



Advocacy NEWS

November 2008

Dear Colleagues:

We are in the season where it is imperative to move out in mission to others and in so doing appreciating the incredible gifts that God has given us. Yes the gifts – regardless of how tough the constant stream of news media is these days, it is most imperative that we focus on the time and place in which we live out our Christian faith on a daily basis. Our advocacy work is now deliberately embracing this “out word” commitment to helping others ease the struggles of daily life. We are framing each discussion and each project that we become involved with by a fundamental question of “What would Christ do in this circumstance?” Sometimes we chafe under the range of possible responses, at other times we rejoice in the ‘AH HA’ moment of reaching a conclusion that is not only in the best interest of everyone, but even those with whom we might disagree on fundamental social policy issues.

2009 will be the year of *EXCELLERATED PARTNERNG* for the Grand Canyon Synod Advocacy efforts.

We have worked diligently over the last 14 months to establish relationships with all levels of partners in our Arizona community including those from whom programming and funding support may be a sustained possibility for the long term. These types of efforts are intensely time consuming; however when the work results in service to the marginalized within our community at a higher level than previously provided or service to those previously un-churched, every moment of our efforts is celebrated. Please consider the listing below of first quarter programming and advocacy efforts sponsored by the Grand Canyon Synod Office. If any of these events/programs will assist you in your role as a Lutheran volunteer/or clergy member on your church campus or in the greater community, please plan to attend. If there is a current partnering program underway in your church community that you would like us to highlight, please notify Susan Hannah at shannah@gcsynod.org so that we may include your information in next month’s newsletter. Have an extraordinary day of thankfulness this month. Rest assured that we are extremely thankful for each of you, your gifts, your talents and your perseverance in the fields of advocacy and social justice.

Sincerely,

Teri Traaen, Ed.D.,D.P.A.

Assistant to the Bishop, Director of Advocacy

ADVOCACY PROGRAM OUTREACH 2009

***Community Work Day**

March 29th, 2009

One of our large Lutheran congregations in the valley has a Community Outreach/Work Day Planned for March 29th, 2009. The purpose of this day for this congregation is to be involved in providing hands on support within the community in as many direct ways of service as possible. **This congregation had such a large response to their internal marketing that they did not have enough 'hands on' work for all volunteers/families to do last year!!** To avoid this problem reoccurring this year, please let Sue Hannah (shannah@gcsynod.org) know if you/your congregation could use help on that day. A specific focus for the volunteer group is to have projects that families can be involved with together, including youth ranging in age from elementary up through high school ages. (Many of us recall that some of the best lessons and role modeling we ever saw was as a result of 'church' work days!!!) **Requests need to be in as soon as possible as you might imagine this takes this local congregation some time to schedule and plan the overall service teams for that day! Please make your request prior to Christmas and even earlier if possible.**



***"Grant That We May Serve" -Grant Writing Workshop**

January 20th, Tuesday 5:45-8:15 pm

\$10 fee-limited space



In these tough economic times, we are all finding that we can all do more together, than we can alone. Partnering with Community and Private Foundations can be an important tool in creating and sustaining our service. Come and learn some basics on grant writing and partnering with others. A \$10 fee includes a light meal & educational materials.

This event will be held at the Synod Office: 4423 N 24th St. Phoenix AZ 85016

***Human Services Campus Tour & Service Opportunity**

January 29th, Thursday 9am-2pm

Join our annual trek to the Human Services Campus, in downtown Phoenix. If you or your congregation is looking for ways to serve "the least of these" right here in our own community, come and see both what services are available to the poor and homeless in the Valley area as well as volunteer opportunities. As a part of this year's experience we will be spending part of our time serving at local Lutheran church food pantries. Participants are encouraged to do a food and/or clothing drive in their congregations before January 29th, and bring their offerings with them. Come ready to learn and to work!



We will meet for this event at Grace Lutheran Church: 1124 N 3rd St Phoenix, AZ 85004

***Lutheran Day at the Legislature**



February 18, Wednesday 9:30-3:00

See our Legislature in action. During this event, participants will tour the Arizona State Capitol, attend a Hearing Committee, be introduced to both the House & Senate during session, and have an opportunity to meet one on one with their Senators & Representatives. This is a unique opportunity to both see and participate in our government at work. Bring a Brown Bag or purchase your lunch at the Capitol Building Cafeteria.

We will meet for this event by the main doors of the Capitol Building Rotunda.

Feed My Starving Children Event



February 19th – 21st

At Peace Lutheran & co-sponsored with Community of Grace

Feed My Starving Children is a unique volunteer opportunity where individuals and families can serve by preparing nutritious meal packets for children around the world. These are large scale events where hundreds of volunteers are needed. Contact Jenine Skinner to

register, volunteer and/or donate by calling 480-706-1381 or email

tableofhope@gmail.com. To learn more about Feed My Starving Children visit www.fmsc.org.

** To register or find out more about any of these events, contact Susan Hannah at the Grand Canyon Synod Office: 602-957-3223 or email shannah@gcsynod.org*