

Fact Sheet: Compassion In Action: White House Minnesota Conference On Faith-Based And Community Initiatives

Today, Director Jay Hein Addressed The 31st White House Faith-Based And Community Initiatives Conference. He highlighted the important role of Community and Faith-Based Organizations in disaster response efforts and addressing social service needs.

- **Director Hein Announced That Almost \$190 Million In Federal Funds Were Competitively Awarded To Minnesota Faith-Based And Community Organizations Dedicated To Social Services In 2006.** More than 200 Minnesota faith-based and secular non-profits received 347 awards to expand services to Minnesotans in need.
- **Director Hein Highlighted Minnesota As A National Leader In Volunteerism.** In the 2007 study, *Volunteering in America*¹, the Corporation for National and Community Service rated Minnesota among the top states. From 2004 to 2006 Minnesota averaged a 40.4% volunteer rate statewide. Minneapolis-St. Paul was rated the number one metro area in the country with a 40.5% volunteerism rate. During those years Minneapolis-St. Paul had approximately 945,000 volunteers, who served 106.7 million hours per year.
- **This Minnesota Conference Is The Second In A New Series Of Regional Conferences In Partnership With States Across The Country.** As in the past, the conference provides an understanding of the President's Faith-Based and Community Initiative, information about the federal grants process and funding opportunities, and the basic legal responsibilities that come with federal funding. In addition, this new series of conferences puts special emphasis on opportunities for state and local programs to partner with private sector service organizations that serve the needy.
- **Director Jay Hein And Representatives From Governor Tim Pawlenty's Administration Met With Minnesota Elected Officials And Leaders From The Faith, Philanthropic, Community Service, And Non-Profit Community Prior To The White House Conference On Faith-Based And Community Initiatives.** Officials and leaders representing over 65% of the Minnesota population gathered to discuss the role and effect of partnerships with faith-based and community organizations.
- **President Bush And Mrs. Bush Visited Minneapolis In The Wake Of The I-35W Bridge Tragedy.** On August 4, 2007, the President toured the site and met with Minnesota volunteers who were working tirelessly in the recovery effort. He observed the determination and compassion of the local heroes focused on helping those in need, "We have an amazing country, where people's instinct, first instinct, is to help save lives." Mrs. Bush also visited the site on August 3, and expressed gratitude to Red Cross volunteers and others, "We depend on you to come in at all the toughest times...[t]hank you for being prepared and ready to step in when the time comes."
- **The First Lady Visited St. Paul To Host A Helping America's Youth Conference.** At the August 3, 2007 gathering, Mrs. Bush said, "The work that all of you do in your neighborhoods every day -- helping young people build the knowledge and the self-respect they need to lead successful lives -- is at the heart of Helping America's Youth." President Bush announced the Helping America's Youth (HAY) Initiative in his 2005 State of the Union address. The HAY Initiative is a nation-wide effort to promote mentorship and encourage healthy growth and development for young Americans.

¹ <http://www.nationalservice.org/about/volunteering/states.asp>

Governor Tim Pawlenty Has Led The Charge For Minnesota Faith-Based And Community Initiatives

- **Governor Pawlenty Created The Governor's Council On Faith-Based And Community Initiatives On October 7, 2005 By Executive Order.** The Council works "to develop a closer connection between the state government and faith and community organizations by increasing the access to existing funding resources, reducing barriers to delivering services and promoting best practices." Chief of Staff Matt Kramer says, "There is no Governor more supportive of faith and service."
- **At The Conference Governor Pawlenty Addressed Community Needs.** Minnesota priorities include a comprehensive Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative and the Yellow Ribbon Task Force, a program to serve Minnesota's thousands of returning veterans.
- **Governor Pawlenty Honored Successful Faith-Based And Community Organizations.** Governor Pawlenty awarded the 2007 Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Best Practices Awards to nine organizations. These Minnesota programs represented innovation and significant results in services for those most in need.

The Federal Government Is Helping Minnesota's Faith-Based and Community Initiative Produce Results for Americans in Need

Continued Federal Funding Aids Faith-Based And Community Organizations. Recent data from a review of more than 600 grants in Fiscal Years 2005 and 2006 provided by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Agriculture, Labor, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Education, and Veterans Affairs, the Small Business Administration, and the Corporation for National and Community Service showed:

- **In Fiscal Years 2005 and 2006, More Than \$380 Million In Competitive Federal Grants Were Awarded To Faith-Based And Secular Non-Profit Organizations In Minnesota.** These awards were used to expand the reach and impact of faith-based and community nonprofit organizations in a wide variety of service initiatives, including veterans' services, prisoner reentry, mentoring and after school programs, homelessness and other pressing human needs.