

## C4 Update April 2011

### A Proposal Worth Considering

By: Monty L. Hipp, President

Grant application season is upon us. There is something about the detail of a grant application that causes me to reflect on the church at large. If we were to submit an application to God seeking funding for our efforts, what would be approved? In the grant application process there is a Request for Proposal (RFP) that identifies the criteria for funding. It is important that the grant provider be confident in the work being done. The grantor wants to see the projected results, and the plan and focus for the scope of the project. Although Scripture gives us a plan and criteria, it appears we often waiver. I can assure you that those kinds of grant applications are not approved. I wonder how many applications would be denied if we submitted the churches work for approval? It is a reminder to me that we need to keep the poor, needy, and the orphans in our everyday efforts of the church.

We are seeking to acquire funding to place several full-time individuals in communities that are focusing on the poor and underserved. I am thrilled to see what can be accomplished. In the first six months of our current grant, we were able to partner with local churches to serve over 30,000 individuals who are in need. Your giving to The C4 Group truly is a funding partnership that allows us to connect the faith community to the one RFP that we all know we must apply for. Thanks for being a part of our team in serving the poor and underserved.

### A Sleeping Giant

By: Z Tyree, AmeriCorps VISTA Member

Napoleon Bonaparte once said, "China? There lies a sleeping giant. Let him sleep, for when he wakes he will move the world." That quote rings true today now more than ever. However, I find that quote to be true of a different entity, the church. Today in America, it is the Christian church that is often asleep to the needs around them and the incredible influence they can hold within community. Through the framework of The Care Strategy, The C4 Group is able to partner with churches, helping them "wake up" and recognize their place as the center of solution within community. In my mind, the responsibility of the church has shifted to be so



the C4 group

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### Catalyst Internship Experience

We are now accepting applications for our summer 2011 internship program! One of C4's priorities is to build the leaders of the current and next generation. Our goal for the interns involved with our organization is to provide an experience that goes beyond "busy work" around the office, but allows the individual to capture a broader view of a non-profit. We feel compelled to offer driven young adults something different, something more. As a Catalyst intern, you will be able to gain the practical experience of office tasks and assignments, but also

much more than a gathering place for believers, but can be a launching pad for change, ingenuity, and for equipping people. It is exciting to be able to work as an AmeriCorps VISTA and see these changes occur within the church and community as The Care Strategy is embraced. I have been able to connect my site with other organizations, discover previously unknown needs of people in the community, and creatively work with the staff and members to create a plan and approach to meet those needs. Like to the words Napoleon shared I say, "The church? There lies a sleeping giant. Wake him up, for when he awakens to the needs surrounding him, he will move the world."

## The Power of Community

**Highlighting: Justin Riley, AmeriCorps VISTA Member**

In Denver, Colorado, Justin Riley, the AmeriCorps VISTA serving with The C4 Group, was able to impact the culture of a church in a way that has never happened in the seventy years that the church has existed. For the first time ever, nearly twenty organizations were able to partner with the church and its community. Justin, states, "I wanted to literally make the church the center square for solution in Denver. So... I invited the organizations to come into the church. I thought, why not just let the Executive Directors, Presidents, and Founders of these organizations speak for themselves? After all, they are the ones who have been pouring their time, talents, and treasures into their organizations for years. So, on April 10th, 2011, this happened for the first time. These non-profits were able to speak to hundreds of people who were interested in getting involved in the community, but simply did not know how. The church provided a platform for these organizations, bringing awareness, building capacity and sustainability to their vision." So often in the church there is a desire to partner with organizations and become volunteers—they just need to know the steps to take. Justin goes on to say, "Since this church had never been involved in community partnership before, setting up an office with a list of referrals would have been an ineffective way to communicate with hundreds of people. Instead, bringing these organizations under one roof allowed the members of the church to speak directly to the organizations and to hear their needs. It was like a massive volunteer fair taking place in a church."

How was Justin able to achieve this? Justin states, "I did this by observing the principles and virtues of The Care Strategy. We have focused on communicating with gatekeepers of the community and cultivating meaningful relationships with them. I was also able to do this by observing "Neighboring," a model for effectively managing preexisting community members,

be given the opportunity to learn how to successfully lead a nonprofit

provided to me by the HandsOn Network training I receive as an AmeriCorps VISTA. Neighboring focuses on empowering members of a community to become leaders in the community they inhabit, whilst focusing on the priorities set by the community members. The result is long-term sustainability of projects and initiatives."

The results were incredible. Literally, hundreds of people were able to meet, face to face, with organizations that are on the front lines of fighting poverty, abolishing homelessness, feeding the hungry, and serving the marginalized of the community. People came to church that day who said, "I do not even attend this church, but I heard that this church cares about the community. I knew that if this church had partnered with so many organizations that I have been interested in, I had to check it out. If this is what this church is about, then it looks like I just found a new church." When Justin was told this, he knew that there was power in community and community partnership. Justin reported, "I feel confident that people can look at the church here in Denver and say, they care about the community."

organization by having actual influence within The C4 Group.

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