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### Compassion In Action Roundtable Showcases Agency/FBCO Partnerships

On May 29, 2007, Director Jay Hein welcomed Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez as the keynote speaker for the Compassion in Action Roundtable on Economic Development and Community Investment. The Roundtable provided an opportunity for community and economic leaders to observe how federal agencies such as the Department of Commerce successfully interact with faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) to address social problems, and how corporate and private entities can cooperate with one another to approach these issues.

While poverty, health problems, and other human needs are ever-present and overwhelming, Hein noted that the growing impact of faith-based and community organizations brings hope that these problems are being effectively addressed both in the United States and internationally, and that partnerships between FBCOs and government or private entities will continue to enhance humanitarian initiatives in the non-profit and corporate spheres.

Secretary Gutierrez noted that such partnerships are a crucial step toward meeting the President's goals to strengthen the economy.



*Director Jay Hein and Secretary Gutierrez greet Roundtable guests*

Gutierrez stated, "Faith-based and community organizations have emerged as integral and innovative investors in our nation's economic and community development."

The Secretary also stressed that, while the role of the public entity is important, government cannot replace local businesses and non-profits in the task of improving communities by strengthening the economy. "At the community level, organizations and faith based groups can provide...life changing aid that cannot come from a government handout."

For more information about the Department of Commerce and faith-based initiatives, please visit <http://www.osec.doc.gov/fbci/default.htm>

### Business And Civic Leadership Center Award Nominations



The Business and Civic Leadership Center (BCLC) is receiving nominations for their 2007 Corporate Citizenship

Awards. The awards will highlight businesses and non-profits which have teamed together to successfully address a significant social issue.

The award presentation will take place on November 7 at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC. Nominations should be submitted to BCLC by June 29. For more information, please contact BCLC at 202-463-3133, or visit [www.uschamber.com/bclc/awards](http://www.uschamber.com/bclc/awards)

## Corporate And Community Leaders Discuss Successful Networking Practices



*Secretary Gutierrez greets Steve Wing, Director of CVS Government Programs and Roundtable panelist*

The May 29, 2007 White House Compassion in Action Roundtable brought together the public, private, and non-profit sectors to discuss community needs and social issues. Two panels of leaders and experts shared stories, explored ideas, and fielded questions regarding the crucial role of faith-based and community organizations in both urban and rural areas.

Panelists included Stephen Wing, Director of Government Programs for CVS/Caremark, and Reverend Lionel Edmonds of Washington Interfaith Network (WIN), who described their unique partnership which began in 2001 when Reverend Edmonds opened his church facility to host a CVS job fair.

The job fair succeeded on two levels: first, by meeting CVS' need for a local, stable workforce; second, by providing stable job opportunities within Reverend Edmonds' urban community. Wing and Edmonds stressed that the "good business practice" of a cooperative partnership lay at the heart of their success. Reverend Edmonds and WIN continue to build on this success to provide a growth model for other urban, underserved communities, and along with CVS/Caremark, set an outstanding example of a partnership that produces outstanding results.

Dan Buck, CEO of the St. Patrick Center in St. Louis, Missouri, also participated in the panel discussion. As the largest homeless organization in the U.S., this non-profit provides services and mentorship programs which help the homeless to overcome their circumstances and attain the skills and confidence needed to sustain independence.

Last year, St. Patrick's received a \$3.5 million grant from the Economic Development Agency (EDA), an arm of the Department of Commerce which helps to create jobs and improve the economy in underdeveloped areas. In addition, the St. Patrick Center received the EDA 2006 Excellence in Economic Development Award for Community and Faith-Based Social Entrepreneurship for demonstrating a unique and creative economic strategy in their community.

In addition to the Department of Commerce, St. Patrick's also partners with several other federal agencies, as well as the State of Missouri, to provide healthcare, education, and other services. Buck stated, "...FBCOs and government as stand alone's are ships without rudders," and encouraged public/private partnerships as the most conducive route to successful innovation and collaboration.

Other panelists included Stephen Jordan, US Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership Center; Mary Wong, President of Office Depot Foundation; Sukey Soukamneuth, Social Policy Research Associates; Gary Blank, Council of Economic Advisers; George McDonald, The Doe Fund; Joseph Gaskins, Economic Development and Training Institute; and Dana Ingram, JCVision and Associates.

For related resources, please see our 2007 Economic Development Catalogue at: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/EconomicDevCatalogue\\_v2.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/EconomicDevCatalogue_v2.pdf)