



# E-Update

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## **Policy Experts, Analysts, and Donors Hear About Solutions; National Movement Envisioned:**

CNE convened leaders of some of the nation's most effective grassroots service-providing organizations together with analysts, academics, and donors in Denver August 28-30. The purpose of the Joseph\* Summit was to showcase the life and community-transforming work of the organizations and show that the solutions they have created are more effective and can reduce the cost and reach of government. The event marked the first step in developing a national movement to raise the visibility of the solutions and give the organizations a national voice in policies associated with reducing poverty and other societal problems. Highlights included these results reports:

- Substance abuse, homelessness and prison reentry programs are showing 60-70% success rates in restoring addicts and helping them get jobs. Reporting were House of Help and EFFORTS, Washington DC; Step 13, Denver; and Outcry in the Barrio, San Antonio.
- Education of at-risk and troubled youth programs reported 85% graduation rates. Reporting, Denver Street School, Colorado Uplift, and Ravendale Community Center, Detroit.
- Programs significantly reducing youth violence- Violence-Free Zone sites Latino Community Center and Running Rebels Community Organization, Milwaukee; Vision Regeneration, Dallas; K.L.E.O. Center, Chicago; New Vision Youth Services, Baltimore; and The ROC, Richmond.
- The foster care and adoption program created by the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, Somerset, NJ has placed 780 babies in foster homes recruited by the church and 240 of them in permanent adoption (see next item).

In addition to the grassroots leaders, individual philanthropists discussed how they make giving decisions, and policy analysts reported on the challenges facing community and faith-based programs.

\*CNE refers to the neighborhood-based organization leaders as "Josephs" after the story of the uneducated Joseph who overcame many challenges and whose wisdom helped Pharaoh save Egypt.

## **CNE Board Member to Receive Award for Adoption Program:**

Fifteen years ago, the Governor of New Jersey approached Rev. DeForest B. Soaries about the tragic situation of "Boarder Babies," infants abandoned by their mothers in hospitals after birth. Moved by the plight of the babies, he recruited foster parents from within his church for the then 57 babies. This led to appeals for more help, and the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, Somerset, NJ set up a corporation called Harvest of Hope Family Services Network that contracts with the state on a fee for service basis. On October 12, Soaries and the Harvest of Hope Family Services Network will receive a 2011 Adoption Excellence Award in the category of Adoption of Minority Children from Foster Care from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

## **Policy Expert Says "Josephs" Can Restore America:**

"Today's Josephs, can help America find its way out of the social deserts that have overtaken too many neighborhoods- and restore this land's promise," Heritage Foundation Domestic Policy Studies Director Jennifer Marshall writes on the internet-based Real Clear Religion site. She outlines the paradoxes that account for their success compared to conventional approaches to poverty and social breakdown that look for credentials and elaborate program design. The complete article can be found at [http://www.realclearreligion.org/articles/2011/09/21/josephs\\_are\\_poised\\_to\\_restore\\_america.html](http://www.realclearreligion.org/articles/2011/09/21/josephs_are_poised_to_restore_america.html).