

Forum on Faith and Community Partnerships

Break-Out Groups

Thursday, April 24th, from 8:30 - 11:30 am

Education:

- What are existing faith and community partnerships that are working? (strengths)
 - Refugee Focus- volunteer partnership with ASU to educate students about refugee needs
 - Rev. Donna Buckles
 - Brookline Nursing
 - Refugeefocus.org
 - African American Advisory council to the state
 - Mel Hannah- Superintendent of education
 - Excellence in Civic Education
 - K12 resources on how to integrate civic skills at different grade levels
 - Project Civil Discourse
 - Statewide network of community organizations
 - Big ticket events
 - Arizona Deliberates
 - Provides training for groups that want to engage the public deliberately
 - Arizona Interfaith Movement
 - Panel at SCC today to educate, break down barriers and build bridges
 - AZifm.org
 - Monthly faith forum
 - May 5th on “Parenting”
 - Various faiths weigh in
 - National Day of Prayer May 5th at 12pm
 - President Campus Challenge
 - How can new partnerships be created or existing partnerships be improved? (Opportunities)
 - West Wind Children Services
 - Pure Heart Church adopting schools by providing backpacks and resources
 - Faith communities need help in understanding how public schools and faith-based organizations can come together
 - Refugee Focus
 - Coalition of churches in East Phoenix serving refugee families and supporting true needs (teaching English)
 - US Department of Education- “Together for Tomorrow”
 - Churches and K12- how to appropriately partner with the public school system
 - Barriers (threats and weaknesses)
 - Suspicion and hostility toward faith based organizations
 - How is Arizona stringing these beads together?
 - AZs silos of services
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Energy and the Environment:

What current partnership exists?

Interfaith power and light – looking at house of worship to see where they can help provide savings

Energy Star wants you to save and utilize their website which provides a way for each establishment to save. The energy efficiency tips need to make sense for each establishment. You start small and look to implement.

Once the house of worship begins to save money on their electric they are able to move money into their ministries.

Q: Congregations and their members are getting calls by companies who claim that they will help them save money by installing solar or conducting a energy efficiency survey. Concern around what is valid versus fraudulent.

A: Energy Star is the website to review for energy efficiency. The local utility (APS or SRP) would be a good place to verify contractor who is claiming to conduct work on behalf of the utility. However, businesses and homeowners need to look at what their current structure looks like and decide what they need to do to conserve.

What barriers exist in partnerships?

Threats – predators on what information is real. Congregation members do not want to partner with other congregations. Smaller members and set in their ways.

A suggestion was made to look within your faith and pulpit partner with similar churches so members are not threatened and open to the sharing of ideas.

Opportunities?

Engage their youth. Youth can go and check the elderly member's home. The utilities are in the process of a community utility website and currently have an energy efficiency check list for residential homes. Energy Star has the web site for commercial. Youth can be involved and you build stewardship

Build a church green team – create a document and bring it to Home Depot to see if they would make any contribution in terms of CFL's or other items. This could provide your church with savings.

Perhaps you could create a faith challenge to see which group has the highest savings?

Poverty and economic opportunity:

- 22 reservations yet no 'native' representation
 - AZ Reservation Ministries- need 1400 homes
 - AMORE ministries- building homes in San Carlos
 - Will only be able to build 100 houses this year
 - Volunteers Help!
 - Tax program-
 - Free income taxes with faith community and do taxes
 - Tempe Community Council
 - FOZ is effective and able to grow
 - Partnerships that work:
 - South Mountain DES listening/asset
 - Getting community involved in problems and solutions
 - TERROS partnered with Grace Lutheran who feed homeless
 - Provides food/staff so they can help with treatment involvement
 - does a lot with other churches so both sides contribute
 - When leadership finds niche they want to be passionate about, it filters down to the rest of the congregation. They become creative.
 - Passion may not = assets
 - Find strengths
 - Assets-based community development available for any church
 - Now at 10 churches in South Phoenix
 - Kingdom Communities
 - Hard to sustain if leadership isn't on board
 - Capture need for homeless/network with churches and facilities and Salvation Army
 - Salvation Army, Pilgrim Rest, etc. evolve partnerships
 - APS discount program since 1988
 - APS not trusted so they need faith-based rep to sign up
 - 20,000 1988 ---- 90,000 today because of partnership
 - Partner with those who have partnerships with people
 - Food banks can't distribute food without close faith based relationship (not just government organizations)
- New Partnerships? Developed?
 - Muslim American community - fighting poverty
 - Food issues- Ramadan at Tempe
 - Non-Muslims come to be fed too
 - Need education and training instead of just feeding
 - So busy can't keep track with all organizations a directory would be great

- Model needed - purposeful, sustainable
 - Want to know the other models that work so we can start at common perspective
 - Overlap would strengthen all agencies to better serve all needs
- We need to be more deliberate (ABCD) then connections get stronger
- “Collective Impact” to another resource
- Abandon our titles and “hats” to seamlessly meet the needs of the client/human
 - Congregations provide places to meet
 - Cost of access to resources (staff who must abandon other “hats”)
 - \$80,000 in lost wages and other tasks
- Barriers-
 - Partnerships cost money
 - Mission focused move to focused need partnership
 - Competitive and Money plus recognition ☹
 - East valley seems to break down “silos”
 - Collective impact is better
 - Phoenix happens in pockets but not collectively
 - Partnerships with faith communities and resources so intentional results can occur
- Opportunities-
 - Not aware of assets. Housing for example—if people know housing availability
 - “Family Promise” does this with some success “Homeward Bound”
 - African refugees work with congregations to get resources to settle them
 - But who owns this?
 - Improve communication/network so we can hear the need and know who can meet it
 - There is no clearing house
 - We could solve any solution and root problems---educate
 - Ruby Payne- Generation Poverty
 - Evaluate real needs not just put a band-aid on it
 - Safety net needs to be a launching pad
 - Use model to get them out of poverty

Health Service & Healthy Living:

- What are strengths?
 - Commission on Homelessness and Housing
 - May need more youth representation
 - Food banks willing to provide
 - Better food opening the conversations
 - Opportunity - More resources for “sexually abused” populations afford care factor
 - Opportunity - Interstate healthcare collaborations
 - HopeFest (partnerships)
 - Opportunity around trauma issues
 - National Security Health and Strategy
 - Community resource
 - Creating the net before the disaster
 - Connecting into the efforts of homelessness model
 - How we interrelate with federal resources
 - Resources
 - Suggestion- need mapping of health services
 - Yuma County needs to be in the discussion
 - Statewide discussion instead of metro Phoenix area
 - We need to stay/work together “no matter what’s behind those doors”
 - Send action to Jose to promote collaboration
 - Health Worldview
 - All medical life
 - Behavior/attitude spiritual and emotional
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Emergency Preparedness & Human Trafficking:

- There is a connection around responding to emergency preparedness which is a vulnerable time when human trafficking occurs.
 - Everyone shared about their connection to human trafficking through their work- Open Table is partnering with Mama's House and having a training coming up for churches on how to support survivors of human trafficking, Salt Mine Trust does a human trafficking play to raise awareness, Bethany Bible Church does Mending the Soul.
 - AZ has a Governor's human trafficking council that is preparing for the super bowl.
 - There is a need to get the business community and private sector involved to get corporate support.
 - There is empathy but no resources.
 - Volunteer HUB can be a resource available to the faith base community to do emergency preparedness.
 - Marcus Coleman committed to going back to DC and sending out federal resources that could support what is happening here in AZ and following up with a conference call where we can stay connected around the issue that is scheduled for 5/12 at 8am. (see email from Marcus with follow up support)
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