific anti-hunger plans. Sample partnership support letters and related project information will be forwarded to each Council Member. Vice-Chair Rick will craft a letter from the Council to commit our support in the areas of Convening, Connecting and Communicating during the grant project.
- Updates
  - Arizona Hunger Campaign. Russ Dickey and Eric Hannah spoke about the efforts of this campaign. Approx. 510K pounds of food have been donated thus far. The goal is 5M pounds by the end of May 2011. The Campaign will be partnering with Arizona CityFest's Season of Service.  
The Valley of the Sun United Way and this Campaign are looking at developing a corporate food donation challenge for February of 2011 – details will be forthcoming.  
There is an opportunity for the Campaign to partner with ASU for home football games for donations; still exploring.  
The Arizona Broadcaster's Association is helping the Campaign to partner with the Coyotes, Cardinals, Suns and Diamondbacks for a "4 pro sport" initiative to collect donated food.  
The goals of the Campaign are to raise awareness of the hunger problem in Arizona and to provide ways for anyone to participate in solving the problem.  
[www.endazhunger.org](http://www.endazhunger.org)

Eric showed portions of a video from a similar effort in another state. Russ recommends all members to watch another video that can be found at this link: <http://vimeo.com/11768529>. There is a newer version of this video coming out in the coming weeks.

- ArizonaSERVES. 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 1, 2010. Visit [www.arizonaserves.gov](http://www.arizonaserves.gov) for information.
- Arizona CityFest. Maile and Mike spoke on Billy's behalf about the upcoming Season of Service beginning on October 5, 2010 and the Impact Days during the season. There are now 350 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 brochure is now available on the website.
- Council Projects & Activities
  - Council Website. Chuck to schedule next sub-committee meeting.
  - State-Wide Conference. Vice-Chair Rick to schedule next sub-committee meeting.
- New Business
  - Benevolence and Beyond. Chuck announced the February 11, 2011 "Benevolence and Beyond" poverty solutions summit in Goodyear. This summit will be designed by faith leaders to help faith leaders guide their organizations along the "continuum of community service." Many FBO already do marvelous things in the community, but others need help in getting started. Regardless of where a faith community is on the continuum of community service, there is a way to encourage, support, teach and provide technical assistance for moving them further along the continuum. More details will be available soon.
  - Jerry Mendoza with APS spoke about their residential utility discount programs. There is currently \$8M available for limited-income residential customers. He believes using the term "low-income" keeps folks from participating in the program...so he says, "limited-income." Could be a good lesson for us all! Information on the APS discount programs will be sent to all members.  
  
There was discussion about setting up churches in the communities as resource centers or "one-stops" for assistance information. This is being done at a number of places such as Rio Vista Center in south Phoenix. This will be discussed further at future meetings.
- Closing Remarks and Adjourn
  - Vice Chair Rick thanked the attendees; Ginny closed with a prayer.
  - Next meeting is September 23, 2010; 10 a.m. to 12 Noon at Food for the Hungry.
  - Adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted by**  
Charles A. Fitzgerald  
Faith & Community Initiatives  
Arizona Department of Economic Security  
(602) 542-0282 office  
(602) 639-0031 mobile  
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