

STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION

The Collaboration for a New Century

Ministry type	Organizational Mentorship
Area of impact	Social
Country	USA
Approx. date	May 2010
Report source	Elly Oliveira, eoliveira@harvestfoundation.org

Taken in their entirety, the state of Arizona currently falls in the bottom quartile of all states on the "State of Caring Index". This shows a need and an opportunity. A network called "The Collaboration for a New Century" has helped build the capacity of over 100 faith and community-based agencies through events, summits and targeted technical assistance. One goal of this Collaboration is to improve the "State of Caring Index" for Arizona. See more at <http://www.thecollab.org>

How do we collaborate? Harvest is engaged in this collaboration and I have served as a coach, donating hours of work to a local faith-based agency called Mentor Kids, to help improve and expand their services. Coaches from other organizations also donate their time and, as a team, we get together on a regular basis to be trained, discuss needs, and plan initiatives that will impact the community. Our major task has been to provide a strategic plan for Mentor Kids.

This week we met in a church that hosts a charter school for refugees from Liberia. We had contact with the students, were introduced to the pastors of the church, and met all the staff from Mentor Kids. Serving with "The Collaboration" provides a channel through which we demonstrate God's love in tangible way, make our talents and skills available to others, care for those who are directly involved with the most needy in our community, and help find solutions for struggles in the work of non-profit organizations in Arizona. Beyond our goal of providing a meaningful strategic plan for Mentor Kids, we aim to touch many lives and honor the name of God.

