



Vision, Values & Action To Improve Our Communities

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW - May 30, 2011

Walker Diebolt – Our GCI summer Intern



Meet Walker Diebolt, a junior sociology major from Wooster College in Wooster, Ohio. The college motto of Wooster is “Independent Minds, Working Together” which perfectly describes members of Gulf Coast Interfaith. I first met Walker when he arrived in Galveston County as part of a Americorp Disaster Relief team after Hurricane Ike. Walker immediately impressed me with his intelligence, computer skills and listening skills. He and the team worked with The Jesse Tree at our temporary storm location of Holy Rosary School in Galveston.

During the first full week of orientation, he has worked closely with Steve McIntyre and I in attending various meetings related to redistricting proposals of Galveston ISD. He has collaborated with Anne McLaughlin of St. Bernadette’s in facilitating the transfer of our web site service to Yahoo Business and structuring our new “gulfcoastinterfaith” email boxes.

Please join in welcoming Walker and, if you have time, send him a personal welcome email to walkerd@gulfcoastinterfaith.org.

GULF COAST INTERFAITH IN ACTION

GCI Members Invited to private meeting with Assistant HUD Secretary Mercedes Marquez



On April 29th, GCI members Joe Compian, Cornelia Banks and Laura Murrell joined Sue Johnson and David Miller of the Galveston Chapter of the NAACP at a private meeting with Assistant Secretary Marquez. Assistant Secretary Marquez oversees the administration of Disaster CDBG funds for Hurricane Ike. GCI members conveyed stories about challenges faced by citizens seeking City and County CDBG funds to repair or rebuild their homes damaged by Hurricane Ike. The Assistant Secretary applauded the collaborative efforts of housing groups and asked that we keep in contact with her and her staff in writing on any issues faced by citizens seeking Disaster CDBG funds. She also confirmed her continued support to fund the reconstruction of 569 units of public housing on the City of Galveston.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! - GCI Extends to Each of You a Special Invite

GCI continues its' affiliation with the Industrial Areas Foundation, the nation's oldest and largest national community organizing and leadership development network in the United States, by participating through The Metropolitan Organization (TMO) of the Greater Houston.

On Sunday afternoon, June 5th, TMO will convene a Strategy Session in Houston from 3 to 5 pm. Please contact Walker at walkerd@gulfcoastinterfaith.org if you would like to attend. We will assist you in getting to and from the TMO meeting in Houston. Please come and interact with members of the faith community. "Independent Minds, Working Together for our Communities".

Sunday, June 5th
3:00-5:00 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
2600 Holman St.
Houston, TX 77004

If you want to see Improvements in:

Healthcare(Chip-Medicaid)
Workforce Development
Infrastructure
Immigration Reform
Public Safety
Criminal Justice

**JOIN US ON JUNE 5TH TO LAUNCH A STRATEGY
FOR THESE ISSUES**

Please RSVP to walkerd@gulfcoastinterfaith.org

The Metropolitan Organization
"Standing for Families"
4141 Southwest Freeway, Suite 650
Houston, Texas 77027
(713) 807-1429

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APPRECIATION LUNCHEON FOR FR. JOHN BOK, June 28th

Watch for more details on this Luncheon. We have confirmed Moody Methodist Church in Galveston as the site for GCI's Appreciation Luncheon for Fr. John Bok. Fr. John and Holy Family Parish (St. Patrick's, Sacred Heart and Holy Rosary) have been long term supporters and members of Gulf Coast Interfaith. Fr. John is retiring and leaving Galveston in early July. Let's make Fr. John's Appreciation Luncheon a memorable celebration. Please contact Walker at walkerd@gulfcoastinterfaith.org to volunteer to help.

Respectfully yours,

Joe Compian