



Governor's Office of Faith-Based & Community Initiatives

Bob Riley, Governor

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The Alabama Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GFBCI) was designed to serve as a bridge between local communities and government. The GFBCI works to help faith & community based organizations become better prepared to access state and federal grants that are available to them as well as connects people with volunteer opportunities through AmeriCorps, Citizen Corps, and other citizen service initiatives.

Curious about grant and funding opportunities?

Sign up for the Faith and Community Based Loop!

To receive bi-weekly updates on the latest information regarding capacity building, grants, and funding opportunities for faith-based and community organizations, please go to www.ServeAlabama.gov, click on **Faith and Community-Based Loop** and sign up!

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Alabama Disaster Response and Recovery Team

Washington and Alabama joined forces in August as two AmeriCorps*VISTA programs, the Disaster Response and Recovery Team of the GFBCI here in Montgomery, Alabama and the Washington Service Corps team of Olympia, Washington, served four days with Volunteer Mobile reconstructing houses left damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The two teams were divided among three different work-sites, coordinated by Volunteer Mobile, where rooms and ceilings were mudded, sanded, and painted. A few team members even gained some sheetrock experience. The nineteen volunteers, ranging in ages from 18 to over 30, were graciously housed and fed by the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Mobile, Alabama. Mealtimes proved hectic, sleeping arrangements were tight, and the heat certainly added an interesting dynamic to the manual labor, but the work felt so rewarding, particularly to share it with volunteers from the other side of the country. Ultimately, we were grateful to be on the ground, if only for a few days. Dirtying our hands, literally and figuratively, meant recognizing the immediate needs still facing so many on the coast. Many thanks to the fourteen members from Washington who spent seven weeks of their summer breaks on casework projects across the coast of Alabama before joining us in Mobile. And thank you to Volunteer Mobile and the Westminster Presbyterian Church for making the projects a possibility both for our groups and the ones to come.

Alabama Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster First Annual Spring Conference: Empower Local Alliances Active in Disaster



Ande Miller, Executive Director, NVOAD, and Mel Brackman, Executive Director of ALVOAD.

On May 23, 2006, the Alabama Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (ALVOAD) hosted the first annual Spring Conference, entitled “Empowering Local Alliances Active in Disaster.” Partnering with the Alabama Emergency Management Agency and the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GFBCI), the conference included speakers from local, state, and national organizations and government working in disaster response. Ande Miller, Executive Director of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD), opened the day with an engaging presentation on the

importance of local relationships and local response. She was followed by presentations from the National Weather Service and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency. The second half of the day brought attendees together in break-out sessions covering such topics as database introductions, VOAD resources, and panelists from government, emergency management, and local agencies. The Conference concluded with the signing of the *Statement of Affiliation* between ALVOAD and Citizen Corps, a milestone for



Sydney Hoffman, Interim Executive Director of the GFBCI, Mel Brackman, Chairman of ALVOAD, and Jim Walker, Director of Alabama’s Department of Homeland Security



Louisa Lichtman of the AmeriCorps*VISTA Disaster Response and Recovery Team.

organizations and agencies working in disaster response across the state. As defined by the Social Issues Research Center, this *Statement of Affiliation* asserts the partnership between ALVOAD and Citizen Corps, forging a powerful and dependable relationship between these two groups in Alabama’s mitigation and response to disasters. With over 150 attendees representing more than 80 organizations, the conference was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who was involved! We look forward to seeing you again as we continue to work forward in preparing and responding to the needs of Alabama.

Alabama, are **YOU** prepared for a disaster?



Be Informed.

Locate shelters
Know evacuation routes
Identify emergency contacts



Be Involved.

Volunteer
Get trained
Donate responsibly



Be Ready.

Get a kit
Have a plan
Practice and prepare

www.ServeAlabama.gov

Alabama is proud to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in National Preparedness Month. For the third consecutive year, the Alabama Department of Homeland Security (ADHS) and the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GFBCI) are partnering for this state-wide initiative to prepare individuals and families in the case of emergencies in their homes, businesses, and schools.

- "Be Ready Day," an annual statewide community preparedness event, will be held on **September 14, 2006** in **Huntsville, AL** at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.
- "Be Ready Sunday" is **September 24, 2006**. Faith-based organizations are encouraged to include preparedness materials in their bulletins, post preparedness information on their websites, and speak to their congregations on the need to prepare.

Stay tuned to our website for more information and highlights. Go to www.ready.gov to read more about the national campaign and register your organization with the National Preparedness Month Coalition.

Governor's Statewide Interagency Council on Homelessness

Council Submits a Plan to Address Homelessness



The Governor's Statewide Interagency Council on Homelessness submitted a *Blueprint Towards a Ten-Year Plan on Homelessness in Alabama* for Governor Riley's review. The Council approved the blueprint during its June 23, 2006 quarterly meeting for submission to Governor .

The Council's working group drafted the blueprint which was formed during the Council's first quarterly meeting. The working group focused on five key areas when developing the Blueprint: Fiscal Optimization, Services, Housing, Data, and Education/Public Outreach.

ICH Director Phillip Mangano to Visit Alabama

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness Executive Director, Phillip Mangano is to participate in the 13th Annual TASC National Conference on Drugs and Crime, to begin on September 17th in Birmingham, Alabama. Director Mangano is to take part in the closing plenary session on Asset Building and Recovery Priorities on September 20, 2006 at 3:00pm.

Mr. Mangano was appointed by President Bush to lead the Council in March 2002. Mr. Mangano's leadership has revived the previously dormant council and has led to unprecedented collaboration towards the goal of ending homelessness.

This marks Mr. Mangano's second trip to Alabama. Director Mangano was present when Governor Riley signed Executive Order #31 creating the Council on August 11, 2006.

SAVE THE DATE

2006 Annual

Alabama
citizen★corps

Conference

***"Strengthening Alabama's
Communities"***

**December 13-14 2006
Grand Hotel Marriott Resort
Point Clear, AL**

For more information, please go
to our website:
www.ServeAlabama.gov



AmeriCorps in Alabama

The GFBCI monitors the programs as the Alabama State Commission for State*AmeriCorps. Alabama's State programs focus on literacy, mentoring & tutoring students of all ages, working with clients with disabilities and their families, and bridging the digital divide in rural areas.

Alabama State AmeriCorps graduates define their goals for the future.

On July 21, 2006, the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives hosted an AmeriCorps Graduate Luncheon to honor the 2006 State*AmeriCorps graduates. Members from all five programs were present and participated in exercises and discussions reflecting on their lives after AmeriCorps service.

Dr. Timothy Johnson and Mr. Greg Heinrich spoke to the newly anointed alums about continuing their lives in service and joining the nationwide network of AmeriCorps Alums to help them stay connected and involved.



Sydney Hoffman, Interim Executive Director of the GFBCI, honored Brenda Campbell and Jim Higginbotham of the UAB AmeriCorps program for their years of dedicated service to the program, nine years and six years respectively. The program allotted time for each group to



AmeriCorps members gather at the Embassy Suites in Montgomery to signify the completion of their year of service.

present to the rest of the Corps about their year's work and time to award each graduate with a certificate of completion.

The day concluded with the Alabama Disaster Response and Recovery VISTA team running an exercise on Life After AmeriCorps to help the State graduates write, reflect, and discuss their service. The training covered lessons learned, challenges and fears and goal setting.

Collectively, the 2006 graduates put in a total of 67,664 hours of service over the course of the year. We thank them and applaud them for all of their discipline and valuable service to the State of Alabama.

Members of AmeriCorps receive real-life education and service experience wrapped up into one. They learn teamwork, effective communication, leadership, responsibility and more. Members experience the satisfaction of taking on challenges and seeing positive results. AmeriCorps members have the experience of a lifetime. To learn more about AmeriCorps State programs as well as the other branches of this national service organization, go to www.americorps.gov.



3-DAY KIT CHECKLIST

Having a 3-Day Kit ready and packed will help prepare your family in the case of an emergency or evacuation. Keep the following items in a sturdy and easy-to-carry container and make sure it's ready to go at all times during the year:

- Copies of important documents in a waterproof container (Photo IDs, proof of residence, insurance, birth certificates, deeds, Social Security Card, etc.)
- Medication, medical contact information, prescriptions, and first aid kit
- Extra car and house keys
- Bottled water (1 gallon per person/day) and non-perishable food (i.e. granola or energy bars) *Note: Bring manual can opener for canned goods.*
- Battery operated radio, flashlight, and extra batteries
- Contact and meeting place information for your household and a small regional map
- Small denomination cash and ATM cards
- Comfortable shoes, raingear, and blankets

7 STEPS TO RESPONSIBLE GIVING

1. Give financial contributions
2. Raise money with used clothing instead of donating the clothing
3. Confirm the need before donating goods, services, or money
4. Donate through an organization
5. Plan transportation in advance
6. Palletize and label donated goods
7. Affiliate with a voluntary agency

Learn more about the Faith-Based Initiative and the GFBCI

The next informational seminars will be held on

Thursday, August 10, 2006

Thursday, October 12, 2006

For information on time, location, and additional seminars call

(334) 242-7110 or toll-free (877) 273-5018