



STRENGTHENING NEIGHBORHOODS THROUGH

Faith-Based and Community Partnerships

Resource Guide



Strengthening Faith-Based & Community Partnerships

“The fact is, the challenges we face today... from saving our planet to ending poverty... are simply too big for the government to solve alone. We need all hands on deck. I’m not saying that faith-based groups are an alternative to government or secular nonprofits. And I’m not saying that they’re somehow better at lifting people up. What I’m saying is that we all have to work together...Christian and Jew, Hindu and Muslim: believer and non-believers alike to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.” – President Obama

Overview

The Oregon Commission on Children and Families (OCCF) is a partnership of citizens and professionals working to improve the lives of children and families in Oregon. The State Commissioners are appointed by the Governor, and each of Oregon’s 36 counties has a Local Commission on Children and Families appointed by the Board of Commissioners. The OCCF facilitates and supports coordination of community planning services and accountability for all children, youth and families; promotes integration of program services; and provides leadership to support state and local efforts.

Goal

Partnerships with faith-based and other human services organizations have resulted in positive outcomes for vulnerable children, youth and families within neighborhoods across Oregon.

The Faith-Based Initiative was established to develop strategies to build upon and strengthen connections between people of faith with other human services to address social issues and provide support to vulnerable children, youth and families and to engender these partnerships throughout the OCCF operation.

Objectives

- To provide and facilitate faith-based partnerships with nonprofits, government agencies and businesses to enhance and meet the needs of children and families.
- To provide resource materials and technical assistance to local communities interested in exploring faith-based and neighborhood partnerships.
- To highlight successful state and national faith-based partnerships that demonstrate the benefits and positive outcomes for children and families.

Who Should Use This Guide

This guide is a resource for those interested in engaging in faith-based community partnerships to work together to provide social supports to children and families to address specific issues that have been identified as an issue in the community by both people of faith and other neighborhood members.

This guide can be used by congregations, nonprofit social services providers, government agencies, businesses, and neighborhood members wanting to work together to support a healthy and thriving community for children and families.

History: The White House Office of Faith-Based & Neighborhood Partnerships

The White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives was established by President George W. Bush in January 2001. The initiative sought to strengthen faith-based and community organizations and expand their capacity to provide federally funded social services, with the idea that these groups were well-situated to meet the needs of local individuals. In the Bush administration, the office was designed to work with faith-based and community organizations on social service issues and to advise them on applying for and receiving federal funding.

President Barack Obama amended the Faith-Based Initiatives in February 2009 to establish the President's Advisory Council for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. The Obama approach keeps the basic structure of the Bush administration.

However, the Obama administration expanded the role of this office as it relates to policy issues where religious and local leaders can be effective. The federal office coordinates with faith-based and community organizations on social service



outreach and works to utilize these organizations' efforts to advance the administration's policies, with a primary focus on poverty, support to women, children and fathers, HIV/AIDS work and conflict resolution, job training, ex-offender re-entry programs, mentors, and tutors for school-aged children.

Supreme Court Ruling & Federal Guidance Regarding Faith-Based Organizations (FBO)

Faith-based organizations are eligible to participate in federally administered social service programs to the same degree as any other group, although certain restrictions on faith-based organizations that accept government funding have been created by the White House to protect the separation of church and state.

- Faith-based organizations may use federal, state and public resources to support non-religious social programming (activities and events) as long as they are separated by time and location from their inherently religious activities.
- Church facilities may be used when worship is occurring as long as the program activities/events are separated by time or space from the worship service.

- Faith-based groups do not have to change their name, even if they have religious terms in them, in order to provide social services.
- Faith-based charities should be able to compete on equal footing for public dollars to provide public social services.
- Faith-based groups may invite people to participate in their faith services but participants must be reassured that they will receive the social services *regardless* of participation in the religious activity.
- Faith-based groups may briefly answer questions about their personal faith, if asked. A longer discussion should be deferred to another time and place.
- People may be employed as a faith leader and also administer a social services program activity or event. Time in each role should be documented separately.
- Faith-based organizations may not use direct government funding to support inherently religious activities.
- No one may use federal resources to fund prayer, religious workshop, religious instruction, or proselytization.
- Faith-based organizations cannot discriminate on the basis of religion when providing services.
- Agencies should not discriminate against faith-based groups as providers of social services when they are following required funding guidelines.
- A faith-based organization does not need to change the way it selects its governing board.
- Religious organizations do not need to abandon their religious character to accept resources for their social services programs as long as any “inherently religious and worship-centered activities” are separate, voluntary and are privately funded.

Benefits of Faith-Based & Community Partnerships

There are several positive outcomes and benefits of faith-based and community partnerships. Some of the benefits include:

- Increased trust among people of faith and other partners within neighborhoods.
- Integrated personal and professional relationships within the community.
- Experience working directly with those in need in their communities.
- The church’s mission and desire to help those in need within individual communities/neighborhoods.
- Established leadership within their community.
- Experience in volunteer recruitment, management, and retention.
- Resources such as buildings, meeting rooms, equipment, space for nonprofit organizations (e.g. day care centers, homeless services, etc.).
- Leverage resources for shared direct social services and training (e.g. after-school programs, mentoring, parenting skills, etc.).

- Offering technical assistance to faith-based and other community partners.
- Positive outcomes and results for children and families in local communities.



Source: Resource Center: Tools and Training for Volunteer and Service Programs: Working with Faith-Based Organizations: Challenges and Benefits

FACES (Faith and Communities Engaged in Service) State Commission Tool Kit – <http://nationalserviceresources.org>

Getting Started: Tips for Identifying Potential Faith-Based Partnerships

- **Look in the phone book or online** or tap into other community partners to identify faith-based organizations in your community.
- **Map (assess) various faith-based organizations**, and, if any, social services or programming that are provided to community residents.
- If there is a congregation or other faith-based organization in your neighborhood or community with which you are unfamiliar, **investigate and research its background and traditions** to assist you in preparing to approach them as a potential partner.
- **Make an appointment with the decision-makers** (pastor, executive director, etc.) of the congregations or organizations. You will want to talk with the person that can give the okay to participate in a community partnership.
- **Share the success stories of similar partnerships.** Agencies, nonprofits and faith-based groups should tell of their successful partnerships at various meetings and events to encourage and reach out to other potential partners.
- **Invite representatives** from faith-based organizations, other nonprofits, and governmental agencies providing social services to children, youth and families to meetings to discuss working together on a specific community issue.
- **Identify common ground, vision and language** up front to determine the working relationships among community partners.
- A real partnership has equal partners. Many congregations are often approached and asked for help and to generate volunteers.

Make sure to present an option that resonates with their missions and give them something in return for their resource investment.

- How does the partnership enhance what each partner is already doing?
- What are the goals and outcomes of the partnership? The partnership should gain consensus on the objectives of their work.
- The partnership should work on strategies that address issues identified by the partnership and help in promoting a healthy and thriving community and/or neighborhood.
- Once the partnership has been established, make sure the mission is clear, including who does what, what are the communication channels and frequency, and what to do when a problem arises.
- **Consider developing a Memorandum of Understanding.** An MOU will clarify the role and scope of work by members of the partnership.

Some faith-based organizations are open to developing a MOU, but others may not be comfortable with this level of formality.

- **Identify an evaluation process** to determine the success of the partnership's collective work (program, activities, strategies, etc.).

Source: Resource Center: Tools and Training for Volunteer and Service Programs – Tips of Building Faith-Based Partnerships: Questions and Answers by Carley Thimmesch, Director, Center for Faith Services; and Oregon Commission on Children and Families Faith-Based Action Team

Partnership Considerations

- **Identify common ground, vision, language and agreements** up front to determine working relationships, potential barriers, focus and parameters of activities to address a community-related issue.
- **Identify appropriate leadership** within the faith-based or other human services organizations.

Getting the right people to the table may be difficult, as there are many leadership styles. It is important to take the time and effort to find out who needs to be involved and why. Engage membership of the faith-based organization, and do not always wait for leadership in that group.

- **Agree on objectives** of the collective work of the partnership.

This may be obvious. However, it will help to make sure that reasons for the effort are transparent to all who are involved in the partnership.

- **Identify strategies and activities.** When “who is doing what” is clearly understood, the opportunities for inadvertently offending a partner are minimized, the project moves forward incrementally, and the relationship is seen as productive.

- **Celebrate the achievements together** as a partnership.

Faith-based community organizations are principally about relationships. They gather to be in a community with one another for celebration and worship. People of secular community organizations also have the need to recognize and celebrate achievements.

A key to the success will be building bonds between people who are participating for a variety of reasons. This is relationship-building and maintenance of partnership work.



Potential Challenges & Possible Solutions

According to Beverly Al-Amin of the National Crime Prevention Council, the following are steps to deal with challenges posed by working with faith-based and community organizations.

Challenge: The faith-based organization may be cautious about partnering with the federal government.

Solution:

- Be clear about the opportunities available to the new partner and how its program can be enhanced with this support.
- Be specific about what activities can and cannot be done when organizations are partnering with the state or federal government.
- Be aware that in the past, faith-based organizations might have limited their services to members of their own faith.
- A faith-based organization's services must be available to all members of the community, regardless of religious background.
- Focus on service and social justice – not faith or religious beliefs.

Challenge: Some organizations may face administrative challenges, such as availability of staff during normal business hours. This may be true for congregations (mosques, temples, churches, synagogues).

Solution:

- Be consistent and patient in communicating with the organization.
- Be flexible in your schedule so you can meet with staff when and where they are available.

Challenge: The organization may lack access to social services programs and/or social supports information.

Solution:

- Introduce staff to new and different sources of community information and social services programs and social supports.
- Offer support to help the organization comply with local and federal rules on partnering with various organizations.

Challenge: Lack of professional training of volunteers working with children, youth, families or elderly in specific program areas.

Solution:

- Nonprofits and agencies can share training, background checks with communities of faith volunteers to reduce barriers or liabilities for those working with children and families.

Challenge: The organization may need help with additional capacity building.

Solution:

- Offer to share effective practices that have worked for your organization and might be adapted to work within their program or organization. Walk through their (or your) processes or procedures step-by-step with an eye toward highlighting areas of efficiency.

Challenge: The organization may have some language differences.

Members of the organization may use words in slightly different ways. For example, a secular organization may talk about a “program,” while the faith-based group has a “ministry.”

Solution:

- Ask a lot of questions when meeting with community organizations. Do not assume anything, and be specific about the expectations of the programs.

Challenge: The organization may feel protective of their programs and congregations. Sometimes new programs can be perceived as taking money, volunteers, and other resources away from an already limited capacity.

Solution:

- When meeting with a community organization, be prepared to discuss how the new partnership will support the mission and use the organization’s resources to benefit the community.
- Ensure that the organization has both the benefits and the responsibilities of a full partnership. This means that the organization receives credit for making the partnership a success but also takes responsibility.

Challenge: Apathy among congregations, not the “system” (government agencies), leaving them out of efforts to address a community issue. The agencies, schools and other leaders all know the faith community is capable and available to address issues and promote community wellness.

Solution:

- A key strategy is for people of faith to just start “showing up” and keep showing up to serve in schools, nonprofit agencies, on neighborhood advisory councils in their own neighborhoods, with no agenda, just to serve. This builds trust with others.

Challenge: Acknowledge the value of volunteers and not destroy a strong volunteer ethic when professionals and volunteers work together.

Solution:

- Recognize new partnerships are experiencing growth, and recognize the issues facing our culture are ongoing and necessary.
- Sharing of information, ideas and supports is helpful among faith partners and other groups.
- Review court cases and federal standards and legal ramifications of working with faith-based and other community partnerships. (Providing description and contracts for successful partnerships will encourage others.)

Promotions & Marketing

Oregon Commission on Children and Families (OCCF) promotes and encourages local Commissions on Children and Families to include and work with faith-based organizations to provide services and social supports in local communities.

- Attend meetings, conferences and community events that are already scheduled to present a workshop or presentation on an ongoing basis to promote faith-based community partnerships.
- Develop and distribute a directory of local resources, and highlight successful faith-based community partnerships and contacts (“what works”).
- Advocate to state, county, schools, city officials to “take a chance” and partner with faith-based organizations.

Emphasize that there is seldom a problem with working together when boundaries are shared from the beginning.

- Promote shared training across faith agencies, nonprofits and youth groups to build capacity for facilitators, leaders, and program delivery.
- Host a partnership luncheon or event to acknowledge and highlight social services programming provided by faith-based organizations and other partners.
- Identify a liaison with the faith-based community to help promote and support partnership efforts.
- Encourage youth engagement in planning and promoting their involvement in working on issues in their neighborhoods. Highlight their successes well to encourage ongoing participation by young people.

Right: For several years, Salem Leadership Foundation has sponsored block parties that hundreds of community members have attended, fostering community partnerships.

Photo courtesy Salem Leadership Foundation



Oregon Faith-Based & Community Partnerships

“It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.” —President Harry S. Truman

There are several examples of successful faith-based community partnerships throughout Oregon. The following are snapshots of some of these partnerships that have taken place within communities in our state.

Benton County

BENTON COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

(541) 766-9024

Faith-Based Community Respite Care for foster parents and those who care for the elderly.

Interfaith Food and Farm Partnership, a project of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s (EMO) Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns. The mission of this partnership is to empower faith communities, farmers and neighborhoods to build rural-urban alliances and create innovative partnerships for sustainable food systems that promote community health.

Outcome:

The Congregational Wellness Project was established and sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Foundation. The project engages Corvallis and Portland faith communities in promoting children’s health, both within their congregations and outside their walls. EMO was one of 21 faith-based coalitions across the country to receive a two-year grant under this RWJ Initiative.

Other projects under this partnership include a community garden that offers affordable plots and gardening support for 20 low-income families and a Farmer’s Market to promote Oregon Trail Card access at the farmer’s market to people receiving food stamp benefits.

Clatsop County

CLATSOP COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

(503) 338-3600, Ext. 2600

The Clatsop Commission and other community partners have engaged people of faith through the Parent Training Advisory Committee, and also several coalitions working on behalf of children and families in the county.

Outcome:

Clatsop Commission on Children and Families reached out to churches through the **Strengthening Families Program**. This outreach has expanded capacity to teach the Strengthening Families Curriculum to families in the county.

Hood River County

HOOD RIVER COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

(541) 386-2500

The Next Door, Inc. – A nonprofit agency in partnership with Hood River Assembly of God and the Department of Human Services to recruit and train foster parents. The agency provides training with church members on confidentiality, cultural competency and mandatory reporting status, which is transferred to other church work.

Systems of Care, Mid-Columbia Center for Living Mental Health and Addictions Center, engages churches in supporting families with mental health problems through mentoring, parent education programs and youth groups. MCCFL assessed in-kind reports by faith groups to document amount of service to youth in system of care. Three church facilities were used for youth gatherings throughout the year.

One faith-based group, Hood River Alliance Church, raised \$1.6 million to build a youth center in Hood River. The primary agency partnership was with the



Commission on Children and Families in support of its comprehensive plan. “The Bridge” is used by the community first and the church second. The school district holds community education classes in its gymnasium, the Commission holds agency meetings in the facility, and was recently used for a SAMHSA visit where faith partnerships were featured.

Approximately 120 middle and high school-age youth use the facilities each week in its drop-in capacity. Hood River Alliance staffs the facility with trained volunteers as

well as feeding the youth substantial snacks three hours a day, three days a week. Approximately \$5,500 in in-kind services, (staff, volunteers, snacks, heat, light, water, septic) are donated by the church each month.

Three other faith-based groups have established youth and community drop-in centers as well: Soul Café, three days a week, 6 hours a day, 30 youth per week; The Pit, at Valley Christian Church, 2 days a week, 4 hours a day, 30 youth per week; and St. Francis House of Odell, 4 days a week, 6 hours a day, 95 youth. Partnerships include Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital, Lutheran Diocese, St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Mid-Valley Elementary School, Diamond Fruit Growers, FISH food bank, a local insurance company, HRCCCF, Oregon CCF, Faith Connections, and AmeriCorps. In-kind volunteer service, rent, food, utilities total \$9,300 a month. Youth in the programs provide 275 hours of service to the community each week.

Outcome:

Access to after-school programming across the county to specific targeted communities.

When learning of the need for an affordable place for AmeriCorps to live, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church repurposed a four-bedroom, three-bath parsonage home on their property in Hood River. They rented the home for \$375 a month to AmeriCorps working for three nonprofits in the county. In addition, they are in discussions with the largest nonprofit in the county, The Next Door, Inc., to build a facility on their property that meets the multiple program needs of NDI as well as the service desires of the congregation.

Outcome:

Nonprofits maintain AmeriCorps volunteers who previously found it too expensive to rent in Hood River.

Outcome:

Nonprofit in negotiations for new building and property with Our Redeemer Lutheran Church which meets the needs of both organizations.

The Hope and Life partnered with Hood River Alliance Church, Faith Connections and the local Commission on Children and Families when learning of the need for Spanish language drug and violence prevention programming. KBNO radio station was created, and provides youth and family programming to Spanish speakers with a focus on health and welfare of people in the community.

Hope and Life youth ministry provides drug and alcohol prevention messages to their peers through performance. Music, dance and mime are taught through Community Education and after school programs with positive messages for youth.

Right: The Hope and Life Church Dance and Drama Team in Hood River dramatizes messages in their ministry as they educate recent immigrants to the area about alcohol use and abuse and domestic violence.

Photo by John Estey



Outcome:

Five dance groups formed, one targeting adult Spanish speakers, four targeting elementary, middle, high school and young adult populations. Sixteen performances were done each year at festivals, churches, schools, the county fair, and others, engaging 26 youth.

Outcome:

INOKA Violence Prevention initiative brought to the faith table by Adult Parole and Probation in Hood River County. Challenge between Coos County Commission and Hood River County Commission to lower domestic violence rates.



Outcome:

Fourteen faith leaders trained to facilitate 18 two-hour, once-a-week classes. Three classes were already ongoing with 44 participants engaged.

In response to community needs, St. Mary's Catholic Church developed a tournament-size soccer field in collaboration with Spanish men's soccer league, Community Education, Parks and Recreation, HRCCCF and Faith Connections. They also implemented an alcohol and tobacco-free policy, which reduced the number of

negative incidents on the property. St. Mary's also started a 4H soccer league which engages 400 youth each year in low-cost soccer activities.

Outcome:

One full-sized soccer field added to the community roster of fields. One recreational league established for youth not served previously.

Faith Connections is a coalition of more than 15 churches in Hood River County exploring ways to enhance their prevention service to the community by increasing partnerships and enhancing collaboration with other churches, agencies and nonprofits. The coalition works through the prevention network established by the Hood River Commission on Children and Families and is funded through a federal grant from SAMHSA, which began in 2003 and will continue through 2013. It follows the Strategic Prevention Framework in mobilizing communities to reduce drug use by youth and abuse by adults by changing communities' norms and environment.

Faith Connections also heard from local law enforcement and nonprofits the need to develop a wallet-sized resource directory that detailed the churches with food pantries, clothing closets and provided gas vouchers, housing vouchers and other services.

Outcome:

Faith groups made a wallet-sized directory for distribution through law enforcement, churches, schools and agencies when someone in need came to the door. It was printed in both English and Spanish, with a map indicating where the facility was located. Forty-five hundred directories have been distributed in the last two years.

Lane County:
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
(541) 682-4671

The Lane CCF has an informal working relationship with faith-based organizations on specific implementation projects identified in the Community Comprehensive Plan. Example: Christians as Family Advocates (CAFA) to reduce domestic violence.

Outcome:

Increase capacity for batterer intervention programs and community awareness.

Helping Hurting Kids is a 90-minute learning breakfast for members of the local interfaith community, specifically for youth leaders and faith community leaders. These individuals work closely with youth and, with the possible exception of seminary-trained pastors, are typically not trained to handle mental health issues.

Outcome:

The forum allows attendees to learn what resources are available for youth who are hurting and struggle with depression, educates about youth difficulties, and gives tips on how to engage and help youth. The program utilizes partnerships with Hosea Youth Services, youth from the Oregon Family Support Network (OFSN), local social service agencies and specific faith centers in the community.



Malheur County
COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
(541) 889-4317

S.E.A.S.O.N. is a program of Harvest House Missions that works in partnerships with government, including the CCF, schools and churches to provide services to homeless and runaway youth.

Outcome:

Services are available to youth and families that did not exist. It has been documented that family mediations are uniting families and the county is experiencing a significant reduction in runaways.

Nyssa Community Food Pantry and Next Chapter Food Pantry are faith-based nonprofits formed through the transition of a better food system. This transition was facilitated by Oregon Food Bank in 2004 with support from the local commission.

Outcome:

Food pantries are open to families in need in Ontario, Vale, Nyssa, and Jordan Valley.

Tri County Love Inc. - Love in the Name of Christ brings Christian churches and individuals together across denominational lines to help the poor by meeting their immediate needs (food, clothing, and shelter).

Outcome:

Love, Inc., in partnership with DHS, other nonprofits, and agencies serves families in need. It leverages approximately \$4 for every \$1. This ministry focuses on long-term self-sufficiency and is seeing higher family functioning and lower debt in the families who are engaged in services.

Marion County

COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

(503) 588-7975

Salem Leadership Foundation (SLF) (503) 315-8924, www.SalemLf.org

The Salem Leadership Foundation engages people of faith and people of goodwill to transform the community, neighborhood by neighborhood.

The CaN Centers (Churches as Neighborhood Centers) – In 2003, the SLF began to coordinate the CaN Centers Programs among several congregations. In the first six years, SLF has raised more than \$600,000 to support the operations of 12



CaN Centers sites in Salem and Keizer. The sites themselves have expended another nearly \$1 million to run their programs. There are now 14 CaN Centers in the Salem-Keizer area.

Outcome:

More than 4,200 at-risk youth have been served with after-school programs, GED/ESL classes,

Homework Clubs, family nights, block parties, and other asset-building activities.

Over the years, the CaN Centers have grown from informal to formal collaborations with service providers. Community partners (schools, nonprofits, government) who desire faith-based partnerships can now turn to well-established programs. Families and neighbors who were once under-served are now accessing asset-building programs in buildings that were once dormant.

Examples of Other Successful Faith-Based Programs in Salem-Keizer, Oregon

HOMELESS SERVICES

- **Cascade Gateway Outreach** (five churches serving the homeless at CG Park each week)
- **Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network** is a partnership of congregations hosting homeless individuals and families inside their buildings.

- **Stepping Out Ministries** (Silver Inn and several other homes for ex-offenders).
- **St. Francis Shelter** (mothers and children); **HOPE Station** (food and clothing for the working poor); **Helping Hands** (clothing outreach, new building on 13th St. SE)

HOUSING SERVICES

- **Habitat for Humanity**
- **Forever Homes** (Catholic Community Services and churches, foster homes)

MEDICAL SERVICES

- **Salem Free Medical Clinics** available in three churches.

PARENT SERVICES

- **Foster Parents Night Out** (nine churches in Marion County)
- **Isaac's Room/IKE Box** (Teen Center and Teen Programs)
- **New Beginnings Baby Boutique** (Salem Alliance, teen and single moms)
- **Three Fr. Taaffe Homes** established for single and teen mothers
- **Salvation Army** (including the new Kroc Center) & **Union Gospel Mission** and **Simonka House** (women and children)

RECOVERY SERVICES

- **STEPS/LifePath** and **Celebrate Recovery** (two faith-based Recovery ministries)
- **TEEN Challenge** (Teens in recovery; store in Salem but housing is in Lebanon)



Multnomah County

MULTNOMAH COUNTY COMMUNITY, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

(503) 988-6981

Augustana Lutheran Church (503) 288-6174

Partnership with several nonprofits located within the facility that provide social services to children and families including child care, after-school programming, health-related theater works, domestic violence intervention, etc.

www.augustana.org

Greater Gresham Area Prevention Coalition is working with faith-based organizations to address drug and alcohol addiction prevention.

www.ggapp.org, (503) 823-0250

Interfaith Food and Farm Partnership (A project of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns). The mission of this partnership is to empower faith communities, farmers and neighborhoods to build rural-urban alliances and create innovative partnerships for sustainable food systems that promote community health.

www.emoregon.org

Outcome:

The Congregational Wellness Project was established and sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Foundation. The project will engage Corvallis and Portland faith communities in promoting children's health—both within their congregations and

outside their walls. EMO was one of 21 faith-based coalitions across the country to receive a two-year grant under this new RWJ Initiative.

Highland Christian Center – Partnership with local, county, state and federal agencies to advocate for mental health services and provides other social services to children and families.

www.highlandministries.org (503) 287-9567

Season of Service – In the summer of 2008, more than 600 churches and agencies, 27,000 volunteers and city officials from across the Portland/Vancouver area came together for Season of Service led by the Luis Palau Association, and working in collaboration with more than five local mayors, this initiative made a significant impact on the Portland community. Volunteers from various congregations are encouraged to volunteer in ongoing projects in the Portland areas: Schools; Health and Wellness; Hunger and Poverty; Homelessness; and Environment.

www.seasonofservice.com/portland

Tillamook County

COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

(503) 842-1813

Informal partnership with faith-based organizations to support the Summer Food Program, Alcohol and Drug Prevention Projects, Parent Education, Parent Training Advisory Committee, and Strengthening Families Program.

Outcome:

Increased greater overall community participation and awareness of events, issues and training resources.

Union County

COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

(541) 963-1034

Informal partnership with faith-based organizations for homeless and runaway efforts.

Umatilla

COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

(541) 278-5486

Lost and Found Youth Outreach provides disenfranchised teens with adult mentors, educational/tutoring support, service projects (graffiti abatement) and recreational activities. This youth ministry is staffed by a First-level Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor who provides outpatient treatment and support. The pastor of the church affiliated with Lost and Found is a CCF board member. The Weekend Backpack Program was first established by a minister that attended the DHS

system improvement meetings. The issue of hunger and children lit a spark and his congregation adopted the project, which provides food for the weekend to school children who have been identified by teachers as food insecure. Now churches, the food bank and community service clubs have joined efforts to implement this activity to reduce hunger and support children.



Outcome:

Disenfranchised youth volunteer in the community, are clean and sober, complete service projects, have adults that care about them, and experience school success. Children are fed and their basic needs are met.

Yamhill

COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

(503) 434-7404

The Local Commission on Children and Families, in partnership with **United and Mid-Willamette Valley**, has initiated 2-1-1 Information and Referral Service in Yamhill County. Faith-based partnerships sit on the advisory committee and have promoted the service within their organizations and individual churches.

Outcome:

Faith-based organizations are now included in the 2-1-1 database of human and social services and are connected to other helping organizations through a county provider list serve.

Oregon Faith-Based Organizations

Albina Ministerial Alliance (AMA) is a nonprofit agency that promotes the intellectual, economic and spiritual vitality of children, youth and families in north and northeast Portland. AMA was established in the 1950's when job prospects were bleak for hundreds of African American shipyard workers. To help these families, inner-city African American clergy joined together to enable these workers to secure jobs and support for their families. In the 1960's, AMA joined in the War on Poverty, assisting the community with job training, housing, and emergency supplies. In 1971, AMA was incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit agency.

(503) 288-7243; Fax: (503) 288-1712

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) is a statewide association of 17 Christian denominations including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy. EMO is committed to working with congregations, ecumenical and interfaith organizations, and people of faith to mobilize the faith community of Oregon to discern and respond to God's call for the unity of all people; advocate for and build a just and loving human community in Oregon and in the world; explore, respect and work with various faith traditions; and challenge the men and women of God to be effective stewards of the resources entrusted to their care.

www.emoregon.org

Islamic Society of Greater Portland (ISGP) is a nonprofit organization with the following aims and objectives: to promote closer understanding among all Muslims in the greater Portland area and to strengthen bonds of friendship and brotherhood among them; carry out activities and projects related to religious, social, charitable, and educational aspects of the life of the community; foster cordial relationships between Muslims and non-Muslims; and promote the understanding of Islam among non-Muslims.

www.isgp.us

Muslim Education Trust (MET) exists to enrich the public's understanding of Islam and dispel common myths and stereotypes, while serving the Muslim community's educational, social and spiritual needs in order to develop generations of proud and committed Muslims who will lead the community to the forefront of bridge-building dialogue, faith-based community service and stewardship of Earth and humanity.

www.metpdx.com

Oregon Area Jewish Committee is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that works towards protecting the civil and religious rights, security and dignity of Jews in Oregon, Southwest Washington, the nation, and throughout the world, advancing efforts

to protect human rights and human dignity, combating anti-Semitism, bigotry and discrimination and helping to develop mutual understanding among America's diverse religious, racial and ethnic groups.

www.oajconline.org

Salem Leadership Foundation – In 1993, Salem, Oregon, found itself plagued by youth gangs, so Legislator Peter Courtney convened a blue-ribbon Gang Intervention Task Force to address the crisis. There was an absence of clergy on the task force, so invitations were sent out to several pastors and ministry leaders. Several faith leaders did accept the invitation and began intersecting with government and civic leaders to tackle the gang crisis. During this process, it was found that elected officials and civic leaders wanted help from churches but did not know how to contact them. As a result, a study group was formed to study possible models, and their exploration led to the founding of the Salem Leadership Foundation in February 1996. Executive Director Sam Skillern was hired in October 1996.

The Salem Leadership Foundation engages people of faith and people of goodwill to transform the community, neighborhood by neighborhood. The Salem Leadership Foundation builds bridges among stakeholders - churches, schools, agencies, cultures, businesses, nonprofits and neighbors to address issues and provide services and social supports to children and families.

www.SalemLf.org

Tools & Resources

- **FACES** (Faith and Communities Engaged in Service)
www.nationalserviceresources.org
- **FACES State Commission Tool Kit**
www.nationalserviceresources.org
- **Faith and Service Technical Education Network**
www.fastennetwork.org
- **Faith at Work**
www.usc.edu/dept/LAS/religion_online
- **FRIENDS**, a service for the Children's Bureau Learning Tool – Building A Faith-Based Network
www.friendsnrc.org
- **National Crime Prevention Council**
Programs: Faith-Based Crime Prevention Resources for Underserved Communities
www.ncpc.org
- **National Service:** A Resource for Faith-Based and Community Service
www.nationalservice.gov
- **Oregon and Local Commissions on Children and Families**
www.oregon.gov/occf
- **Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Initiative**
www.hhs.gov/fbci
- **SAMHSA**
National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices (NREPP)
http://nrepp.samhsa.gov
Faith-Based Prevention Model
- **The Corporation for National and Community Services**
www.nationalservice.gov
- **PEPNet** (Promising and Effective Practices Network)
www.pepnet.org
- **Publication:** Primer for Developing and Sustaining a Faith-Based Network (204)
www.skillmancenter.culma.wayne.edu
- **U.S. Administration for Children and Families**
Capacity Building Tool Kits for Faith-Based and Community Organization
www.acf.hhs.gov
- **U.S. Health and Human Services**
Tools and Resources
Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
www.hhs.gov
Tools and Resources

Faith-Based Community Partnership

Appendix

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES:

Common Themes from the Eastern Oregon Church and State Forums

Source: Rev. James Mosier (OCCF Faith-Based Action Team) based on previous community forums regarding faith-based, state agencies and community partnerships (2000).

Relationships

- Communications: There is a continuing need to exchange information regarding services and service needs between faith-based organizations and governmental service providers.
- Government organizational culture tends to be value-neutral, while faith-based organizations tend to be value-loaded.
- Governmental organizations focus on tangible resources and delivery systems. Faith-based organizations focus on relationships and intangible resources such as hope, love and faith.
- Governmental organizations recognize the need for their clients to access spiritual resources. Faith-based organizations recognize the need for their clients to access more tangible resources, e.g. food, money, housing and health care.
- Differences between governmental organizations and faith-based organizations, while significant, should not obscure the common ground. Churches need to discover how the missions of governmental human service organizations are congruent with their own missions.

Access / Barriers

- Clients of both faith-based organizations and governmental human service organizations need a way to get accurate and credible information about the services available from each sector.
- Churches can provide a safe and credible place for people to learn about services they consider risky.

Increasing Opportunities / Enhancing Environments

- Governmental organizations value opportunities to promote increased community participation in planning and accessing services.
- Faith-based organizations value opportunities to serve the community and work for the common good.
- Faith-based organizations already are a rich resource for recruiting volunteers for governmentally operated and/or funded human services.
- Governmentally operated or funded human services offer tangible resources to members of faith-based organizations.
- A community in which healthy beliefs and clear standards are present is a community which moves beyond surviving to thriving, capable of self-sufficiency and wholeness for its citizens.

- There is held a common vision of a community which uses both its governmental and spiritual resources to weave an ever-changing tapestry which celebrates its aspirations, while addressing its fears.

Things Discovered

- The relationship between faith-based organizations and public agencies needs to develop over time and is dependent upon someone taking the initiative.
- There is no formula or strategy that will work in every community. Each community is unique and must be approached based upon its individual circumstances.
- It is important to take the time necessary to honor and be faithful to the relationships within the community. There are differences between faith-based organizations that make a difference to them.
- An effective way to bring faith-based organizations to participation is through its clergy, lay leadership and members.
- It is problematic to think of faith-based organizations as a homogenous group, more so than to think of governmental agencies as a homogenous group.

FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS:

Working with Nonprofits, Private and Governmental Agencies

Source: Adapted by the OCCF Faith-Based Action Team

The purpose of this document is to provide some direction for faith-based organizations interested in working with other nonprofit, government and private agencies to address community needs and serve children, youth and families.

Faith-based and other human services partnerships have resulted in positive outcomes for children and families in local communities throughout Oregon in the areas of supports for foster care children and families; quality after-school programs; increased high school graduation rates; and the leverage of financial and volunteer resources to address issues in local communities.

INTRODUCTION:

Guiding Principles

- Faith-based charities should be able to compete on equal footing for public dollars to provide public programs, activities or events.
- Faith-based organizations should not be discriminated against when they provide public human services programs, activities or events.

Recommendations

- Identify common ground up front to determine the working relationship, any potential barriers, and the parameters of activities to follow.
- Identify the leadership. Getting the right people to the table may be difficult, as there are many different leadership styles. It is important to take the time and effort to find out who needs to be involved and why.

Example: A lay pastoral leader may have much more authority in the activities of the church than the pastor. We may assume that the pastor is the person in charge. That may or may not be true.

- Consensus on the objective. This may seem too obvious. However, it will help to make sure that reasons for the effort are transparent to all who are involved. The group may be feeding the hungry out of a sense of a service or directed by scripture toward hospitality and generosity. The group may be feeding the poor because the social needs of the community dictate that something be done to alleviate poverty. While reasons may differ, the common objective is to feed the hungry. The common objective is not winning souls for a specific church/congregation or addressing housing and clothing needs. The objective is clear.
- Strategize activities. When “who is doing what” is clearly understood, the opportunities for inadvertently offending are minimized, the project moves forward incrementally, and the relationship is seen as productive.
- Celebrate the achievements together. Faith-based community organizations are principally about relationships. People gather to be with one another for celebration and worship. People of secular community organizations also have the need to recognize and celebrate achievements. A key to the group’s success will be building bonds between people who are participating for a variety of reasons. This is relationship-building and maintenance.

Agencies, Nonprofits, Government Entities Working with Faith-Based Groups

Sources: Adapted by the OCCF Faith-Based Action Team and White House Faith-Based Community Partnerships

Guiding Principles

- Faith-based charities should be able to compete on equal footing for public dollars to provide public services.
- You should not discriminate against faith-based groups when they provide social services to the public.

Supreme Court Ruling

- Faith-based organizations may not use direct government support to support *inherently* religious activities.

You MAY NOT use federal resources to fund

- Religious Worship
- Religious Instruction
- Proselytization

You MAY USE federal or state resources

- To support non-religious social programming (activities or events) provided as long as they are separated by time or location from their inherently religious activities from the federally funded programs, activities or events.
- To use the church facilities when worship is occurring, as long as the program, activities or events are separated by time or space from the worship service. Icons may be in place.
- Keep your organization’s name, even if it has religious terms in it.
- Invite people to participate, but you must reassure the participants that they will receive the service regardless of participation in the religious activity.

- You may briefly answer questions about your personal faith, if asked. A longer discussion should be deferred to another time or place.
- People who receive services may participate in religious activities.

People may be employed as a faith leader and also administer a social program activity or event.

- Time in each role should be documented separately.
- A faith organization does not need to change the way it selects its governing board.
- Religious organizations do not need to abandon their religious character. They have every right to hold, express and practice their deepest convictions, as long as any “inherently religious and worship centered activities” are separate, voluntary and privately funded.

Sample: Faith-Based Organization Survey for Local Commission

Source: Adapted by Rev. James Mosier, OCCF Faith-Based Action Team

The following questionnaire can be used by local Commissions on Children and Families during community comprehensive planning and mobilization efforts. These questions could be addressed in a meeting between local Commission members and faith-based organizational leadership, both lay and/or ordained.

1. Name the opportunities for partnerships between faith-based organizations and public human service agencies/nonprofits in your community. _____

2. List key persons, their affiliation and contact information. _____

3. What services for people in need are provided by faith-based partnerships in your county? Explain. _____

4. Are there conditions that enhance partnerships with faith-based groups in your county?
Yes _____ No _____ If yes, explain. _____

5. How have current economic conditions affected faith-based efforts to serve those in need in your county?

6. How would such partnerships benefit the mission/ministry of the faith-based organizations in your county?

7. How would such partnerships benefit the mission of public human services and other agencies in your county?

8. What examples of successful partnerships would you be willing to share?

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