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NEWS FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Minnesota Council of Churches

March 10, 2010



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News

Peg Reports to White House

Yesterday MCC Executive Director Rev. Peg Chamberlin was in Washington D.C. to take part in the White House Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships' formal presentation of recommendations to President Obama. The Washington Post has an [excellent article](#) about the Advisory Council's recommendations on key topics such as how the government can best partner with faith communities and how faith communities can help end poverty. Congratulations to Peg on the conclusion of her year of service to the Advisory Council.

You Helped Save GAMC, Thank You!

Thank you to everyone that helped save GAMC. Your pressure encouraged Governor Tim Pawlenty and key lawmakers to find a compromise on General Assistance Medical Care, or GAMC late last Friday. Discover more about the power of your voice at JRLC's Day on the Hill on Thursday, March 25th, 8:30am to 4pm. To [register](#) visit www.jrlc.org/day-on-the-hill.

Faith As It Relates to Torture

Is torture often or sometimes justified? If you are a regular churchgoer, you are 5% more likely than an average U.S. citizen to answer yes to this question, and you are 12% more likely than people who seldom or never worship to respond yes. These statistics sparked the Minnesota Council of Churches to partner with the National Religious Campaign Against Torture to encourage reflection on torture and faith. Read more about the conversations this partnership sparked in Methodist churches at <http://www.umbcs.org/site/c.frLJK2PKLqF/b.3794227/apps/s/content.asp?ct=8036131>.

Upcoming Events

Help Resettled Refugees Take Root

Thursday, March 11, 2010, 6pm to 8:30pm

MN Church Center, 122 Franklin Avenue W, Minneapolis, MN 55404

Learn how you can be a part of a Muslim-Christian team sponsoring a refugee family arriving in Minnesota 2010. This information session covers the sponsorship process and how you can be part of welcoming the stranger. For more information contact Gail Anderson, Director of Unity and Relationships, at (612)230.3210 or gail.anderson@mnchurches.org or visit <http://www.mnchurches.org/programs/christian-unity/TakingRoot.html>.

Young Adult Legislative Advocacy Training

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Thursday March 11, 2010, 6pm to 8pm

Hamline University ,The Hub (Lower Level of Bush Student Center), 1536 Hewitt Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55104-1284

Join us for a special training event by young adults for young adults who want to engage in legislative advocacy at Day-on-the-Hill. Come for the free dinner and stay for valuable information on how to speak with your legislators, current local justice issues, and techniques for an interfaith approach to advocacy. This event is sponsored by the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, Hamline University Religious and Spiritual Life Programs and co-sponsored by the New Fire Movement of the National Council of Churches. To RSVP or for [more information](#) contact Alison Killeen at Alison@jrhc.org.

Advocate

Hunger Affects Everyone!

More than 50% of adult food shelf visitors are employed and 65% make less than \$1,000 a month, not enough to cover their basic needs. Give today to Minnesota's largest annual food drive, MN FoodShare's March Campaign. MN FoodShare is a program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, co-sponsored by the Minnesota Council of Churches. To learn more about how hunger affects everyone and how you can participate in the [March Campaign](#) visit <http://mnfoodshare.gmcc.org/index.php>.

Resources

Refugee Speakers Bureau

Want your congregation to hear personal accounts of determination, tragedy, joy, wisdom and hope from resettled refugees? Explore the ministry of hospitality or hear a refugee tell his or her story. Contact Kristin Zoellner in MCC's Refugee Services to schedule a [Refugee Speakers Bureau](#) presentation today at (612) 230-3219 or kristin.zoellner@mnchurches.org.

INSPIRATION OF THE WEEK

We don't accomplish anything in this world alone ... and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something.

~Sandra Day O' Connor

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