

February 1, 2008

By Post Staff

## OCCUR Builds on Obama's Faith-Based Program Expansion

OCCUR and the San Francisco Foundation have developed a faiths' program, designed to build on President Barack Obama's commitment to transform the Faith Based Initiative of the Bush Administration into a more effective tool for community service.

The faiths' program, entitled, "A Model Built on Faith," is mobilizing its training efforts to focus on several levels of grassroots fundraising, the next session in the series will be held Thursday, Feb. 26 from 8:30 am to noon at the First Unitarian Church, 685 14<sup>th</sup> St. in Oakland.

Experts in the field of grassroots fundraising will focus on using the Internet as a fund development strategy as well as an examination of producing special events and implementing fee for service programs. Presenters include Cynthia Mackey, CEO of Winning Solutions, and Lela Da Vie, president of Davia and Associates.

"President Obama is opening a huge window of opportunity for faith-based organizations and nonprofit services groups to become key components in this era of service," said OCCUR Executive Director David Glover.

This week's passage of President Obama's stimulus package represents a national investment in urban centers alongside greater program and department focus on issues facing economically challenged communities that many Bay Area faith-based groups serve, Glover said.

The faiths' program will hold monthly capacity building sessions on critical topics through June. To register for the free Feb. 26 Grassroots Fundraising session, email [occur@sbcglobal.net](mailto:occur@sbcglobal.net), call (510) 839-2440 or fax (510) 268-9065.