



eNews February 2009

White House Faith-Based Initiative



On February 5, 2009, President Barack Obama signed an executive order establishing the new White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships ("Faith-Based office") which is intended to "work on behalf of Americans committed to improving their communities, no matter their religious or political beliefs." Our own CEO Noel Castellanos has been invited to be a member of this initiative. CCDA eagerly looks forward to bringing the ideas of Christian Community Development to the national discussion.

Yes We Can...Achieve 'Food Justice'

March 8 in NYC

Did you know that roughly half of the funding from President Obama's \$819 billion economic stimulus package (passed on January 28) will benefit low-income people? And the bill includes an increase in SNAP (food stamp) benefits, received by more than one in 10 Americans--half of them children! Capitalizing on this momentum, activists throughout NYC are gathering to discuss additional ways to address the growing domestic and international hunger crisis, and to urge our local and national leaders to meet the challenges. Come join Bread for the World in this effort on Sunday, March 8, and represent your organization! Anti-Hunger and Anti-Poverty organizations will have information booths. Also, remember to contact your state Senators and urge them to pass their version of President Obama's stimulus bill. (The Senate begins debating on Monday, February 2). For easy info on how to do this visit: <http://www.bread.org/emails/house-passes-stimulus-bill.html> and for info about the March event, e-mail courtney_deacon@fitnyc.edu

Poverty Made Front Page

Dear Mission Waco Friends and Supporters,

Today, [poverty made front page!](#) I am grateful to the Waco Tribune-Herald for their willingness to allow me to have voice about the incredible injustices that exist, almost silently, in our community, everyday. Waco's local and overwhelming poverty is a travesty and more must be done. We need lots of voices rising up against the lack of attention that this subtle oppression causes everyday in the lives of our neighbors....some 31,000 of them (27.6%) who struggle below the federal poverty line, making Waco the 5th poorest city in Texas.

If you did not get a hardcopy of today's newspaper (and I hope you will), [please read the link](#).

Let your voice be heard!

In addition, I encourage you to write "letters to the editor" or respond to their blogs in support of our increased effort to bring the poverty issue and its complexities to the forefront of Waco so we can more honestly and openly address it. It will take a grassroots movement by all of us to overcome years of entrenched economic disparity, but it can be done. It must be done. As Christians, we must believe we can make a difference.

Thanks for caring!
Jimmy

<http://www.wacotrib.com/news/content/news/stories/2009/02/01/02012009wacdorrell.html>

CCDA Education & Training

Our Spring training and education season gets underway this month! Check out the CCDA website (www.ccda.org/institute/class-schedule) for Institutes and mini-conferences coming your way!

Walnut Creek, CA – March 6 & 7

Riverside, CA – April 3 & 4

Washington, DC – April 30

And watch for more details on Spring Institutes in Seattle, Philadelphia, Grand Rapids and Orlando.

The Case for Nonprofits



Sometimes it's necessary to look beyond the church for ministry growth.

A new article by Joy Skjegstad in Christianity Today's Your Church explores strategies for non-profit creation.

[Read it Here.](#)

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/yc/2009/janfeb/4.16.html>

CCDA CAFES



CONNECT with other like minded people in your city who are living and learning Christian Community Development

LEARN more about CCDA (Christian Community Development Association) and your opportunities to both receive and give within the association

The national staff of CCDA want to **LISTEN** to you, Christian Community Development practitioners, so we can better serve our constituency A CCDA Café is coming to your city.

[You are invited to join us.](http://www.cdda.org) [Http://www.cdda.org](http://www.cdda.org)