



March 12, 2007

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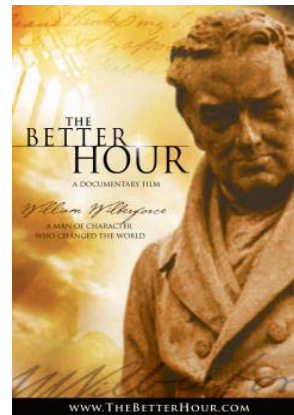
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Jay Hein Convenes Meeting on Human Trafficking

On March 8th, Director Jay Hein and the White House Office on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives convened a meeting with Professor David Richardson, the Director of the Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation (WISE) at the University of Hull (Hull, England). Dr. Richardson was joined by American businessman Chuck Stetson to discuss their new ventures to commemorate the 200th anniversary of William Wilberforce's efforts to abolish the slave trade in Britain. Meeting participants brainstormed how to advance the cause of ending human trafficking by leveraging partnerships with academia, media and business.

Dr. Richardson is spending the month of March in the United States to lecture at Yale University and collaborate with U.S. partners in preparation for an international conference entitled, *Slavery: Unfinished Business* to be held May 16th - 19th, 2007, in Hull. Mr. Stetson is sponsoring a documentary entitled, *The Better Hour*, which offers a penetrating look at Wilberforce and presents various educational offerings for students and the general public.

The March 8th private meeting was organized for senior Bush administration officials and other leaders who have demonstrated an interest in the Wilberforce model and for those leading Wilberforce-type social justice projects in government or civil society. Notable attendees and representatives from Federal agencies included Congressman Joseph Pitts



(R-PN), Mark Lagon, Ambassador at Large for Trafficking nominee, U.S. Department of State; Grace Young Chung Becker, U.S. Department of Justice; Susanna Connaughton, U.S. National Commission for UNESCO; and Josh Trent, Office of Refugee

Resettlement, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

For more information about the *Slavery: Unfinished Business* conference, visit: www.hull.ac.uk/wise/2007.

For more information about *The Better Hour*, visit: www.thebetterhour.com/tbh/.

Department of Veterans Affairs Works to Restore Vision for Homeless Veterans

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (CFBCI) collaborated with VA Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) and coordinators of programs for the homeless to create Restored Vision, a one year pilot program which will provide eyeglasses to homeless veterans in five locations throughout the United States.



U.S. Secretary of Veteran Affairs
Jim Nicholson

Restored Vision seeks partnerships with grassroots faith-based and community organizations to provide funds or vouchers for the cost of eyewear and eye exams. Each

Restored Vision site works with local LensCrafters, which provides homeless veterans free or reduced-priced glasses through its Gift of Sight Program. LensCrafters' Gift of Sight is also supported by community organizations such as Lions Club International, the Maryland Society for Sight, and the Jewish War Veterans. Bill Taylor, an indigent Vietnam veteran assisted by this program, said, "I knew I needed glasses, but I didn't have the money. Thanks to this program, I got my glasses." Appropriate eyewear enabled this homeless veteran to become self-sufficient, a necessary element in keeping veterans off of the streets. Over 150 veterans have received prescription glasses to restore their vision. Due to the success of the project, the initiative is being expanded to all 160 VA Health Centers in 2007. For more information about the program, visit:

www1.va.gov/OPA/fbci/pilots.asp

No Child Left Behind Technical Assistance Workshop

On March 7th, the Department of Education's Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (CFBCI) partnered with the Department of Health and Human Services' CFBCI to conduct a "No Child Left Behind" technical assistance workshop in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) in Dearborn, Michigan. 146 people attended the workshop, which focused on youth related services as well as the availability of Federal funding for these services.

At the workshop, Shayam Menon, Director of Education's CFBCI, and Regional Representative Todd Zoellick instructed attendees on compliance with Federal equal treatment regulations and the provisions of "No Child Left Behind." MDE provided instruction on supplemental educational services (SES) and 21st Century Community Learning Centers

grant applications. Ben O'Dell, Associate Director of Health and Human Service's CFBCI shared information about available



Federal funding to expand services to at-risk youth.

O'Dell specifically discussed the Compassion Capital Fund Demonstration Program. Greg Roberts, from Michigan's Office of Community and Faith-Based Initiatives, spoke on behalf of Governor Jennifer Granholm about local efforts to support faith-based and community organizations.

To register online for technical assistance workshops like the event held in Michigan, visit:

www.ed.gov/about/inits/list/fbci/regform.html

If you are unable to register online, please call 202-219-1741.

CNCS Hosts Conference on Strengthening Family and Community

On March 7th and 8th, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) hosted a gathering of hundreds of faith-based and community leaders, government officials, national service program directors and AmeriCorps VISTA members. The event focused on the importance of volunteer service and citizen engagement in providing resources to prisoners re-entering society and mentors for at-risk youth, as well as supporting responsible fatherhood and healthy marriages in collaboration with local FBCOs.

Conference speakers included Director Jay Hein, who addressed the opening plenary session of the conference;



Bob Woodson, President of the Center for Neighborhood

Enterprise; Alison Fritz of CNCS; Wintley Phipps, President and CEO of the U.S. Dream Academy; David Lett of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Bill Howell, Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates; and Reverend Anderson Clary of Beacon at the Crossroads.

Government Funding Opportunities

Capacity Building Opportunity

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announced applications are being accepted for new grants under the Compassion Capital Fund (CCF) Targeted Capacity Building Program. ACF will award up to \$10 million through CCF to faith-based and community organizations that address the needs of distressed communities. A distressed community is defined as a neighborhood or geographic community with an unemployment rate and/or poverty rate equal to or greater than the State or national rate. The Targeted Capacity Building Program will focus on capacity building among organizations addressing the following programmatic service areas: help for at-risk youth; help for the homeless; marriage education and preparation services to help couples who choose marriage for themselves develop the skills and knowledge to form and sustain healthy marriages; or social services to those living in rural communities. Applications are due April 10, 2007.

To learn more about this grant opportunity, visit: www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2007-ACF-OCS-IJ-0036.html.

Food Stamp Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced up to \$5 million in Food Stamp Program grants is available to improve the accessibility and awareness of USDA's Food Stamp Program for low-income households. The 2002 Farm Bill authorized USDA to award \$5 million in grants for projects aimed at simplifying the food stamp application and eligibility systems or improving access to food stamp benefits by eligible households. This year USDA intends to fund at least one proposal that involves a partnership between a state agency and one or more private non-profit organizations, including faith or community based organizations. The Food Stamp Program, administered by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, is the cornerstone of federal nutrition assistance programs and provides crucial support to working poor and needy households. The program currently serves more than 26 million people monthly.

Grant applications can be found online at www.grants.gov or on the Food and Nutrition Service website at www.fns.usda.gov/fsp. Grant applications will be accepted for the next 90 days (starting 3/13/2007).

**FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE
THE WEEK AHEAD
Monday, March 12, 2007 | Saturday, March 17, 2007**

Tuesday, March 13

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION: Shayam Menon participates in the No Child Left Behind, Supplemental Educational Services Technical Assistance Workshop. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES: Greg Morris presents an At-Risk Youth workshop in accordance with the Department of Education's technical assistance workshop. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Wednesday, March 14

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT: B.J. Douglass participates in a panel discussion on UDI for TBN (Faith Channels for Everyone). Los Angeles, California

Thursday, March 15

OFFICE OF FAITH BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES: Jay Hein keynotes and center directors lead workshops for the New Mexico State Conference on FBCI. Albuquerque, New Mexico