



**Anoka County Human Services, Faith Communities and Non-Profits
linking resources to strengthen our community.**

When everyone brings something, there is more than enough.

June, 2008

One Church – One School Track

The focus of the **One Church- One School Track** was to highlight local programs involved in partnerships between schools and faith communities, giving participants hands-on-information about how to build collaborations to support the children in our community.

In Session 1 “It Takes a Village to Raise a Child” Dr. Anissa Cravens, principal of L.O. Jacob elementary school, and Debra Henning, Director of Middle School Confirmation at Faith Lutheran church in Coon Rapids, co-presented. Anissa identified some of the needs she currently sees in the students at her school and talked about partnerships she has built with local faith communities and area businesses to help meet those needs. Debra explained how Faith Lutheran partnered with school social workers and local companies to begin a summer lunch program for students of L.O. Jacob and how the program has grown to include crafts and activities for the students. Together they discussed what it takes to create a successful partnership.

In Session 2: “Partners in Action” Rev. Kelly Chatman and Julie Bringman of Redeemer Lutheran church in N. Minneapolis discussed how they have worked within their community to bring social service providers, the local school and faith communities and area businesses together to serve the youth and families of North Minneapolis. Through the Redeemer Life Center, they offer housing, employment services, food and an after-school mentoring program for area residents. After discussing the methods they used to build trust in the community and to approach businesses to form this partnership, they allowed time for questions from the audience, which proved to be informative and helpful.

-Gayle Alexander,
Anoka County Community Services
763-422-7089

Spring Faith Forum Highlights

The Compassion Action Network’s 2008 Spring Faith Forum was held on Thursday, April 17th at Faith Lutheran Church in Coon Rapids. The theme, “Staying on Track-One Child at a Time” focused on raising awareness and understanding of issues impacting children. Approximately 90 participants listened to and shared ideas on how their organizations could better meet the needs of area children.

The morning began with our keynote speaker Rev. Kelly Chatman, senior pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Minneapolis. Within the following recap of his talk, the italicized paragraphs are excerpts from an article written by Kelly Johnson, staff writer, ABC Newspapers.

Rev. Kelly realized from the beginning while at his first parish in Washington, D.C., that his calling was to youth ministry.

“It wasn’t just what I did for the kids, but what the kids did for me,” he said. “Helping youngsters to do better academically changed his ministry’s focus.” said the reverend.

In his seven-plus years at Redeemer Luther Church, Chatman and others have worked hard to form meaningful partnerships with local businesses and schools. It’s the church working in the public sector that makes us who we are, he told those seated in the pews of the church.



Redeemer Lutheran has developed a strong presence in the Harrison neighborhood, in which it is located by developing various youth programs. An example is the Peace Palace where students can go after school to get help with homework, learn how to run a business, and to socialize. The students feel comfortable there and don’t feel like they are going to be “converted” at any minute.

“It became a place of promise in the neighborhood,” he said.

Chatman encouraged those at the forum to get involved in the local schools and see what their needs are.

Following Rev. Kelly Chatman’s talk, participants of the forum went on to one of three tracks/workshops; 1) One school—One Church, 2) Promoting Self Sufficiency, 3) Family Violence. Each track was presented by individuals active and knowledgeable in the subject matter. You can read about each track within this newsletter.

Promoting Self-Sufficiency Track

Caring for the Multitude: Maggie Philbrook Laine, Pastoral Minister at St. Timothy Church and Jamie Morrow, Vice President, CEAP, 763-450-3670

This seminar addressed the question "How can I help my neighbors with increasingly limited resources?" Maggie Philbrook Laine, Pastoral Minister at St. Timothy Church told the story of Stone Soup. This story is

of a woman who comes into a village. She is tired and hungry. The residents of the village feared strangers. The woman stopped at the first house. The villager stated "You best move on to another town, we do not have food. The woman said "Oh, please don't worry I have everything I need. I was thinking of making stone soup and share it with you." Other villagers looked out their windows and saw a woman with a large pot and she put one stone in the pot. She then added another stone and started to stir. The other villagers began to come out of their homes to see what was happening. The woman stated "I do like a good tasty stone soup, a cabbage would really make this a tasty soup." One villager stated "I might have a cabbage I could add to your soup." He came running out and put the cabbage in the soup. Another villager said "I might have some carrots, would that help?" He then put some carrots in the soup.



Then another woman came out of her home with 1 potato and dropped it into the soup. Each villager came out to the pot and added another ingredient to the stone soup. This soup then fed all of the village and the woman. No one was hungry.

Resources available for various services throughout the Metro Area include:

- Northwest Hennepin Human Services Guide (<http://www.nwhhsc.org>)
- Websites: <http://www.accap.org> (resources for Anoka County)
<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main>
<http://www.Ceap.com>
<http://www.compassionnet-mn.com>
<http://www.minnesotaveteran.org/index.htm>
- Handbook of the Streets Minneapolis 2007-2008 – Prepared by Alliance of the Streets, 330 E 22nd St., Minneapolis, MN 55404, (612) 870-0529, www.ststephensmpls.org
- Handbooks of the Streets St. Paul 2007-2008 – Prepared by Alliance of the Streets, 330 E 22nd St., 330 E 22nd St., Minneapolis, MN 55404 (612)-870-0529, www.ststephensmpls.org
- A Framework for Understanding Poverty - Ruby Payne
- Strategies out of Poverty - Ruby Payne
- 2008 Ethnic Media Directory

Each of us has something to offer to our neighbors and our community. By working together we can start initiatives to provide transportation to people who need a car. We can work as a neighborhood to provide food for the food shelves. By working together we can impact legislation. Ask yourself, your family, your neighbors, your congregation members: "What ingredients do we have to offer for a bountiful stone soup?" At the end of the session we each received a marker and a stone to write "what we have to offer for our community stone soup".

Promoting Self-Sufficiency Track continued on next page.....

Promoting Self-Sufficiency Track continued...

Financial Peace University: Diane Stores, Associate Pastor, Bridgewood Community Church

As most of us are aware, many people in our communities have stress in their lives due to financial worries. Personal finance problems are the number one cause of stress in the home and workplace. "Where does the money go?" is one of many questions asked during financial despair. Bridgewood Community Church decided they had to tackle this issue. Their church was determined to address the financial crisis that many families and individuals are facing.

They offer a financial training program, which uses the "Financial Peace University" curriculum. The class is 13 weeks. The last class, which consisted of 50 participants, had members of their church but also many from outside of their church community. The curriculum includes video, workbooks, class sessions, group sessions and trained mentors for the participants.

The "Financial Peace University" curriculum not only tackles those tough questions, but it does it in a way that allows all of us to nod our heads because most of us have "been there, done that." The videos not only provided pertinent information on how to get debt free, but it does it in a way to allow us to laugh at ourselves. The curriculum covers the basics of personal finance. This is not a quick fix program. The lessons detail a no-nonsense approach to financial health and getting out of debt. Diane reiterated the sense of accomplishment when the individuals who attended the class implemented the program in their own lives. The worry, the headaches, and shame were gone. These families and individuals were able to confront the issue. It provided a grounded perspective and a path for getting out of debt and achieving financial health.

Jamie Morrow
CEAP

What Did the Attendees Have to Say About Our Spring Forum?

"Good information and a stimulating speaker."

"Good ideas and information to get started with community connection projects."

"Loved impromptu discussion and sense of humor of the speaker"

"Great opportunity. Looking forward to making more connections."

"Great food for thought and impetus to action."

*"Stone soup analogy
GREAT!"*

"Relevant, timely, informative, and challenging"

Family Violence: “Creating a Safe Place” for Our Children Track

Staggering statistics that make us pause -- 11% to 17% of 9th graders in Anoka County report domestic violence in their homes. An estimated 10,000,000 American children are exposed to domestic abuse each year. Can you as an individual and can your faith community staff recognize and respond to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of these children?

In Session I at the Faith Forum, approximately 20 participants did a self-assessment on behalf of their faith communities. The overarching question was, “How prepared is your faith community to respond to adult and minor victims or witnesses of family violence?” This was followed by a discussion of the **effects** of family violence on our children. Some behaviors these children may exhibit include – **low self-esteem, stomach aches, sleep problems, distrust, using violence to solve problems**. Children living with domestic violence feel **powerless, guilty, angry, confused, afraid,**

isolated, anxious, ashamed, and hopeless.

A panel presentation for Session II demonstrated how communities of faith work collaboratively with Alexandra House, the Kinship Program and the Faith Community Nurse Program of Mercy & Unity Hospitals in order to **CREATE A SAFE PLACE** for children. Penny Kallas shared how the Kinship program partners with faith-based volunteers to provide mentors who are positive role models for children who are victims or have witnessed domestic violence in their homes. Donna McDonald, Marlene Jezierski and Zeb Henderson-Shreve discussed interventions that address the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of these children. Children need **safe places that are supportive, nurturing, caring and loving – homes, schools, neighborhoods, places of worship**. Pastor Margie Guelker from Christ Lutheran in Blaine, talked about how her church has become more sensitive to the issue as a result of their support to

Alexandra House and her addressing it from the pulpit. In October, Christ Lutheran hosts the annual **Community Worship Service for Healing Family Violence** in collaboration with **Partners in Faith for Peace**.

In order to raise awareness and promote peace in our homes and communities, **FREE** education is available through the Anoka County Domestic Violence Council and the Faith Community Nurse Program. **“Caught in the Middle: When Children Witness Violence in the Home”** is available by calling 763/783-4990. **“Creating A Safe Place: Encourage to Change”** is available by calling 763/236-4342. This workshop focuses on educating clergy and faith community staff by providing helpful tools and resources so that our spiritual leaders know how to respond with care and support.

-Lyla Pagels
Parish Nurse Program, Unity



Resource Sharing An integral part of the Compassion Action Network Spring & Fall Forums



Volunteer & Communications Mail Group

"When everyone brings something, there is more than enough"

In the true spirit of collaboration, the Compassion Action Network has established a Yahoo Mail Group dedicated to Volunteerism and Communication. Whether you are interested in volunteering or are in need of a volunteer, or you have important information to share, please follow these simple procedures to get your information posted on the CAN mail group.

It's as easy as 1-2-3:

1 - Set-up Your Yahoo Account

Access the Compassion Action Network Website – compassionnet-mn.com.



Select the Yahoo Groups Icon

Select "Sign-up"

Enter all required information, including your primary email account.

2 - Verify Your Yahoo Account

Open a second internet session and access your primary email account.

Open mail from yahoo and activate your new account.

3 - Join canvolunteer mail group

Go back to the Yahoo website.

Select "Add new email address" and enter your 'primary email address.

Enter encrypted code to finish.

Note: By entering your primary email address, you will receive all correspondence relating to the **CAN volunteer/Communications** mail group. If this proves too much mail – simply change it back to your Yahoo ID account. You can then see all correspondence via Yahoo.

Once you have joined the mail group, you will receive a welcome letter with further information and instructions using the site.

- Sue Kennell
763-754-9638

Mission Statement

To mobilize community organizations to recognize the value and benefits of working together, because when everyone brings something, there is more than enough.

Vision Statement

Working together to serve our community, every community organization will recognize and utilize its own unique gifts and resources.

Advisory Board

Mary Jo Loftus, Co-chair
St. Katharine Drexel Church

Gayle Alexander, Co-chair
Anoka County Human Services

Lyla Pagels
Mercy & Unity Hospitals

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Save the Date!

2008 Fall Faith Forum

"Time to Re-connect the Dots—

Working Together to Strengthen our Local Community"

Keynote Speaker

Jim Scheibel
(former St. Paul mayor)

October 24, 2008

8:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Emmanuel Christian Center
7777 University Ave. N. E.
Spring Lake Park, MN

Watch for Details

Circle of Influence Meeting

1st Thursday of every month
1:30 p.m.

Emmanuel Christian Center
7777 University Ave N E
Spring Lake Park

Everyone welcome to talk about
community resources and to network