



January 26, 2017  
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Catholic Charities Community Services  
4747 North 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85013

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Engaging and mobilizing faith communities to improve the quality of life for vulnerable and impoverished individuals and families through a statewide collaboration of faith-based, community and governmental organizations.

### Minutes

- I. **Welcome, Invocation & Introductions.** Chuck Fitzgerald welcomed attendees at 10:05AM, and opened the meeting with a few housekeeping items and a word of prayer. Attendees introduced themselves; the sign-in sheets for this meeting are available, as are all of our meeting archives, at [www.GodEnriches.org](http://www.GodEnriches.org), click on *About*.

II. **Phoenix Christian Preparatory School - Foster Care Support Program**

Amber Walker, School Counselor and MSW, spoke about their efforts to support families who foster children. You can learn more about Phoenix Christian Preparatory School online at <http://www.phoenixchristian.org/>. Amber's presentation and brochure can be found here: <http://arizonafaihcouncil.org/meeting-archives/>

You may scholarship attendance at Phoenix Christian for a specific child by claiming an Arizona Tax Credit. Please contact Amber directly about this, you have until April 17<sup>th</sup>!

Amber Walker, (480) 209-6818, [awalker@phoenixchristian.org](mailto:awalker@phoenixchristian.org)

III. **Foster Care Initiatives**

Executive Director Berisha Black spoke to attendees about her organization. Foster Care Initiatives is committed to reach families who are at risk of child abuse and neglect. We journey alongside parents as they courageously break the cycle of child abuse and neglect in their families.

A great overview of their work can be seen by watching the short video online on their website at: <http://www.fostercareinitiatives.org/>. Here is their latest newsletter:

Berisha introduced Joe Mason the founder of the best practice called Parent Base. They work to increase the rate of reunifications and decrease the number of children in foster care in Arizona by facilitating a solid support team for biological parents and the resources to help them succeed with their goals. You can learn more about Parent Base online here: [www.parentbase.org](http://www.parentbase.org). Joe's message is encouraging and simple, "Every family success story has a champion in it. Be a champion for a family."

Berisha Black, (602) 859-6858, [berishablack@azfci.com](mailto:berishablack@azfci.com)

Joe Mason, (602) 859-6674, [jmason@parentbase.org](mailto:jmason@parentbase.org)

IV. **Updates**

- a. **Arizona Trauma-Informed Faith Community.** Pastor Sanghoon Yoo spoke of a new effort to raise awareness of trauma issues for the faith community. He is starting a network for this purpose. The group will meet immediately following every meeting of



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- our faith council, at The Refuge next door. To be added to his network, please contact him directly at the [thefaithfulcity@asu.edu](mailto:thefaithfulcity@asu.edu).
- b. **Movement Day Arizona**; Save the date announcement for September 15-16, 2017. More details at future meetings.
  - c. **Helping Christian Boys Thrive Summit**; Save the date announcement for February 24, 2018. More details at future meetings.
  - d. **Feed the Children**. Kevin Richardson spoke of their “Foster Hope” initiative that provides churches connection with foster care agencies and the ability to provide backpacks loaded with child items to those agencies. These videos do an excellent job of explaining the program: 90 second video: <https://vimeo.com/188037902>; 3 minute video: <https://vimeo.com/139726554>.
  - e. **Two Healing of Memories workshops**. Mike Wold encourages spouses and partners of veterans to attend the workshop called “Healing of Memories Workshop for Spouses and Significant Others of Veterans”, March 31 through April 2 in Phoenix. <https://frc.retreatportal.com/calendar/viewEvent.aspx?programcode=17AER35098>;  
A second workshop for women veterans called “Healing of Memories Workshop for Women Veterans” is April 7 through April 9 in Carefree. All of the information is here: <http://spiritinthedesert.org/april-7-9-2017-healing-of-memories-workshop-for-women-veterans>.
  - f. **CarePortal – Maricopa County**. Launch for Maricopa County is at 2PM on Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix. Please register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/careportal-maricopa-county-launch-event-tickets-31052756631>. CarePortal brings the needs of hurting children and families in your community to your attention. Child Welfare workers uncover the needs. CarePortal makes local Churches aware, giving them a timely, non-threatening invitation and opportunity to respond.
  - g. **CarePortal – Pima County**. Join CarePortal Executive Director and creator, Adrien Lewis, at the CarePortal Pima County Celebration in Tucson. Please register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/careportal-pima-county-celebration-tickets-31134810055?>. Celebrate what God has already done here in Tier 1 through meeting physical needs. Learn about our new opportunities regarding Tier 2 relational needs, and find out how your church can partner with this movement in Arizona.
  - h. **VA Health Services**. Two new VA health clinics - Southwest Community Based Outpatient Clinic and the Midtown VA Clinic – are opening soon in Phoenix. Here are the details: <http://arizonafaithcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/SW-CBOC-and-Midtown-opening-soon-final.pdf>.
  - i. **Kingdom Youth Conference**. February 17 and 18 at Living Word Bible Church in Mesa. Details are found here: <https://event.attendstar.com/event/show/kingdom-youth-conference-mesa-az>.



**Arizona Council**  
on Faith-Based and  
Community Initiatives  
*God Enriches*

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- j. **Spring Training Opportunity.** Support Southwest Human Development as they volunteer at spring training baseball games. Here are the details: [http://arizonafaithcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Spring-Training-Volunteer-Flyer\\_V6.pdf](http://arizonafaithcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Spring-Training-Volunteer-Flyer_V6.pdf).
  - k. **Broadway Heritage Neighborhood Association.** Linda Morris spoke of this association's monthly meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month. This coming meeting is at 6PM on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be preceded by Coffee with a Cop at 5:30PM at the Broadway Heritage Resource Center at 2405 E. Broadway in Phoenix.
  - l. **DES Staffing Update.** April Jones, Regina Weiler and Sharon Pierson are once again working at DES. They are teammates within the Director's Office of Community Engagement. Congratulations to the A-Team!!!
- V. Closing Remarks and Adjourn.** Adjourned at 11:32AM.
- Next Meeting: February 23, 2017  
Guest Speaker: Rebekah Sanders, Arizona Republic

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chuck Fitzgerald  
Vineyard Community Charities  
623-229-7674, [cfitzgerald@vcfnp.com](mailto:cfitzgerald@vcfnp.com)