

Voice of the Poor

June, 2009

www.voiceofthepoor.org

www.stvincentdepaul.net

End of Arizona State 2009 Fiscal Year Fast Approaching

Frustrated by a lack of cooperation by legislative leadership, Governor Brewer is taking her arguments for a balanced 2010 state budget including a temporary tax increase, to voters in 18 selected legislative districts. Legislative leadership continues to oppose *any* increase in taxes to partially address the state's critical budget crisis. This position has been staked out despite support for increasing revenue indicated in polls and statements by business groups, non-profits and faith-based organizations.

The end of the 2009 state fiscal year is June 30. Time is running out. Please convey by e-mail or telephone your support for Governor Brewer's approach. You can find your legislators at www.azleg.gov by clicking on "How Do I Find My Legislators?"

Navigating the Benefit Maze Part 2:

About 40 Vincentians attended the May 9 workshop featuring an online presentation of AZ Self Help and Health-e AZ by Eddie Sissons. Two other speakers focused on the Work Force Investment Act (jobs and training) and steps to avoid homelessness. The program was held at the Matthew Henson Community Center on 7th Avenue. These workshops will continue in the fall. Special thanks to Voice of the Poor members Kathy Jorgensen, Ruth Ballas, Julie Douglas and Chris Quintenz for making these workshops happen.

Kino Border Initiative:

Seven members from Voice of the Poor (Ron Meyer, Frank Barrios, Julie Douglas, Lucy Howell, Ruth Ballas, Sharon Pearce and Inge Casey) made a round-trip to Nogales, Sonora on Saturday, May 16 to visit the initiative and deliver donations. The KBI's mission is to minister to recent deportees as well as provide education about immigration, is jointly sponsored by the California Province of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), the Diocese of Tucson and two orders of Mexican nuns. The location of Nogales was selected because it is the deportation site for women and children returned to Mexico by ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement). Thank you to District 3, St. Clare of Assisi, St. Timothy's, St Paul's, SS. Simon and Jude and the many individuals who donated items to the initiative. If you wish to be part of a future trip, please contact Ruth Ballas at ruthballas@cox.net,

Save the Date:

Voice of the Poor, in collaboration with other Catholic groups, is planning a program about the Kino Border Initiative on Sunday, September 20. Speakers will be the Jesuits who have undertaken this mission. Additional information will be forthcoming.

SVdP Western Region Meeting – Everett, WA – June 24-27:

Ron Meyer, member of Phoenix Voice of the Poor and the SVdP National Voice of the Poor Committee, will be offering two Voice of the Poor training workshops with an emphasis on Basic VOP at the SVdP Western Region Meeting. “Navigating the Benefit Maze” will be presented as a great initial project.

VOP Meeting Dates:

Please note that the June (6/17) and July (7/15) VOP meetings will be held on Wednesdays at 3:30 in Vincentian Support Services, 420 W. Watkins Road, Phoenix. . VOP will NOT meet in August. Meetings are always open. VOP will return to Monday meetings in the fall at 3:30 in VSS – 9/14, 10/19, 11/16.