

Arizona Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Minutes for February 23, 2012

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

- Welcome, Invocation & Introductions

Chair Gary Kinnaman welcomed attendees; Jim Welter opened the meeting with prayer.

- Updates

- ArizonaSERVES. Chuck Fitzgerald gave attendees a brief update on the Task Force and the website www.arizonaserves.gov. Next Task Force meeting is on March 16, 2012 and is always open to the public.
- The Arizona Coalition for Military Families is hosting a Military Immersion Training on March 12-13, 2012. This is a perfect way for community leaders to learn about the issues faced by our military personnel and their families. Details at www.arizonacoalition.org
- CityServe Arizona - Season of Service 2 and HopeFest Phoenix (<http://cityserveaz.com>). Jim Welter provided an update on HopeFest Phoenix. It will take place on April 14, 2012 at Chase Field. 160 community and government agencies will provide services during this one day event to the working poor.
- Chair Gary reported that the Governor's annual prayer breakfast has been scheduled for 4/12 at 7 a.m. at the Phoenix Downtown Hyatt Regency. More information for the event will soon be available at www.azgovprayerbreakfast.org.
- The Central Arizona Dental Society's Dental Mission of Mercy is scheduled for 12/7 and 12/8 in central Phoenix. This will be a free dental care event for those without dental insurance.
- Paul Eppinger spoke about his organization's concern regarding a proposed bill (HB 2313) which would eliminate the "special license plate" designation held by the Arizona Interfaith Movement and other organizations. More information at www.azifm.org.
- Paul Eppinger spoke of the Arizona Interfaith Movements upcoming "Golden Rule Awards Banquet" on 3/29. Information is available on the flier sent to Council members via email, or at www.azifm.org.
- Ben Sanders spoke of two town hall events, one on 4/11 at ASU Downtown Phoenix campus from 3 to 6 p.m. on Civic Engagement; and the other on 4/23 in Tucson. Look for more detailed information via email soon.
- Scott Neuman told attendees of a Disciple the Nations Alliance event on 3/3 at Neighborhood Ministries in Phoenix that will focus on urban outreach/service. Contact Scott for details.
- Brian Simpson spoke about the "Meeting the Need in Challenging Times: The Arizona Food Bank Network Conference" to be held at Vineyard Church North Phoenix (in Glendale) on April 25th. Information at www.azfoodbanks.org.
- Linda Morris informed attendees of a community health/resource fair in south Phoenix on 3/31. Contact Linda for details.
- Chuck Fitzgerald provided an update on the "Wait No More – finding families for Arizona's Kids" adoption from foster care event. 144 families began the process of adopting a child,

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356 children are available today. Updates will appear regularly on www.ArizonaSERVES.gov.

- C.T. Wright told attendees that the Liberian Vice President will be in town on 4/7, Easter weekend. Look for more details soon.
- Tom Fenner informed attendees that Hospice of the Valley received a national Excellence in Dementia Care Award. Nice job, HOV!
- Chair Gary updated attendees on an emerging effort to network and equip “Local Church Local Outreach” leaders in the greater Phoenix evangelical Christian community. More details will be made available at future Council meetings.
- Guest Speaker: Clarence Carter, Director, Arizona Department of Economic Security
Director Carter spoke to attendees about his journey to Arizona and his first year leading Arizona’s Department of Economic Security. He praised the efforts of the Council and restated his agency’s commitment to support faith community initiatives that serve the most financially and socially disadvantaged people in Arizona. His remarks included these comments:
 - I am leading efforts that will transform human services delivery in Arizona into a person-centric engine for human well-being
 - Current system design flaws include: program silos, program centricity, misplaced objectives and a lack of shared vision
 - The full development of human well-being is not possible without faith. Over the past decades we have “wrung all faith out of government”
 - Government is transaction, community is relationship.
 - Child Safety Task Force recommendations were largely attendant to the criminal aspects of the child welfare system
 - Growing the number of homes for foster care and adoption care is a priority; events such as “Wait No More” in Scottsdale led 144 families to begin the process for adopting a child. We will replicate this event as many times as possible to find loving and healthy homes for every child and to ensure no child languishes in the system.
 - I am very appreciative and grateful for such a strong group of community leaders. “Keep up the great work!” “Let me know what I can do to help you help others.”
- Closing Remarks and Adjourn
 - Next meeting is Thursday, March 22nd, 2012; 10 a.m. to 12 Noon at Catholic Charities, 4747 N 7th Avenue, Phoenix. Our guest speaker will be Catherine Dunning, CEO of Community Information and Referral, and 2-1-1 Arizona
 - Chair Gary Kinnaman thanked attendees for their participation in yet another excellent meeting; Pastor Aubrey Barnwell led us in prayer, and we adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Attendees, arriving at various times: Gary Kinnaman, Ben Sanders (phone), Linda Morris, Jim Welter, Tom Fenner, Marvin Murray, Paul Eppinger, Liliana Jorge, Victoria Bouchee, Terrilyn Miller, Allen Gjersvig, Brian Simpson, Catherine Dunning, Dabi Adeyemi, Aubrey Barnwell, Steve Capobres, C.T. Wright, Scott Neuman (phone), Rick Knopf (phone), Clarence Carter, Dennis Parker and Chuck Fitzgerald.

Respectfully Submitted:
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