



## **Reaching Out to Faith-Based Organizations October - December 2008**

### **What is a faith-based organization?**

There are three types of faith-based organizations: congregations, national networks with social service arms (for example, Catholic Charities, Lutheran Social Services, YMCA/YWCA, etc.) and free-standing religious organizations with no structure on a national level.

### **Why should we reach out to faith-based organizations?**

Since the incidence of pancreatic cancer is higher in African Americans and in Ashkenazi Jews than it is in the general population, it is important to increase awareness about pancreatic cancer in these groups.

More than half of all congregations and many other faith-based organizations (FBO) provide some form of human services to people in need. These human services are most pronounced in large faith-based organizations with more resources, in low-income neighborhoods and in African American communities ("Faith-Based Organizations in Community Development", HUD Report, 2001). This is the perfect time to Raise the Bar for Awareness about pancreatic cancer in your local faith-based organizations.

### **How do I find faith-based organizations in my community?**

Start with the faith-based organizations with which you are most familiar. If you attend services at a local church, temple, synagogue or mosque, talk to the religious leaders.

Ask your friends if they belong to any faith-based organizations and see if they can arrange for you to meet with their pastor.

Use the internet or phone book to locate other faith-based organizations in your community. Online, you can simply use Google or any other search engine and look up terms such as "church," "temple," "synagogue," "mosque" and "faith" followed by your zip code. Or, you can use the following websites:

SBC Church Search <http://www.sbc.net/churchsearch/>

Worship Quest <http://www.worshipquest.org/>

BeliefNet <http://www.beliefnet.com/>

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism <http://www.uscj.org/>

IslamiCity.com <http://www.islamicity.com/Orgs/>

Next month we'll give you instructions on what to do once you have a list of faith-based organizations, including how to contact them and what to say. This month, focus on making your lists and doing the research that will help you move forward.

If you find a good resource that is not listed above, please share your find on the discussion board so that others may take advantage of it!