



Friday Night Facts

Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor
James F. Huston, Executive Director

August 19th, 2011

Message from the Executive Director:



At the end of June I received my appointment as the new Executive Director for the Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives. I am excited about the opportunity to serve and to work with great professionals at the staff level, and working with the committed leadership of the Commissioners who serve on the Indiana Commission on Service and Volunteerism, and the faith leaders who serve in the Indiana Faith Based Advisory Council.

The goals for the OFBCI include; delivering great service to our grantees involved in AmeriCorps, Mitch's Kids, COAD housing capacity building, and the Housing Assistance initiative lead by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority and by extension to all Hoosiers. OFBCI will focus time and energy to create a one stop shop portal for faith based and community organizations to access the full gambit of opportunity to serve Hoosiers through grants, contracts and fee for service offerings available in state government. And perhaps most importantly, the OFBCI is committed to lifting up the spirit and examples of great service and volunteerism of individuals, groups and businesses operating in the private sector— acting in the interest of the community good and

Quick Links:

[Indiana OFBCI](#)

[2011 Governor's Conference](#)

[AmeriCorps Indiana](#)

[State of Indiana](#)

Community Events:

- [Catalyst X-Change Training](#)
- [Church Security Session](#)
- [Fellowship of Christian Counselors Conference](#)
- [The Indiana Nonprofit Capacity Building Conference](#)
- [Step Out Walk To Stop Diabetes](#)
- [Y-Achievers Scholarship Banquet](#)

AmeriCorps Grant Public Interest Sessions:

Wednesday August 24

1pm – 4pm CT

American Red Cross of Northwestern Indiana

791 East 83rd Ave, Merrillville IN 46410

demonstrating how Hoosiers help Hoosiers.

Thank you for following the OFBCI through our Friday Night Facts newsletter. We look forward to sharing with you some of the exciting opportunities and challenges we will be tackling in the coming months.

Jim Huston

Member Highlight :

Ryan Ellsworth, HabiCorps: Muncie Habitat for Humanity



Serving for HabiCorps has been a really great experience. I came into the program knowing that I wanted to use my degree in architecture to serve people in my community and to gain more experience on the construction site. This service opportunity has allowed me to do just that. Beginning last September 2010, I have been able to lead the effort to increase sustainable building practices at our affiliate. Energy efficient construction and materials, waste management, new house designs, and a diversified range of services (like house rehabs and home repair) are just a few of the ideas we are implementing this year.

Serving as an AmeriCorps member however is not just about increasing your own abilities, it's about engaging with other like-minded individuals to build relationships and work together in community. It's been so much fun to serve with great people who are passionate about using their skills to serve others.

I know that my time with AmeriCorps will do more than help me to be a better architect. In addition to building and construction skills, this service opportunity has stretched my leadership and communication abilities. Multiple times per week I am leading crews of volunteers and collaborating with people all over our city to complete projects and create new partnerships. I am learning that success in this business is really about working together and allowing our individual strengths to contribute to new ideas and great projects. Serving with AmeriCorps is a great way to develop values

Thursday, August 25 10am – 1pm EST

The Logan Center
2505 E. Jefferson Blvd, South Bend, IN 46615

Friday, August 26

10am – 1pm EST
Allen County Public Library
900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Wednesday August 31

10am – 1pm EST
Indiana Government Center South, **Conference room 22**
302 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Thurs. September 1

10am – 1pm EST
Kokomo – Howard County Public Library
220 North Union Street, Kokomo IN 46901

For more information on Public Interest sessions

contact Jeremy Gaskill at: jgaskill@ofbci.in.gov



9/11 Service Project Resources

There are numerous resources that will help individuals and/or organizations coordinate service projects for 9/11.

- [An overview](#) of the 9/11 Day of Service.
- [Post tributes](#) and formally register 9/11 service projects.
- [Helpful resources](#) and tool kits for coordinating 9/11-focused service projects.

and skills that will go with you anywhere you go.

Learn more about HabiCorps on their [website](#) and on [Facebook](#).

2011 Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism Update:



First Lady Cheri Daniels will be welcoming attendees the 2011 Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism on October 12, 2011. Come hear her speak, network with leading individuals in your community, and gain valuable knowledge through the breakout sessions. For more information [click here](#)

AmeriCorps Recruiting:

Indiana's AmeriCorps programs are now recruiting participants for the 2011-2012 program year. You can learn more about available service opportunities by referring to the AmeriCorps [website](#). To find out what AmeriCorps is doing in your own community visit [OFBCI's website](#).

Get Involved in the September 11 National Day of Service & Remembrance



September 11, 2011, marks the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, as well as the federally recognized National Day of Service and Remembrance. In observance of this important and historic milestone, you're invited to join thousands of other groups, and millions of people that plan to pay tribute as part of the single-largest charitable service effort in U.S. history.

Beginning in 2002, family members who lost loved ones in the 9/11 attacks began to seek a forward-looking tribute to honor the sacrifice of those lost and pay tribute to those who rose in service. The Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives along with the Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism is encouraging all citizens in Indiana to participate in service as part of the 10th anniversary of 9/11 by coordinating local projects that are clearly linked to the observance of the National Day of Service and Remembrance and should be implemented on or near September 11, 2011.

News That is Useful to You:

If you would like to see something in Friday Night Facts please email AmyAstansfield@gov.in.gov

Register your 9/11 Service Project



As was mentioned above, you can [formally register](#) your 9/11 service project and/or tribute. Registering projects is an important part of any National Day of Service and Remembrance for the following reasons:

- It allows you to recruit additional volunteers to assist in your local efforts.
- It helps the OFBCI, and other key partners, to document and track the various projects occurring locally and across the state.
- It raises awareness with the media and others about the specific 9/11 activities that will be occurring.

Please register your September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance project as soon as you have enough details to do so.

Inclusion Infusion: Person First Language

Using proper language is not simply a matter of being politically correct. The key to person-first language is very basic, people with disabilities are humans first, the disability is only a part of who they are and therefore, should not define them. Examples include: a person who is blind instead of a blind person or an individual with epilepsy instead of an epileptic. It is really the same for all people. If we define people with disabilities as their disability, it is unfair to them and not a comprehensive picture of the person they really are.

Where Technology Meets Disaster Preparedness:

For nearly a week now, the stage collapse at the Indiana State Fair has captivated audiences with the harrowing accounts of survivors and the ever-saddening stories of the five fatalities. However, Hoosiers have also been reminded of hope through tragedy, as volunteers spontaneously turned to help and as technology offered often underutilized ways to assure well-being to loved ones.

It is in the vein of these hopeful actions that Hoosiers find the inspiration to be aware and to be prepared. Networks of resources allowed the City of Indianapolis to quickly respond, calm the crowds, and bring together resources present in and around the city. When it wasn't possible to make a call from the fairgrounds, word was spread via text messaging, Facebook, Twitter, and the RedCross Safe and Well website. In many ways, the Indianapolis Metro responders exemplified the functions of an operational COAD, and the network of community members embraced a variety of methods to respond to the disaster – especially technology.

So as everyone remembers this past Saturday, it's important to reiterate that there are and will be opportunities for

communities across the state to work with the Indiana OFBCI, Indiana VOAD, and Indiana Department of Homeland Security to promote and support collaborative disaster planning. Whether it is by connecting an organization with an established local COAD, helping to set up a new one, or even learning how to spread the word that individuals impacted by disaster have new ways to give their family a message saying "I'm Okay".

[Read more](#) about Indiana VOAD, volunteer response, and COADs.

[Read more](#) about OFBCI, disaster preparedness, and COAD development.