

Update on the Faith-Based Initiatives January 2007



Endorsed by
City of Phoenix Human Services Commission
(January 2005)

- The strengths of city and faith groups are often complimentary
- While many faith communities provide help, faith leaders often lack information about services and the outcomes of their efforts.
- Many will not go outside of the church community for help, even when there is adequate information about services.



Faith-Based Initiative

- Seen as “leading edge”
- Integration of city services into established “pockets” of social caring and community ownership
- Formation of the Faith-Based Initiatives Work Group



Summit I: Dialogue on Poverty Finding Common Ground (May, 2005)

- Dialogue on visions, barriers and opportunities
- The need to secure long range futures
- Small groups discussed community needs, ideas for inter-faith partnerships, and ways for the City of Phoenix to build capacity



Faith Communities Called the City into Three Major Roles:

- The City of Phoenix as Convener
- The City of Phoenix as Trainer
- The City of Phoenix as Communicator



Summit II: Partnering with
Government & Private Funders
(June, 2005)

- First response to the needs of local faith leaders
- Funders' Forum
- Advanced inter-faith networking
- Maximum access to city services



Summit III: Homelessness Making the Connections (March, 2006)

- Building the capacity of faith communities to address homelessness
- Educating/engaging local congregations
- Overview of model faith-based programs
- Moving from short-term relief to long-term solutions



Results of Summit III

- Formation of a Heat-Relief Network
- Tool kits distributed to help faith communities understand and respond to homelessness
- Faith-Based Institute on Advocacy
- Summer and Winter Respite Program
- Homeless Street Count



The Big Picture

- Building partnerships between faith communities and city programs
- Advancing the efforts of the faith community toward a common vision of real and sustainable impact on Phoenix communities
- New champions have emerged (homeless services, EITC, fundraising capacity, etc.)



Future Directions

- “High yield” mini-summits that are targeted and intensive
- Building capacity through knowledge, skill, resource development, and partnerships.
- Faith-to-Faith collaborations
- Faith-to-City collaborations



Thank You!

