

# The Oakland Tribune

SERVING OAKLAND FOR 125 YEARS

## Program seeks to enable struggling faith leaders, nonprofits

Dec. 17--OAKLAND -- As struggling families turn to nonprofit services for help in growing numbers, many donors are cutting back on their giving to those organizations, local organizers said. A series of workshops aimed at combating the trend will launch Thursday.

In a yearlong series called "A Model Built on Faith," guest speakers with expertise in community reinvestment and service will speak to a target audience of faith leaders and organizers of secular nonprofits, according to David Glover, executive director of the Oakland Citizens Committee for Urban Renewal, a partner in organizing the series.

"A lot of people don't know how hard these rough economic times may hit the nonprofit sector and the faith-based community," said program director James Head of The San Francisco Foundation FAITHS program, also a partner in the series.

"It's a double-hit from my perspective," he said. "Many people affected by the market may be easing up on their giving because they feel they're not in a position to give as much. (But) demand for services from families hit by the crisis is rising significantly."

The program will run seven sessions over the next year and aims to train local faith leaders and secular nonprofits in effective, innovative strategies to organize, raise funds and spend them in the best ways, Glover said.

"The faith community and nonprofit partners need to respond to an unprecedented level of need," Glover said. "It can't just

be the sermon on Sunday. There has to be a ministry outside of the walls. A lot of them are doing that, but a lot of them need to know how to do it more effectively."

Churches need to maximize their efforts to help, Glover said, from offering space for after-school programs, workforce training and HIV screening to building housing, providing hunger relief and even considering the formation of a credit union.

"There are no areas these faith-based organizations can't touch with the right imagination, the right in, the right touch with their members," Glover said.

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If you go

-- what: "Meeting the Leadership Challenge in Tough Times"

-- when: 8:30 a.m. to noon Thursday

-- where: Nile Hall, 1233 Preservation Park Way, Oakland

-- cost: The meeting is free and open to all.

-- rsvp: E-mail [occur@sbcglobal.net](mailto:occur@sbcglobal.net), call 510-839-2440 or fax 510-268-9065.

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