

## Arizona Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Catholic Charities  
4747 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Phoenix, 85013

July 26, 2012  
10:00 a.m. – Noon

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

### Minutes

#### I. Welcome, Invocation & Introductions

Chair, Dr. Gary Kinnaman

Chuck Fitzgerald welcomed attendees, and Linda Morris opened the meeting in prayer. Attendees then introduced themselves.

Chuck provided a quick overview of the Council and spoke about the Council's web site, [www.GodEnriches.org](http://www.GodEnriches.org). This site name was chosen because it is also our State Motto. He encouraged attendees to periodically visit the website and to offer suggestions for items to post, events to list, changes, etc. You may also view all of the meeting archives on the web site, if you so desire.

#### II. Ryan Holmstedt, Arizona Diamondbacks, "Fostering Hope Initiative"

Ryan Holmstedt and Kristen Leetz, both with group sales for the Arizona Diamondbacks, spoke about the organizations desire to help children in the community. Ryan told us how his own personal faith in God has called him to take action for children through his work with the D'backs; this works beautifully because the organizations top management agrees.

There are a number of initiatives taking place within the Diamondbacks organization regarding foster care. The Arizona Diamondbacks:

- Are committed to promoting foster care and have launched a FaceBook page for this purpose: [www.facebook.com/FosteringHopeAZ](http://www.facebook.com/FosteringHopeAZ) is an organization comprised of Diamondbacks employees looking to impact Arizona foster care through mentoring, projects, and partnerships. Its mission is to increase awareness about the current foster care system in Arizona and promote engagement by volunteerism and activities to improve the system itself.
- Have adopted the South Mountain CPS office and will be redecorating 4 rooms that are used for visitation.
- Are raising awareness about foster care in the community through an effort to break the Guinness World Record for the longest string of paper dolls (which currently stands at 27,000). The D'backs will be encouraging community members to purchase and decorate a paper doll for \$1. At the end of the baseball season the dolls will be strung across the outfield grass for photos and to be verified by the Guinness people. They are hoping for 30,000 paper dolls. Funds raised from this effort will be used by D'backs staff to support their foster care activities.
- Are partnering with AASK to develop a mentoring and job shadowing program for teens in foster care. This program is scheduled to launch in September. Youth will learn ways to be engaged professionally in the sports arena in ways other than being players on the team. Youth will learn basic job and computer skills,

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interviewing tips (including how to interview and how to dress for an interview) as well as professional trades such as painting. D'backs hope to engage other community leaders to work with them as well.

- Friday, August 24, is Faith and Family Night as the D'backs play the San Diego Padres. Following the game there will be a free MercyMe concert. One dollar of each group sales ticket will be donated to the Arizona Friends of Foster Care Foundation ([www.AFFCF.org](http://www.AFFCF.org)). The Diamondbacks hope to raise \$10,000 for AFFCF. Please use this form to purchase tickets for this game and concert: [http://acfbci.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Dbacks\\_MercyMe\\_Aug24.pdf](http://acfbci.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Dbacks_MercyMe_Aug24.pdf)

### III. Updates

- a. ArizonaSERVES. Chuck gave attendees an update on ArizonaSERVES. The Task Force has taken a number of steps to place Arizona's foster care crisis on the "front burner" of its activities. To read the meeting minutes from the July meeting, or any meeting since its inception, visit [www.ArizonaSERVES.gov](http://www.ArizonaSERVES.gov) and look under the "Task Force" tab.
- b. Season of Service 3. Terrilyn and Jim spoke of CityServe Arizona's upcoming Season of Service 3. This season will ask faith communities to continue all of the great work they have been doing up to this point, and to consider looking at how they might assist with helping children who are hungry, children who are in foster care, and children through their school.

In conjunction with this new Season, CityServe Arizona ([www.cityserveaz.com](http://www.cityserveaz.com)) has teamed up with ArizonaSERVES ([www.ArizonaSERVES.gov](http://www.ArizonaSERVES.gov)) and the West Valley Human Services Alliance ([www.wvhsa.acfbci.org](http://www.wvhsa.acfbci.org)) to put on a one day summit called "Caring for Our Children and Youth – when hungry, when in foster care, when is school." The event will be on October 5<sup>th</sup> at Living Streams Church in Phoenix. Here is the save-the-date flier: <http://acfbci.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Caring-for-Our-Children-and-Youth-Save-the-Date.pdf>

There was discussion about how the Council can assist with the October 5<sup>th</sup> summit. The top way to help is to see that our networks get the information about the event and that we do everything possible to get 600 people to the event!

It was also suggested that the Council have a logo. Chuck will look into getting this done.

- c. DES FBCO Inventory Project. Chuck and Gary spoke of the need to inventory the Faith community in Arizona. There is a project beginning now to do this work through the DES Volunteer Engagement Center. The project will start with Maricopa County and will likely never be done. Chuck will update everyone about this as the project unfolds.
- d. Central Arizona Dental Society's Mission of Mercy; 12/7-8. Free dental care for the first 2,500 attendees who do not have dental insurance. Kevin Earle, the Executive Director of the Arizona Dental Association will come to one of upcoming meetings to speak more about the event.

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### e. Other Member Organization Updates

- i. Sophia spoke of the new foster care initiative at City of Grace Scottsdale. Their first information night attracted approximately 100 people interested in getting involved as either foster parents, or supporters of foster families.
- ii. Victoria shared that the HUD grant writing seminar is not yet scheduled. It's coming soon, but not quite yet. Stay tuned for details.
- iii. Ben spent a few minutes talking about the Campus Christian Center in Tempe ([www.c3tempe.org](http://www.c3tempe.org)) at 1034 South Mill Avenue next to ASU. Lots going on at this new location, such as, a new Center for Social Justice, a new Welcome Center for ASU students, an ice cream social on 8/3 and 8/4 at 7 p.m.. Here is an excellent video regarding the new center, you might recognize the tour guide: <http://youtu.be/KQ90Hvb4Cul>
- iv. Greg spoke of an event on October 20<sup>th</sup> at the Pecos Senior Center for adult children of Seniors. Look for more information in August regarding this important event.
- v. Chair Gary encouraged attendees to look into HUD's HARP mortgage program, for ourselves and for those we serve. You can find more information at <http://www.makinghomeaffordable.gov/programs/lower-rates/Pages/harp.aspx> or by calling (800) 225-5342.

### IV. New Business

### V. Closing Remarks and Adjourn - Next meeting is August 23<sup>rd</sup>

Chair Gary thanked attendees for their participation. Dr. C.T. Wright closed with prayer.

Attendees: Chair Gary Kinnaman, Alvin Bibbs, Susan Levy, Victoria Bouchee, Traci Gruenberger, Greg Powell, Antoine Anderson, Sophia Tobar, Ryan Holmstedt, Kristen Leetz, Roxann Miller, Jim Welter, Jack Hanstein, Mitzi Lynton, Terrilyn Miller, Pat White, Linda Morris, Liliana Jorge, C.T. Wright, Scott Neuman, Ben Sanders, Chuck Fitzgerald.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chuck Fitzgerald  
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