



Mayor's Faith Initiative Accomplishments:

1. Human Trafficking Awareness: This workgroup's goal is to develop a Nevada Sex Trafficking Awareness Campaign on how young girls are being recruited in schools and sex trafficked locally and nationally. The workgroup collaborates with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's (LVMPD) Southern Nevada Human Trafficking Task Force, as well as volunteers and representatives of nonprofit organizations dealing on this topic as a regional strategic plan is formulated. This group produced a documentary that was shown on all local television stations in "block" mode on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 from 7:30 to 8:00 p.m. The documentary explained how families can protect their children and offered a hotline number for individuals looking to be rescued or wanting more information about this topic. The documentary received an Emmy nomination.

Human Trafficking Outcomes:

- 150,000 Clark County School District high school students have access to "Trafficked No More" prevention and awareness materials. Teachers are trained with our resource materials to conduct classroom presentations for students. Approximately 6,000 students receive the training and handbook each semester. All materials, including the handbooks and DVD's, are provided to CCSD at no cost.
 - Pancake breakfast outreach and distribution of prevention and awareness handbooks to residents that are identified as living in a high-crime area. These free breakfasts and trainings are done biweekly in various at-risk areas of our community. The groups that assist in these outreaches consist of various community partners, including a human trafficking specific agency that is on-site and available to identify and rescue a potential victim if necessary.
 - Partnerships with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, including individual bureau commands and attending biweekly coalition meetings, events and assisting with identifying targeted high-crime "hot spots" that require targeted outreach.
2. Strengthening the Family: Members of this workgroup are focusing on finding or developing best-practice programs to strengthen men, women, parents and youth. Faith leaders are joined by representatives from the Department of Family Services' (DFS) Parenting Project, the Financial Guidance Center, and Foster Connect Program from Youth with a Mission. Foster and adoptive parents are needed for the 3,500 children annually who end up in the DFS program.
 - Since 2013, an annual Spring Celebration and Foster Connection event has been hosted by Mayor Pro Tem /Councilman Steve Ross at Floyd Lamb Park, attracting about 2,500 families. About 50 to 75 individuals annually have signed up to receive additional information on the fostering effort.

- “Unstoppable Youth Media Workshop and Concert with James Cannon at Revolution Church” (Mr. Cannon is artist Nick Cannon’s father –Nick was married to Mariah Carey)
 - 46 youth participated in the media workshop. They learned about public speaking and media. The partnering house of worship continues working with the youth, strengthening the skills learned.
 - 75 youth participated in the Unstoppable Concert (Hip-Hop Event).
3. Education: This workgroup has developed a framework, so that representatives from the faith community, business, civic organizations and volunteers may help improve the success rate of our students. In January 2014, workgroup members asked community representatives to adopt elementary, middle and high schools near their neighborhoods or as identified by CCSD staff. Adopting organizations provided items identified by the principal, such as paper, pencils and supplies and goods for food pantries.

2014-2015 School Year

- 75 schools were adopted by MFI members to fill school food pantries on a regular basis, provide clothing to students in need, volunteer to read to students to improve literacy and/or become mentors to students and meet with them regularly.

2015-2016 School Year

- Three faith-based groups are participating in the mentor project; 78 faith and other groups have adopted schools (i.e., schools request food, clothing, etc.) through the Focus School Project.
- Literacy Program-- The Church of Latter Day Saints Stake (multiple Wards or houses of worship from a particular section of town) is hosting a “pilot” literacy program to recruit volunteers to read with fourth and fifth graders at Kermit R. Booker Elementary School, a Las Vegas My Brother’s Keeper school. The goal is to replicate this program with Church of Latter Day Saints Stakes from other areas of the city, especially in the downtown and nearby areas where literacy needs to improve.

4. Addictions: Many houses of worship do not discuss the addiction topic with their members. Members who have an addiction may be more reluctant to seek help within this environment and may continue the addiction. This workgroup started by starting the conversation and equipping their leaders on the "addictions" topic, so that the houses of worship can become the "center" where healing occurs.
- Workgroup’s recovery nonprofit partners sought grant funding to bring the National Association of Children of Alcoholics to present a clergy training class: “Understanding the Impact of Addiction and Supporting Recovery: Strategies and Tools for Clergy and Other Congregational Leaders.” This class was held at no cost to 175 clergy and committed volunteers.

The six-hour class was videotaped, courtesy of Pastor Jose Boveda, My Father's House. Participants were encouraged to talk about addictions in their houses of worship and train their congregations to love and accept individuals/families with these issues.

➤ Annual "There is no Hero in Heroin" event held in February

Each annual event attracts over 300 persons

35 addiction-related partnering organizations provided information and assistance with recovery.

Annually, about 10-15 people sign up with different organizations to begin process of recovery.

5. Jobs: Members of this work group are from the faith community, non-profit organizations (i.e., Urban Community of Las Vegas (UCLV), A & E CDL Drivers, Workforce Connections, and Help of Southern Nevada, to name a few) and governmental agencies, such as the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR). Partnering organizations increase the hiring of unskilled, entry-level individuals. Events included:

➤ 2013-2015 -- The annual Hope Fest event hosted in May:

45 to 50 hiring and services agencies participate in helping employ the unskilled and entry-level workers (i.e., single moms, veterans, homeless individuals). When individuals are not ready to start work because they lost their birth certificate, driver's license or other documents, service agencies have been available to prepare the individual for employment.

There were 350 to 450 attendees for each event and jobs were secured for:

2013 -- 60 people

2014 -- 70 people

2015 -- 90 people

6. Homelessness: Members of this workgroup come from the faith community, community volunteers, nonprofit organizations that serve the homeless population and governmental entities. Workgroup members are being supported by representatives from the Regional Initiatives Office, the SNRPC Committee on Homelessness, city of Las Vegas, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office. The goals of this group are to collect ideas from faith leaders who serve the homeless population to create one vision and voice and identify the types of services being provided by houses of worship to the homeless population and develop ways to engage the faith community to help fill "gaps" in services to the homeless.

Workgroup leaders are serving as Sub-Committee Chairs for various areas (i.e., events, intervention, feeding on the streets, etc.). The main focus is to recruit more volunteers and donations for several annual events and initiatives, such as Project Homeless Connect and the Annual Homeless Census.

➤ Family Connect

200 families were served during this event that provided service support to families who barely survive with the funding they earn or assistance they receive from different organizations.

➤ Hydration Teams

More than 600 cases of water are distributed to the homeless during the summer months, when temperatures can reach over 120 degrees.

➤ Project Homeless Connect

The Nevada Homeless Alliance's signature event is Project Homeless Connect, a service and resource fair for the homeless and low income. Services provided aim to break down barriers to housing and self-sufficiency, including but not limited to shelter, health care, legal issues, job readiness, food and behavioral health. Faith leaders joined more than 157 agencies and served 3,477 individuals.

7. Neon PTA

On Oct. 10, 2013, Youth Issues Team members chartered the National Education and Outreach Network (NEON) Community Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA). The Team is developing a strategic plan that identifies how the PTSA will support existing youth programs to be more successful.