



**SITE VISIT
TO**

**CORNERSTONE ASSISTANCE NETWORK:
A FAITH-BASED INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATION**

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma – January 31-February 1, 2002

Prepared by:

Blake Austensen
Deputy Project Director
Welfare Peer Technical Assistance Network
AFYA, Inc.
Takoma Park, Maryland
&

Doug Poag
Executive Director
Partners for Community
Bloomington, Illinois

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Overview	3
2. Background.....	3
3. Site Visit Summary.....	6
4. Final Remarks	15
References	17

SITE VISIT SUMMARY

Event: Site Visit to Cornerstone Assistance Network: A Faith-Based Intermediary Organization

Date: January 31 - February 1, 2002

Location: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

1. OVERVIEW

The Welfare Peer Technical Assistance (TA) Network, funded by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Family Assistance (OFA), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provided assistance in support of this site visit in response to a combined request for technical assistance to expand their knowledge of intermediary organizations from Partners for Community (PfC), in Bloomington, Illinois, and the Illinois Department of Human Services (ILDHS). Partners for Community felt the visit would further their mission and increase their capacity as an intermediary organization. The State felt the visit would increase its capacity to work with PfC as well as other intermediary organizations throughout the State. Staff from PfC along with its area Illinois State faith-based liaison visited a model intermediary program in Oklahoma (the Cornerstone Assistance Network-referred to as “CAN”) that does an excellent job of facilitating and fostering community and faith partnerships through education and interaction.

What is An Intermediary Organization?
<p><i>Simply, it is an organization that provides assistance to faith congregations that are interested in providing social services. It is NOT a government agency. The Intermediary is familiar with the faith community, the programs of government social service agencies, and with successful faith-based programs that serve as “best practices.” The Intermediary serves both the local congregation and the traditional social service provider for the purpose of helping them work together to reach the poor and needy.</i></p> <p>(Source: “Cornerstone Network News, Vol. 5, Issue 2, Summer 2001. For more information, visit the Oklahoma State Office of Faith-Based Services Web site link at www.state.ok.us/~faithlinks/intermed.html.)</p>

2. BACKGROUND

The following section provides insights into the events that led to this site visit among the various participants involved. It also provides additional background into the programs that were represented at the site visit.

2A. Chain of Events

At the *Look at Faith-Based Programs* workshop in October 2001 in Indianapolis, Indiana, sponsored by the Welfare Peer Technical Assistance Network, PfC staff members heard Brad Yarborough, Director, Oklahoma Office of State Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Liaison, deliver a presentation entitled “Making New Relationships Happen: The Oklahoma Story.” They were very excited about his description of organizations in Oklahoma City and Tulsa that were contracting with the State of Oklahoma to provide “Intermediary” services—services with the specific goal of bringing more people into partnership with agencies; to use the historic opportunity of welfare reform to bring churches together and back into society’s effort to address and overcome chronic, intractable poverty.

PfC also met Rev. Derrius Colvin, Public Service Administrator for the Illinois Department of Human Services, at the workshop in Indianapolis. Rev. Colvin acts as a coordinator for the Illinois Partners for Hope program in the Chicago area. He suggested PfC contact his counterpart in downstate Illinois, Pastor Fred Nettles. PfC traveled to Springfield in November 2001 to meet with Pastor Nettles, and they decided to approach the Welfare Peer Technical Assistance Network about seeking further technical assistance on intermediary organizations. Their focus was on Oklahoma’s model.

2B. Illinois’ Partners for Hope Program

The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) *Partners for Hope* program was established in May 1998. The purpose of the effort was for Department’s Division of Community Operations, to link with faith-based communities to develop services through their ministries for families moving from welfare to work. In effect, the program is a network of faith-based partners working with IDHS local field offices throughout the State to support families in their communities who are trying to achieve self-sufficiency by creating local “wrap-around ministries.” Each ministry is tailored to meet the unique needs of families living in that community. Some ministries have programs that help families in the following areas: job search, job readiness, job-skills training; community service positions; GED program; nutrition and food-budgeting advice; second-chance or maternity home for expectant un-married minors who cannot live with their parents; abstinence education; drug treatment services; and medical assistance.

The program has developed a newsletter to keep *Partners for Hope* faith communities abreast of welfare reform changes, IDHS services and programs, policy changes created by federal and state legislation, and inform them of possible Federal and State funding opportunities. The State also offers grant writing workshops to faith-based organizations, maintains a database of faith-

based service providers that facilitates and speeds up service delivery to needy clients, and has established a statewide network of “wrap-around ministries” through its local offices in collaboration with their local faith-based communities to help support families attain their goals for self-sufficiency. Some examples of these efforts include a senior outreach pilot program, several mentoring programs, a summer youth program, and a job club.

Illinois’ *Front Door Program* is another area where faith-based organizations around the State have partnered with IDHS to provide services to potential TANF applicants who have obtained employment prior to approval of their applications who need assistance with employment expenses to keep their jobs and avoid entering the TANF rolls. This is usually a one-time benefit and applicants are tracked to avoid misuse of funds. Some examples of those expenses are car repairs, car insurance, bus passes, clothing, or initial child care.

2C. Partners for Community (Bloomington, Illinois)

Partners for Community’s (PfC) program is a non-denominational Christian organization that brings business, government, police, and social service together. It is best described as an “intermediary” organization that specializes in facilitating the start-up and organization of community resources toward a needed community program or service. Its mission, as a faith-based organization, is to “prevent violence, support families, and promote peaceful homes, by facilitating and fostering community partnerships through education and interaction.” Membership is made up of churches, public agencies, and businesses in Bloomington, and surrounding McLean County, Illinois. Local churches, community groups, and even some individuals have so far been very generous donators to PfC’s cause.

PfC is known in the community and region for its effective work in facilitating its member churches’ engagement in collaborative efforts to promote peace and justice in the homes of the community. Member churches know that PfC is an organization that can link their local ministries with the needs of the community. PfC is also known for its success in working proactively with legislators to promote legislation that supports its mission. Its member churches are recognized for their local ministries and faith-based social programs. Some are also receiving national attention from their denominations or associations for both their programs as well as for working collaboratively with other churches while maintaining their individual church identity.

To date, PfC has been involved in the start-up of six ongoing programs or ministries where they played a significant role as initiator or facilitator. Its effective leadership led to the opening of the McLean County Family Violence Center. This center is the first such center in the State of Illinois and has led to significant reductions in incidents of domestic violence in the County. PfC’s *Recycling for Families* program provides household furniture, appliances, and other family necessities to needy families. This program has successfully mobilized area churches and community organizations for this effort. In addition, it recently was granted HUD funds to help finance the program.

2D. Oklahoma's *Faithlinks* Initiative and the Cornerstone Assistance Network

Oklahoma's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives has the mission of "Helping Oklahoma's poor and needy by promoting collaboration between State agencies and faith-based/community organizations to provide social services." Oklahoma's program is called *Faithlinks Oklahoma*. The Cornerstone Assistance Network is one of the State's prominent intermediary organizations. Since its inception, Cornerstone's mission has been to "enable the Church to take a more active role in liberating people from both physical and spiritual poverty." Its purpose is to accomplish this mission by "connecting people in need with Christians who care."

Cornerstone was awarded a \$60,000 contract by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services in April 2001 to act as in an intermediary role with the 2,771 faith communities in the forty-seven counties in Western Oklahoma. The funding was not designated to cover all the contract's costs. Cornerstone had to raise private funds (over \$25,000) to pay for the required staff and other contract related expenses. The CAN office in Tulsa, which serves Eastern Oklahoma including the Tulsa area, was awarded a \$40,000 similar type of contract.

As an intermediary, Cornerstone assists Oklahoma DHS by:

Cornerstone's Role for DHS

- Helping to recruit, train, and support congregations to provide more social services;
- Being the contact point for agencies desiring to connect with numerous faith groups; and
- Building trust between agencies and congregations by interpreting to each other the one different organizational culture of the other.

As an intermediary, Cornerstone assists congregations by:

Cornerstone's Role for its Congregations

- Identifying selected strategies, resources, best practices, and accountability features to address the needs of the homeless, poor, and those reliant on welfare;
- Helping them to understand the culture, value, and policies of public and private agencies; and
- Equipping them to contract, screen, and assist needy individuals and families.

The public funds for this contract are provided by DHS on a "reimbursable" basis. This means that Cornerstone must file expense reports and receives payment only for specific provisions called for in its contract. This simplifies the segregation and accounting of funds and insures that public funds are used only for public purposes- and prevents co-mingling of public and private funds. Cornerstone assists and reports to Oklahoma's *Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives* for this contract.

3. SITE VISIT SUMMARY

The following summary was provided by Doug Poag, Executive Director, Partners for Community, Bloomington, Illinois.

3A. Purpose

Our purpose was to visit an established faith-based, intermediary organization (the Cornerstone Assistance Network in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma) to learn the “nuts and bolts” of how their organization is working to bring more church resources into addressing and preventing poverty. We had asked to meet with representatives from the Oklahoma faith-based liaison’s office as well as with persons from agencies and churches with whom Cornerstone was working in this effort.

We were seeking information in the following areas:

1. How does CAN facilitate churches working together to care for the poor?
2. How does CAN learn about the needs of the communities-do they have a process for getting input from Oklahoma’s Department of Human Services or other agencies?
3. How does CAN assist churches in determining what specific social ministries might be a “good fit” for them?
4. How does CAN assist churches in finding “best practices” models for their social ministries?
5. How does the Oklahoma Department of Human Services see the intermediary concept working?
6. How is the intermediary concept working with churches?

In all of the above, our intent was to learn all we could from an established organization about being more effective as an intermediary in our area. Our mission statement reads as follows: “As a faith-based, intermediary organization, our mission is to prevent violence, support families, and promote peaceful homes, by facilitating and fostering community partnerships through education and interaction.”

Illinois Participants

1. Doug Poag, Executive Director, Partners for Community, Ph: 309 828-6443 Fax: 309 820-0319, e-mail: pfc.partners@gte.net
2. Pastor Fred Nettles, Public Service Administrator with Illinois Department of Human Services and Downstate Coordinator for Illinois’ *Partners for Hope* program, Ph: 217 782-1268, Fax: 217 785-9779 email: dhscoaw@dhs.state.il.us

3. Pastor Jones Dyson, Pastor/Counselor, Church of the Cross, Rt. 3 Box 403, Momence, IL 60954 Ph. 815 944 6410 Fax 815 944-5940 email: boodcrew@aol.com

Oklahoma City Participants

Christian Leadership Foundation
Kevin E. Jacobs
405 236-5253
101 North Robinson
Suite 101
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
clfokc@coxinet.net

Cornerstone Assistance Network
Scott Manley
405-557-1811
Car Phone 405 414-8040
P.O. Box 20629
Oklahoma City, OK 73156
scott@cornerstoneokc.org

Cornerstone Assistance Network
Russ Urquhart
405 948 3378
PO Box 20629
Oklahoma City, OK 73156
russ@cornerstoneokc.org

Cornerstone Assistance Network
Todd Mosely
405-557-1811
P.O. Box 20629
Oklahoma City, OK 73156

Holy Temple Baptist Church
George E. Young
405 424 1860
1540 NE 50th
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

Juvenile Court of Oklahoma City
Hon. Roger Stuart

Oklahoma City, OK 73111

Urban Impact Foundation
Alonzo Cheatham
405 810-8675
908 ME 91st
Oklahoma City OK 73114

Olivet Baptist Church
Dr. Steve Kern
405 942 3504
1201 NW Tenth Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

State of Oklahoma Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
Brad Yarborough
Director
405 271-1742
1000 Northeast 10th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73117
E-mail: brady@health.state.ok.us

3B. Session Summary

General Observations Summary

The site visit was comprised of six events:

- 1. Cornerstone Assistance Network, with presentations from Scott Manley, Executive Director and Russ Urquhart, Program Director. (event one)*

We were given a summary of the history of CAN and then a report on the intermediary contract CAN has with the State of Oklahoma, Department of Human Services. Scott Manley, is the founder of CAN and the person behind CAN's desire to bring churches into the effort of caring for the poor. He spoke of how he became interested in doing the work CAN is involved in. Scott emphasized two concepts that were both fundamental and recurrent throughout all of the events of the site visit, specifically:

- Keep hold of relationship as the key concept
- Keep hold of Mother Teresa's statement, "It's not success that we're called to, it's faithfulness."

This introduction from Scott was the beginning of what I believe was the most valuable lesson of the visit; the role of the intermediary is not a neat, linear and controllable role but is rather a less

concrete proposition of facilitating and encouraging relationships in response to God's leading. I also want to add that while this is a case, there is still an opportunity to observe measurable outcomes from the activities of the intermediary.

Russ Urquhart is the primary employee under the Oklahoma contract. He began with what is desired, - a collaboration between government and the faith community in addressing the issue of poverty. He said that from government's side, there is a tremendous residue of antagonism; faith-based organizations are viewed as not professional, not reliable, not trustworthy--" the soup's going to be cold and they'll be slipping them tracts."

The answer is the church must be trained. Pastor Nettles asked, " Is part of the training about charitable choice?" Russ said only minimally, and that they had found out was that the vast majority of collaboration was non-financial. The intermediary organization can equip the church.

The church does not know:

- What to do--they are in a "target rich environment" but do not know how to get to the targets
- How to do it--churches have been burned or they are frightened

Furthermore, the church may face "deficiencies" that hinder moving forward on social ministries.

- They lack resources (this may be perceived or real)
- They lack the will

Russ said that CAN's strategy is to first "fly" over the churches and find out which ones are alive. "After doing this, they work with the church to address the areas where knowledge is needed as well as assist the church in coping with 'deficiencies.'"

Scott interjected: "We think collaboration happens at lowest possible level. You need general high level agreement, but collaboration really gets down to an individual governmental person and a church person."

Anytime CAN creates a system for collaboration, they have four principles which are preconditions to their promoting the system. They ask the question: "Is the system..."

1. replicable
2. simple (re-teachable)
3. expandable
4. inspect-able (accountability)

The first step of their intermediary contract was the Office of Faith Based & Community Initiatives Liaison sending out 6000 questionnaires, accompanied by a letter signed by the Governor, to all the churches in Oklahoma. There have been, to date, 789 responses. CAN's

portion of these 789 responses is approximately 500. In regards to these, Scott said, “So far, we’ve processed about 200 and have found about 100 worth following-up on.”

This follow-up process has been handled partially by a volunteer who was trained to do an initial follow-up phone call. After this call, if the church is interested, Russ meets with the pastor. So far, he has met with pastors at about 30 churches, with a proposal that they get involved in the *Adopt-a-Caseworker* Program. Twenty-five of them have responded positively. The basis he uses for getting the appointment is, “here is what you do, here is what we do –let’s see if there is any way to get together.”

At this appointment, Russ presents each church with a range of opportunities to do social ministry. However, *Adopt-a-Caseworker* is the lead program CAN recommends as an entry point for a church into social ministry. This program has the stated purposes of:

1. Providing more resources to assist adults, children and families being served by the worker
2. Involving the religious community in the effort to reduce the impact of poverty and other social problems in the community
3. Providing support to the worker

In this program, the congregation appoints a liaison, and the liaison is the only person knowing the identity of the caseworker and Prayer Partners. The liaison invites members of their church to commit to daily prayer for the caseworker and sign a commitment form that includes a confidentiality agreement. Prayer partners are given the caseworker’s first name or initials and any other information the worker agrees to provide. They are not given contact information. The caseworker controls the content and volume of information being shared. The ultimate objective is to have church members working in concert with frontline caseworkers in caring, mentoring relationships with clients, and the client’s full participation in the life of the sponsoring church. This is the ultimate “extension” of the basic program, with a number of other “extensions” possible under a structured system that is always predicated on request by the caseworker and with all participants’ agreement.

Key lessons from this presentation and discussion center around the essentially relational nature of collaboration between churches and government (in the social ministry arena and what I would term the “reflective observer” role of the intermediary). The intermediary looks for faintly glowing embers of interest on the part of the church, church person, the agency and caseworker. Only after these embers are discovered or uncovered are attempts made to actually light the fire of collaboration. In retrospect, I believe the learning here will save Partners for Community and churches many hours of trying to get collaboration going where the interest is nonexistent. This will mean we can spend that time where the efforts can actually bear fruit, i.e., alleviate the suffering of poverty in our community with collaboration between churches and government.

2. *Oklahoma Office of Faith-Based & Community Initiatives Liaison, with a presentation from Brad Yarborough, Director (event two)*

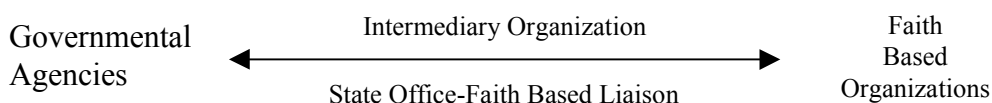
The mission of this office is “Helping Oklahoma’s poor and needy by promoting collaboration between state agencies and faith-based and community organizations to provide social services.”

In his presentation, Brad went on to tell us, “After we identified our mission, the job was informing people about the mission. At first, we thought this meant we had to inform people about Charitable Choice. We encountered three obstacles to Charitable Choice:

1. Procedural
2. Political
3. Personal

Knowing that there were obstacles to Charitable Choice/Faith-Based Initiatives, we recognized that to get different results we had to change a variable so not to repeat the same process again and again. In our formula, $Y = f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x \dots)$ where Y equals results, with the results being the function of variables (x). This was where the idea of the intermediary came from.”

The role of the intermediary is, as diagrammed:



The intermediary will spend most of its time with faith-based organizations. The state affiliated faith-based liaison will spend most of its time with governmental agencies.

The faith-based organization must be aware that the only thing the government cares about is a social purpose, i.e., fewer homeless persons, fewer battered women, etc. It cannot appropriately be concerned about transforming lives.

Originally, the concept of faith-based initiatives had inherent in it the idea of contracts and funding. The administration took off (using a football metaphor), and while it expected to get hit from the left, it was blind-sided and tackled at the two-yard line by the conservative Christian right who were very concerned about non-Christian groups like Muslims or Scientologists gaining access to funds.

What has happened in recent months is that advisors to the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, including Brad, are advising that the question of funding, the issue of

money, be pulled out of the center of the Administration's efforts regarding faith-based and community initiatives.

The reality is that there are very few contracts available in any event. Most contracts are in the hands of large organizations and agencies that have years of history in dealing with the government. These contracts, for practical purposes, are not accessible by faith-based organizations. More importantly, the issue for the church is not finding funding, but rather it is about connecting people in need with holistic, transformational ministries. The experience from many places is that you start with God's direction and a heart for the ministry, and the money will be there. What is required for transformational ministries the church can offer are relationships with the suffering persons the ministry is intended to help. Relationships with government and secular agencies, while providing faithful and thoughtful care to those in need, will result in increased access to governmental revenue streams in a natural way.

Pittsburg County Project

Brad handed out materials on the Pittsburg County Project. The materials, consisting of a two-page overview of the Project and several letters written by Brad Yarborough to the Department of Human Services participants, the Cabinet Secretary of Oklahoma's Health, Human Services, and the Director of the Department of Human Services. The following steps were outlined:

1. A meeting was held between DHS staff and local ministers to invite the faith community to assist DHS in helping the poor and needy. A representative of Cornerstone Assistance Network in Tulsa (not affiliated with the CAN we visited in Oklahoma City) was on hand to explain their intermediary role.
2. A second meeting was held for DHS to list specific services and programs needed in order to serve their clients. Churches were asked to consider hosting such services and programs as part of their outreach ministry to the community. Among the requested programs were the following:
 - a. Parenting Skills
 - b. Personal Finance Class
 - c. *Adopt-a-School* (In-School Supply Store)
 - d. *Adopt-a-Caseworker*
 - e. Transportation for TANF Clients
 - f. Respite Care for Custodians of Children
 - g. Abstinence Programs for Teens
 - h. Home Repair & Maintenance
 - i. Medical Clinic
 - j. Medicaid & Sooner Care Sign-Up Drives
 - k. Home Visits
 - l. Foster Parent Recruitment
3. A third meeting was held with a presentation from Cornerstone reminding faith-based organizations that it could provide training for any of the programs launched in this

project. Persons in attendance wanted to “get to the front lines” of the battle where DHS needed help.

4. Several of the faith-based organizations in attendance are now launching specific programs with Cornerstone offering its assistance. The resultant program will then be integrated into the DHS lineup of available services to its clients.
5. In addition, the idea of a Resource Directory was discussed with a very positive response. The Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives is proceeding with this idea.

Brad said that with the Pittsburg County Project, “I’m talking about needs-based collaboration.”

Key lessons from this event are focused on the issue of separating money as a fundamental issue from the subject of collaboration. For the writer, this was the first time that I heard and was convinced that collaboration between government and the faith community in this area is about relationships, not dollars. Thus, relationships between agency people and church people, along with relationships between church people and clients, are at the heart of what the intermediary is about. Our job is not primarily about helping to secure governmental funding for church-based social ministries.

In addition, I found the approach of the “Pittsburg Project”-the approach of “needs-based” collaboration-to be of interest. I am unclear, however, on the extent to which this might end up expending much effort to start a fire where no ember exists. I am left with the option, however, of contacting Mr. Yarborough’s office in the future and finding out the actual outcomes from the Pittsburg Project, and letting that inform my thinking.

3. *Other Four Events/Discussions During the Visit* (events four through six):

- Youth Impact Program with Alonzo Cheatham
- Judge Robert Stuart, the Chief Juvenile Judge of the Circuit. Judge Stuart is working with Cornerstone and with several area churches to refer juveniles to volunteers at churches with the “Faith to Government” initiative.
- George E. Young, Pastor of Holy Temple Baptist Church & Kevin E. Jacobs, President of the Christian Leadership Foundation. Pastor Young is also involved with the “Faith to Government” initiative. The Christian Leadership Foundation is modeled after the Pittsburg Leadership Foundation. Its goal is to improve communities with the support of local church leaders.
- Dr. Steve Kern, Pastor of Olivet Baptist Church-Dr Kern is the pastor of this inner city Southern Baptist Church and has been involved in starting 49 social ministries over the past six years. They work with medical and dental clinics as well as local elementary schools. He says, his experience has been, “save your community, save your church.”

Lessons Learned

The key lessons happened in the first two events (visit with CAN and visit with the Oklahoma Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Liaison Office), with additional events all being extremely worthwhile supporting amplifications and elaborations on the themes of:

- Being an intermediary is not straight-forward and mechanical-at its heart it is about relationships
 - A relationship between church persons and agency persons
 - A relationship between caring persons and persons in need
- An intermediary does not create the collaboration, but rather it connects interested and willing persons from the agency side and from the church side to accomplish tasks where “working together” is a precondition to the service being rendered
- The role of the intermediary is not fundamentally connected with obtaining funding for faith-based social ministries
- Being an intermediary is about gently, persistently, thoughtfully fanning the embers of collaboration while realizing that as an intermediary you are not responsible for the flame

PfC Compared To and Contrasted With Cornerstone Assistance Network

PfC and CAN share almost identical goals. Our history differs and our approach to date has differed, but we are after the same result, which is connecting caring people from the faith community with people in need. CAN of Oklahoma City, and to a lesser extent, CAN of Tulsa, offer a model that is more developed for facilitating this happening. In addition, because these programs offer a model which is receiving State DHS funding, we can work with the Illinois Department of Human Services to obtain funding for this role. This is funding that, from our experience, is very difficult to obtain by other means. The role of the intermediary organization when applied to the faith community and social services is extremely new. It is hard to explain for “grass-roots” fundraising attempts, and private foundation or corporate funding seems to be virtually nonexistent. Government recognizing, as Brad Yarborough said in his presentation that Charitable Choice has not worked, that nothing changes if nothing changes, and that intermediary organizations represent that “changed variable” to bring about collaboration and more churches being involved in delivering social services to the poor.

Implementation of Lessons Learned

Partners for Community

Given what we learned during this visit, our intention is to implement what we have learned by first seeking to implement the *Adopt-a-Caseworker* program with our Partner Member churches. We will concurrently seek funding from or via Illinois Department of Human Services as an

intermediary organization to finance our conducting an Oklahoma-modeled survey of area churches. Afterward, we plan to work with identified churches to implement the *Adopt-a-Caseworker* program as well as let them know about other needed social ministries in our community.

We will also explore the possibility of implementing a program modeled on “The Pittsburg Project” after learning more details about the outcomes from this program in Oklahoma.

4. FINAL REMARKS

All those who participated in this site visit found it to be an extremely valuable experience. Partners for Community gained insights into next steps that it could take on its own as well as in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Human Services. Both organizations plan to share their lessons learned with their partner churches as well as collaborating local agencies. In addition, they would like to continue to work with Cornerstone in promoting the intermediary concept in the State of Illinois. One potential next step option being explored is for Scott Manley and his staff to visit churches and community organizations with staff from the Partners for Community and ILDHS. They also commented that they are willing to discuss their future plans, as well as the vision of the intermediary concept, with any organization that contacts them.

The Illinois Department of Human Services will be holding a statewide Faith Conference on May 22-23, 2002 for its Partners for Hope and community-based partners around the State. The conference will be held in Springfield May 22 and Chicago on May 23. It will focus on the role of faith-based organizations in today’s era of welfare reform. Charitable Choice, as well as recent national legislation regarding faith-based institutions will be discussed at the conference. The State expects over 350 attendees to participate, network, share ideas, and continue the process of building community partnerships. The work Cornerstone is doing, along with the intermediary concept in general, will be a topic of discussion during this conference.

For questions concerning the Welfare Peer Technical Assistance Network, contact John Horejsi (ACF Federal Project Officer) at (202) 401-5031/e-mail jhorejsi@acf.dhhs.gov; or Blake Austensen (AFYA, Inc.- contractor) at (301) 270-0841, ext 215/e-mail baustensen@afyainc.com. More welfare related information is available on the Welfare Peer Technical Assistance Network web site at www.calib.com/peerta.

REFERENCES

Arthur E. Farnsley II, *Ten Good Questions About Faith-based Partnerships and Welfare Reform* (Indianapolis: The Polis Center at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, 2000).

A Look At Faith-Based Programs. (Welfare Peer Technical Assistance Network, September 2001). Accessible at www.calib.com/peerta/taevents/pdf/faithprog.pdf.

(This is the summary of the Workshop described in the *Background* section of this report.)

A Guide to Charitable Choice: The Rules of Section 104 of the 1996 Federal Welfare Law Governing State Cooperation with Faith-based Social Service Providers (Washington, DC: Center for Public Justice, and Annandale, Virginia: Center for Law and Religious Freedom of the Christian Legal Society, January 1997). Accessible at www.cpjustice.org.

Amy L. Sherman, *The Charitable Choice Handbook for Ministry Leaders* (Washington, DC: Center for Public Justice, 2001). Accessible by contacting The Center for Public Justice at (410) 571-6300 or www.cpjustice.org.

Faith-Based Partnerships: Charitable Choice and State TANF Programs (Welfare Peer Technical Assistance Network, September 2001). Accessible at www.calib.com/peerta/pdf/charitablechoices.pdf.

(Helpful resource that explains the provisions of Charitable Choice and describes promising practices from around the country.)

Gretchen M. Griener, "Charitable Choice and Welfare Reform: Collaboration between State and Local Governments and Faith-Based Organizations," *Welfare Information Network Issue Notes*, September 2000. Accessible at www.welfareinfo.org.

Jessica Yates, "Frequently Asked Questions from State and Local Agencies About Involving the Faith Community in Welfare Reform," *Welfare Information Network FAQ: A Special Publication to Respond to Frequently Asked Questions* (November 1998). Accessible at www.welfareinfo.org.

LaDonna Pavetti, et. al., *The Role of Intermediaries in Linking TANF Recipients with Jobs*, February 2000. (Available at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/intermediaries00/index.htm>).

(This is a study by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., on behalf of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation/Department of Health and Human Services. It examines how widely intermediaries are used, who these intermediaries are, how they operate, and the issues they face in linking welfare recipients with jobs.)

HELPFUL WEB SITES

Administration for Children and Families/Department of Health and Human Services:
www.acf.dhhs.gov (with links to the Office of Family Assistance)

Bush Administration Executive Order: White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives: <http://usinfo.State.gov/usa/faith/exordr01.htm>

Center for Public Justice: www.cpjustice.org

Compassion Capital Fund/HHS: www.hhs.gov/faith/compass.html

(For FY 2002, Congress appropriated \$30 million to HHS for the new Compassion Capital Fund, part of the Bush Administration's Faith-Based and Community Initiative. Funds will be used for grants to public/private partnerships that help small faith-based and community-based organizations replicate or expand model social services programs and to support and promote evaluations on "best practices" among charitable organizations. Details on this competitive process will be posted on this site when they become available.)

Holistic Hardware: www.holistichardware.com

(Private organization that equips ministers, social workers, volunteers, and others in helping professions to help people effectively help themselves by attaining life skills in times of transition. Produces *TOOLLINE*: A monthly electronic newsletter for faith-based workers, welfare reformers, and poverty fighters.)

Indiana Department of Human Services homepage with link to the Indiana FaithWorks program: www.state.in.us/fssa (FaithWorks own web site is www.state.in.us/fssa/faithworks)

Oklahoma Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives: www.state.ok.us/~faithlinks/

The Polis Center (Indiana University Perdue University Indianapolis): www.thepoliscenter.iupui.edu

Welfare Peer Technical Assistance Network: www.calib.com/peerta/policies/based.htm#faith

Welfare Information Network: www.welfareinfo.org/faithbase.htm