

Received(Date): 21 MAY 2001 11:16:19

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Subject: : Updated Faith-Based Talking Points
[P_10F12004_OPD.TXT_1.doc](#)

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

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Attached are talking points from Domestic Policy updating the President's faith-based initiative that he discussed yesterday at Notre Dame.

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

File attachment <P_10F12004_OPD.TXT_1>

Rallying America's Armies of Compassion

Presidential Action:

- In a commencement address yesterday at Notre Dame, President Bush issued a challenge to revive America's spirit of citizenship to help address poverty by bringing government and charities together to address some of our toughest social challenges.
- The President also announced two new policy initiatives:
 - ✓ A tripling of funding next year to allow more low-income Americans to enjoy the benefits of homeownership through self-help programs like Habitat for Humanity. The President proposed increasing the Department of Housing and Urban Development's funding for such programs from roughly \$25 million to more than \$75 million.
 - ✓ A goal of closing the treatment gap between the 5 million Americans who need drug treatment and the 2 million Americans who currently have access to it. The President has proposed \$1.6 billion in new funds for drug treatment, and has proposed making more of these funds available to faith- and community-based providers.
- The President also challenged corporate America and philanthropic organizations to provide more resources to charities, and also to eliminate private-sector barriers to support for faith- and community-based organizations. The President announced his plans to hold a summit of corporate and philanthropic leaders in the fall to explore ways to generate more support for secular and faith-based charities.

Key Elements of the President's Effort to Rally America's Armies of Compassion:

- **Stimulating an outpouring of private giving to nonprofits, faith-based programs, and community groups by expanding tax deductions and other initiatives:**
 - ✓ Granting a charitable tax deduction for non-itemizers
 - ✓ Promoting corporate in-kind donations such as equipment, facilities and vehicles
 - ✓ Permitting charitable contributions from IRAs without penalty
 - ✓ Creating a Compassion Capital Fund to help match private giving with federal dollars and strengthen model programs
- **Pioneering a new model of cooperation with local organizations to expand the involvement of faith and community groups in transforming lives:**
 - ✓ Helping the estimated 2+ million children of prisoners who suffer disproportionate rates of severe social problems
 - ✓ Improving rehabilitation for inmates nearing release
 - ✓ Expanding eligibility for drug treatment funding
 - ✓ Widening after-school programs for low-income children
 - ✓ Provide structured "second chance" homes for unwed teen mothers
 - ✓ Strengthening responsible fatherhood and combating father absence
- **Eliminating federal barriers to effective faith-based and community-serving programs through legislative, regulatory, and programmatic reforms:**
 - ✓ Expanding Charitable Choice to enable private, charitable and religious organizations to compete for federal funds
 - ✓ Creating the White House Office of Faith-Based & Community Initiatives.
 - ✓ Creating Centers for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives at the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, HUD, Justice and Education to spearhead efforts to eliminate barriers impeding the vital work of neighborhood charities.
 - ✓ Encouraging states to create their own faith-based and community initiatives programs with start-up funds.

For more information please contact White House Communications at (202) 456-2777