

Interfaith Coalition for Compassion and Justice

Raising individuals and families out of poverty

ICCJ



2004 Annual Report

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Executive Director's Message

Looking back over the past year, generous donations from individuals, faith-based organizations, businesses, and others enabled our programs to strengthen their capabilities to provide increased services.

Our annual recognition dinner and silent auction, held Jan. 30, 2005, at Chapel Rock Conference Center, was well attended—despite having to be rescheduled because of a snow-storm. Father Richard DeTore from Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church and Rabbi David Lipman from Temple B'rith Shalom provided the evening's entertainment.

About 100 items—donated by local artists, businesses, and individuals—were auctioned and netted about \$4,000 to help ICCJ achieve its mission. ICCJ works to meet the emergency needs of people, empower them toward self-sufficiency, and advocate for systemic changes to alleviate the root causes of poverty. ICCJ believes that everyone has a right to a decent standard of living, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care. These needs are addressed through our three outreach programs: Open Door, Home Repair, and Circles of Support.

Looking forward

As we move forward, we are planning our biggest advocacy event yet. *Raising Arizona Out of Poverty and Into Prosperity* is a three-day conference (May 12-14) designed to educate,

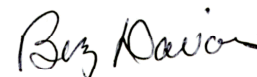
encourage, energize, empower, and equip those who seek to bring an end to poverty in Arizona.

Workshops will include: Breaking the Cycle of Poverty Through Education, Understanding the Poverty Perspective, Challenges Facing Law Enforcement, Medicare Benefits in Plain Language, Working for Solutions to Poverty, and Homelessness and Poverty as Public Policy.

Presenters include: Tom O'Halleran, Arizona House of Representatives; John McKnight, professor at Northwestern University; Scott Miller, co-founder of the MOVE the Mountain Leadership Center; Randal Amster, professor at Prescott College; and David Bems, director of the Arizona Department of Economic Security. Workshops will be held at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the Prescott United Methodist Church.

"Faces of Poverty: Telling Our Stories," a juried fine art exhibit, will be shown concurrently with the conference. Pieces will be in galleries throughout downtown Prescott.

Each day that we operate, our vision to be a compassionate and just community becomes clearer. As we continue to grow, the challenges we face also grow. Join us by volunteering and making a difference in your community.



"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give,"
Sir Winston Churchill

ICCJ—An Introduction

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Mission and Vision

The Interfaith Coalition for Compassion and Justice (ICCJ) is a nonprofit organization committed to supporting and developing cooperative efforts to provide services to people in need. The organization seeks to identify unmet essential human needs, to advocate for systemic changes to alleviate the root causes of poverty and homelessness, and to initiate programs to fill service gaps to improve the health, well being, and common welfare of the people in Central Yavapai County.

ICCJ works in collaboration with nonprofit social service agencies, local government, and business. Goals include:

- Educating the community in areas of compassion and justice and gaining their involvement;
- Advocating for change; building relationships with businesses and civic groups;
- Providing emergency services; and
- Optimizing resources toward alleviating poverty and homelessness.

ICCJ envisions a compassionate and just community that meets the health and well-being needs among people of Central Yavapai County.

History

In the fall of 2000, a survey of various congregations, faith-based, and other local nonprofit organizations was conducted in

the tri-city area of Central Yavapai County to determine the services currently being provided to people in low-income, homeless, and crisis situations. The most important finding that emerged was that critical social and human needs were not being met. ICCJ was incorporated in September 2001 as a 501(C)(3) nonprofit corporation to meet those needs.

ICCJ is a coalition of nearly two dozen faith-based organizations, nonprofit social service agencies, and individuals. The members of ICCJ represent a diversity of beliefs and faiths. To underscore that diversity, member congregations commit to the principle of not proselytizing or imposing doctrine upon program services recipients, believing instead “the sermon is in the soup;” that our acts of compassion and justice are the message.

ICCJ’s members are committed to initiating and supporting cooperative efforts that provide services for disadvantaged community members.

Its mission is to identify and seek remedies to improve the health, well being, and common good of the people of central Yavapai County.

Although a young organization, ICCJ is attracting new members as word of its mission is carried throughout the tri-city area. A critical strategy for ICCJ is to encourage more faith communities and organizations to join in this effort, thereby expanding the capacity to initiate and develop services to those in need.

ICCJ—An Introduction

The mission of ICCJ is to meet the emergency needs of people, empower them toward self-sufficiency, and advocate for systemic changes to alleviate the root causes of poverty.



ICCJ believes that everyone has a right to a decent standard of living, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care. These needs are addressed through our three outreach programs: Open Door, Home Repair, and Circles of Support.

Open Door

Open Door provides meals, clothing, showers, bedding, and vouchers for basic needs to homeless and low-income people.

In 2004 Open Door provided emergency services to more individuals and families than ever before. Automobiles donated to ICCJ and Open Door have proved to be one of the keys to self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Open Door's new adult education programs, its

continued rent and utility assistance vouchers, and its information and referral help to those in need have all helped individuals and families remain in and move toward self-sufficiency.

Home Repair

Our members assist low-income homeowners living in substandard conditions by using donated funds, materials, and services to perform needed health and safety related repairs. The repairs made by Home Repair allow our neighbors to remain in their homes with a safe and healthy environment. Home Repair is the only interfaith program in the area that performs home repairs for clients in the community at large.

Circles of Support

Circles of Support is ICCJ's newest program. First introduced in Ames, Iowa, Circles of Support is a proven model for lifting families out of poverty. The program assists and trains community members to form Circles of Support that will befriend motivated families and provide them the help and guidance they need to step up and out of poverty.

“Hunger does not breed reform; it breeds madness, and all the ugly distempers that make an ordered life impossible,” Woodrow Wilson

Member Organizations

Church of Spiritual Living
Common Ground Ministries
First Church of Christ Scientist
Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Church
New Earth Ministries
Prescott Church of the Nazarene
People Who Care
Prescott Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Prescott United Methodist Church
Prescott Valley United Methodist Church
Project Aware
Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Temple B'rith Shalom
Trinity Presbyterian Church

Open Door

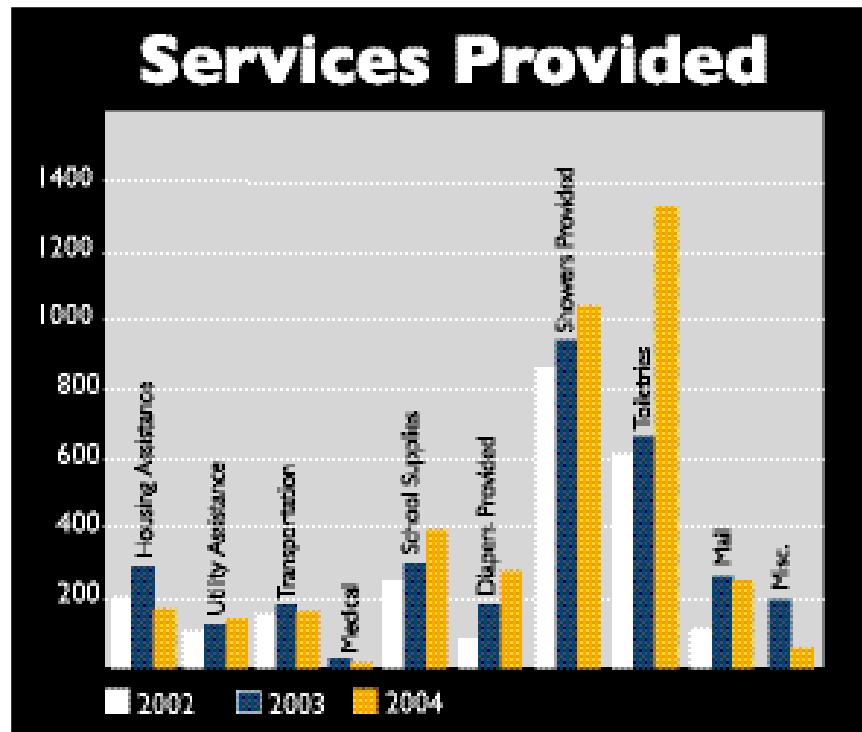
Open Door, one of ICCJ's three outreach programs, is an interfaith urban ministries program of compassion. Open Door strives to serve the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the homeless as well as low-income families and individuals in the Prescott area by providing emergency food, clothing, showers, and temporary financial assistance for housing, utilities, transportation, and medical needs.

The Open Door Program opened its doors in March 2001 as an outreach ministry of Prescott United Methodist Church, one of the member faith-based organizations of ICCJ. Open Door responds to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of individuals and families who are homeless or low-income and in need of help.

Open Door puts into action ICCJ's mission of helping those in need and working toward systemic change to alleviate the root causes of poverty and homelessness. In addition to providing tangible relief such as food, clothing, and financial assistance, Open Door invests in people by giving them hope and treating them with dignity. Volunteers show clients that they have inherent value and are deserving of help without needing to feel the shame that often accompanies poverty. As Open Door provides emergency needs and special programs for disadvantaged children, ICCJ continues to develop programs that lift people out of poverty permanently.

Open Door strives to prevent people from becoming homeless or living in unhealthy conditions. Vouchers toward rent and utilities are provided with the goal of preventing evictions or utility shut-offs. Families with children are a priority. Open Door is one of only a few local agencies that provide emergency financial assistance.

On a typical day in 2004, 112 clients were served. There were 12 families representing a total of 26 children. Lunches of casseroles, sand-



Open Door

wiches, vegetables, fresh fruit, and dessert were served to 87 people. Thirteen took showers.

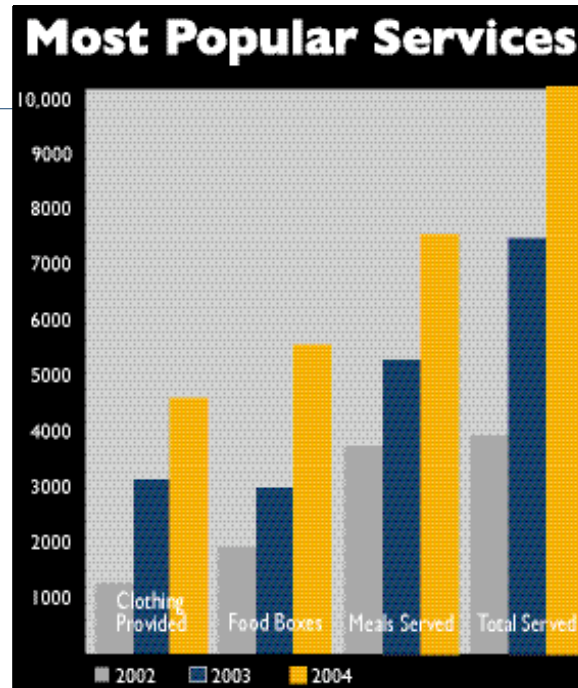
Clothing was taken by 53 clients and 14 received toiletries. Five families were given diapers for their babies. Mail and message service was provided for six individuals. Twenty-two received Open Door food boxes and 44 picked up government commodities. Three families were assisted with eviction prevention vouchers and another received utility assistance. Two clients got laundry vouchers and one man was helped with gasoline. Our record day was providing service to 133 people in only three hours. The lives of hundreds of children have been enriched through Open Door programs, including Fair Start, Warm for the Winter, and Visiting Authors.

Fair Start

Open Door takes a proactive approach to help children succeed in school. The “Fair Start” program provides backpacks filled with school supplies, books, and personal hygiene items to low-income children in the Prescott Unified School District. Last year, 304 elementary school children received supplies through the Fair Start program. Clothes Helping Kids provided a \$4,000 grant in support of this program.

Visiting Author

ICCJ received a \$5,000 grant from the C.W. and Modene Neely Charitable Foundation, which



was used to fund the visit of an illustrator and author Sylvester Allred, a biology professor from Northern Arizona University. Professor Allred visited four public elementary schools to talk about his book *Forest Alphabet Encyclopedia*.

Warm for the Winter

From Oct. 1 to Oct. 20, Open Door collected hats, gloves, coats, scarves, and mittens to help low-income children and adults stay warm and snug through the winter. Eight merchants served as collection points. Participating businesses included APS, Comfort Inn, Hassayampa Inn, National Bank of Arizona (three locations), True Value Hardware, and York Chrysler.

Open Door funding provided by:

- 3M Matching Funds Program
 - Aberdeen Foundation
 - American Evangelical Lutheran Church
 - Temple B'rith Shalom
 - BCK Management LLC
 - Clothes Helping Kids
 - Desert Hills Lutheran Church
 - Engineering Alternatives Inc.
 - Family Aid Inc.
 - Feinstein Foundation Match Program
 - Grand Canyon Synod WOE
 - Greek Orthodox Church of Prescott
 - Prescott area Habitat for Humanity
 - MacArthur Foundation
 - Mile High Medical PC
 - Prescott Community Church
 - Prescott Endurance Club
 - Prescott Noon Lions
 - Prescott Unified School District
- (continued on page 6)

Open Door

The Feinstein Challenge

Open Door collected more than \$20,000 in food and funds during the March and April Food and Funds for the Hungry Feinstein Challenge. Alan Feinstein donates \$1 million annually to nonprofits that help feed the hungry.

Distribution of Feinstein's challenge grant is based on community participation, so the more a community gives; the more it receives from the Feinstein Foundation.

For the second year in a row, Open Door was the service project for Youth Encounter and the many Lutheran middle school and high school students who came to Prescott from as far away as Las Vegas for their annual retreat. Middle School kids met in February and High School kids met in March. Their generosity was impressive. They brought food, toiletries, office supplies, clothing, and children's books and toys.

The Open Door "Mountain of Food for the Hungry" drive on April 7 was a great success.

Special thanks to these generous donors:

- The Prescott Endurance Club for making the Feinstein Challenge the 2004 recipient of funds raised in their annual *Man vs. Horse Race*. Making this possible were Ron Barrett, race director; Gheral Brownlow; Ned Leigh; Jerry Kimmet; and all the many volunteers.
- The Prescott Honor Society at Prescott High School for a generous check. What an exam-

ple of youth making a difference!

- Prescott United Methodist Church for an amazing assortment of food as well as funds.
- Church of Spiritual Living for a pickup load of fantastic food items.
- Westside Christian Church for giving more food per member than any other congregation!
- York Dodge employees for wonderful Easter treats for Open Door children.
- People Who Care volunteers for an endless stream of grocery sacks throughout the day.
- Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation for a generous food donation.
- American Lutheran Church, Women of Wisdom, for their financial support.
- Cub scout Pack 6, Den 9 Tigers for lots of food and help in carrying our boxes at the end of the day (little guys with big hearts).
- Temple B'rith Shalom members for several deliveries of canned goods.
- Prescott Community Church RCA for member donations and Women's Fellowship generosity.
- Prescott Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for continual funds throughout the food drive.
- Prescott Area Leadership and United Way for collecting food at their meetings.
- Granite Creek Hunger Ministry for sharing their blessings.
- 8-year-old Annie Wilson, who gave all of her allowance.

(continued from page 5)

Open Door funding provided by:

- Prescott Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
- Prescott United Methodist Church
- Think4Ink
- Trinity Presbyterian Church
- Unity Church of Prescott
- Wallace Foundation
- Westside Christian Church
- YRMC ICU Employees

Home Repair

The Home Repair Program grew out of an awareness of the many very low-income home-owners living in substandard, unsafe conditions. Using donated funds, materials, and services, a volunteer workforce performs health and safety related repairs.

Most of the labor is volunteer. Materials and contracted services are paid for with funds contributed by individuals, faith communities, foundations, and community groups. Businesses also contribute through discounts and gifts-in-kind.

We have completed renovation of two homes that were donated to ICCJ. A substantial portion of the proceeds from the sale of these two homes will go into the Home Repair Program.

Recent projects include:

- Replacing a failed hot water heater for a 94-year-old Prescott woman, who had been without hot water for a month. The old heater had been leaking for so long that the tank was in danger of dropping through the rotted floor. The old heater was removed and disposed of, the supporting floor rebuilt, and a new natural gas hot water heater installed.
- Building a new porch and handicap ramp for a couple in Paulden. A government agency provided funding for the materials and Home Repair provided the volunteer labor. Government and nonprofit partnerships like this help stretch the limited funds that are

available for health and safety repairs.

Organizations providing volunteers and/or funds include:

- Church of Spiritual Living
- Common Ground
- First Congregational Church
- Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Church
- Prescott Noon Lions Club
- Prescott United Methodist Church
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church
- Sun-Up Rotary Club
- Temple B'rith Shalom
- Trinity Presbyterian Church
- Yavapai County Community Foundation

Home Repair funding provided by:

- Jewish Community Foundation
- Just the Necessities
- Prescott Endurance Club
- Prescott Noon Lions
- Trinity Presbyterian Church
- Prescott United Methodist Church

Home Repairs at a Glance			
Year	Repairs performed	Costs	Volunteer hours
2001	2	\$1,465	690
2002	18	\$5,312	840
2003	31	\$9,126	1,245
2004	30	\$5,627	598

NOTE: These projects were completed at an average cost of \$266 per home, with an average of 42 volunteer hours per project.

Circles of Support

ICCJ adopted Circles of Support in 2004 to complete an array of programs designed to not only help people in crisis but also to lift them out of poverty. ICCJ wants to help people not just when they are in crisis, but to give them a hand up and out of poverty. If they have a Circle, they will be able get out of the cycle of poverty.

Circles of Support is not just about writing a check, it's about making a commitment to a person. Thinking back to the movie, *Pay It Forward*, the boy who comes up with the idea says that the task has to be one of involvement and really require an effort on the part of the person paying it forward. Circles of Support asks people to come together to support, nurture, train, and gain by participating as an equal in a circle.

Circles of Support:

- Befriends a motivated family in poverty;
- Meets with the family on a regular basis;
- Seeks to develop a relationship based on friendship and trust between the Circle and the family;
- Responds to areas of concern expressed by the family,

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter,” Martin Luther King Jr.



- Uses previously identified and committed community services (allies); and
- Is always there for the family like any good friend.

Circles of Support is designed to provide effective and ongoing community support for families in poverty who have expressed a desire to emerge from their circumstances and to join the main stream of life in America. It provides these motivated families with regular “Circles of Support” meetings and coaching in the areas of job acquisition and retention; medical; housing; nutrition; clothing; childcare; budgeting and finance; and automobile acquisition, maintenance, and insurance.

Families exiting the Circles of Support program will be self sufficient and participate in circles surrounding other families who want to become self sufficient.

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