



COMPASSION UNLEASHED!!

6-9-11

Pastors and Church Leaders,

We hope you, and your congregation, are doing well, and that God is continuing to supply all your needs in Christ Jesus. There are a few exciting updates that the Unite! Leadership Team would like to report to you as we (even now) start thinking ahead to the fall.

Compassion Unleashed!

Compassion in Action is moving "beyond the weekend" to "Compassion in Action Unleashed!". Unite! Leadership is excited about this opportunity to go deeper with our commitment to serve the community by emphasizing year-round and needs-based serving. In addition to better meeting the needs of our community, emphasizing on-going serving will foster what Unite! is really all about - Relationships! Through our partnerships with each other and the community, relationships are developed which can truly lead to impacting and transforming our city.

"Compassion in Action Unleashed!" will result in service projects being scheduled all throughout the year, with specific follow-up opportunities made known at our quarterly Unite! Roundtable Luncheons (some of these are cross-region, and some are region-specific). For example, there are opportunities to serve together this summer in fighting the child sex trafficking issue in Atlanta. We had a great Roundtable Lunch at the end of April, and Street GRACE shared a number of ways to get involved (visit www.streetgrace.org for more info).

Instead of churches packing all of our serving opportunities into one weekend in October, we want to encourage churches to serve where the needs are and when they are most needed. For churches that still want to have a big serving focus on October 1, 2011, we encourage you to partner and connect with your existing ministry partners and non-profits and get the word out to your volunteers soon to save the date. Key to success coming out of the big serving weekend is connecting volunteers to partners with whom they can look forward to serving regularly throughout the year. For questions or more information, contact Heidi Hooper at heidih@perimeter.org.

Tornado Relief

Home Repairs Ministries Inc. (HRM), whose leadership has been involved with Unite! since the beginning, is assembling dates when churches are planning tornado relief trips. The dates will be posted on the HRM website (www.homerepairs.org). The intent is to provide choices so

1) volunteers whose availability does not coincide with his church's relief trip can join another church's team and 2) for volunteers whose church is not sending teams for relief work to be involved in the cleanup. By communicating this way, the Unite! churches can bond at a grass-roots level, representing Christ together.

If you are organizing a trip that could use more volunteers, please provide dates, contact people, costs, housing & food info, tools, skills needed, and any other info a volunteer must have. Contact Harvey Anderson at 404-964-6681 or email at HarveyA@HomeRepairs.org .

Focus on Caring for Youth at Risk

Unite! Churches have recognized that the primary areas of impact where we're focused (i.e. public schools, foster care & adoption, and child sex exploitation) all involve children and teens, so it is our hope that the vision for what we're trying to accomplish by partnering together will be more easily communicated in that Unite! Churches are partnering to bless and impact our communities and city by caring for youth at risk.

Website Make Over

The Unite! web page is in the process of getting a new look, and should be completed by August 1. Our hope is to make it more user friendly and easier to locate helpful resources to fuel your church's local outreach ministries.

We are thankful for your continued partnership as we collaborate together for community and city transformation. If you, or any of your staff or lay leaders, would like to connect with a Unite! Leadership Team representative for info, encouragement, or prayer, please let us know. We're here to serve you!

for Unite! Leadership,

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