



U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20416

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Friends:

For many years, the unsung heroes of America have been faith-based and community organizations, which assist individuals, families and communities throughout America. Faith-based and community groups provide invaluable services to Americans everywhere.

Upon taking office, one of President George W. Bush's first official acts was to create the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. On June 3, 2004, President Bush took another decisive step in reaching out to faith-based and community groups by issuing Executive Order 13342, which directed the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to establish a Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives within the SBA. As part of its mandate, the Center will help individuals and faith-based and community organizations learn about and access the SBA programs, which will enable them to better serve their communities. Faith-based and community initiatives continue to be one of the President's top domestic priorities. President Bush believes that all groups should have a level field on which to operate and that is why he launched his faith-based and community initiatives.

I commend you and your organization on the important work you do, and recognize the strength and vitality your organizations provide to our Nation. But, recognition is not enough. With the Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, the SBA is in a unique position to combine its efforts with your organization to identify, train and help finance the entrepreneurs whose businesses will bring jobs and hope to economically distressed communities all across our Nation. I have personally directed the SBA's field representatives to develop workshops, training sessions and open houses designed specifically to educate faith-based and community organizations and facilitate their access to the programs and services that the SBA offers to entrepreneurs and small businesses. With 10 regional offices and 68 district offices, the SBA has a presence in virtually every community across the country.

To schedule a SBA workshop or for more information on the programs offered by the SBA, please contact Tom Mueller, SBA District Director in the Columbus District Office at (614) 469-6860. You may also visit our website at www.sba.gov and browse the programs that we offer to small business along with our web link dedicated to the SBA's Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives at www.sba.gov/fbci. Lastly, if you have any specific questions about the SBA's faith-based and community activities, you may contact our Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives at (202) 205-9037.

We would like the opportunity to partner or expand our partnership with your organization. We would like to provide your membership with a workshop on all of the SBA's programs so that you might expand the faith-based and community programs to your area.

We hope to hear from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hector V. Barreto". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H'.

Hector V. Barreto
Administrator