



*Your twice-a-month e-newsletter from Citygate Network*

Useful news and information for members

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 Feedback

*This issue of Street Smart is sponsored by:*

The graphic features a blue ripple effect logo on the left, consisting of a central dot and concentric circles. To the right, the text 'JULY 15-16, 2021' is in blue. Below that, 'rippleeffect' is written in a large, blue, lowercase font, with 'effect' in a smaller, grey font and a trademark symbol. At the bottom, the tagline 'Positioning Rescue Mission Boards for Consistent Performance and Widespread Success' is written in a smaller, italicized font.

**JULY 15-16, 2021**

**rippleeffect**<sup>TM</sup>

*Positioning Rescue Mission Boards for Consistent Performance and Widespread Success*

Sign up today for this program which includes an online two-day seminar for your board AND two on-site visits from an experienced board coach; seminar books and materials; and permanent access to an online repository of governance resources.



### Citygate Network Participates in Adult & Teen Challenge National Conference

President John Ashmen and Director of Member Services Sam Edwards were at the Rosen Centre in Orlando, Florida, earlier this week for the biannual gathering of Adult & Teen Challenge (ATC) staff from across the country. Several ATC centers are now members of Citygate Network as part of a collaborative arrangement the two organizations have. All Citygate Network members can access ATC's excellent curriculum at member rates, and at our own Annual Conference and Exposition in Baltimore in September, we will be featuring Sober Peer—a breakthrough AI program that ATC helped develop. ATC President Gary Blackard invited John to address the attendees in one of the plenary sessions, where he talked about the importance of collaboration between parallel ministry organizations, both now and in the future. [Beth Greco, CEO of Hoving Home](#)—a Citygate Network member and part of ATC—was one of the keynote speakers, as was leadership guru John Maxwell.

### Start Thinking About What Seminars You Will Attend

Citygate Network's Annual Conference and Exposition starts in just 76 days. Whether or not you're already registered, look right now at the [extensive slate of sessions](#) we have put together for you and your team. Choose from 65 relevant offerings. A few of the standout sessions we've identified include: "Courageous Fundraising: Doing the Unthinkable to Do the Extraordinary"; "How Ministries Might Respond to Critical Race Theory"; "Succession and Next-Generation Leaders"; "Innovating Recovery with Artificial Intelligence Tools;" and "Transforming Homelessness Policies in Your City."

For those pursuing professional certification, the high-level lineup of in-depth counseling seminars include the option to receive CE credits toward LPC/LSW/LCSW/LMFT and other licenses. Regardless of which seminars you choose, you'll come away from the event with the most up-to-date knowledge because you will learn from industry experts. Plan now to network with peers from all over North America in Baltimore September 16–19.

### Speaking of the Annual Conference and Exposition...

With 11 weeks still to go, our registration numbers far exceed the sign-ups from previous years this far out. What's more, our hotel block is starting to shrink: Rooms are going quickly. Don't wait too much longer to register and book your accommodations. Once you do that, you can [purchase tickets to sit in our reserved section](#) for the Baltimore Orioles baseball game and the following concert on Thursday night! Program details, event registration, and hotel links can be [found on our website](#).

### Announcing the 2021 Media Innovation Competition

Come one, come all! Citygate Network is now accepting entries! Enter your mission or ministry's best work from 2020 and tell your stories using the following media categories: annual report, general brochure, newsletter/magazine, website, PSA/commercial, extended video, social media, logo, and photo. An Award of Excellence, Award of Merit, and up to three Honorable Mention winners will be presented in each category for each budget size group. Citygate Network will recognize winners at the Annual Conference and Exposition in Baltimore and then online immediately after. [Visit the 2021 Media Innovation Competition page](#) today.

### Looking Down the Street

- Citygate Network welcomes new mission/ministry member **Augusta Rescue Mission** (Augusta, Georgia). The CEO is Christopher Jones. [Make him feel welcome!](#)
- Citygate Network welcomes **Canvas Cloud** as a new business member. [Check them out.](#)
- **Adams Rescue Mission** (Gettysburg, Pennsylvania) Opened ARM-UP Greenhouse, a vocational training program designed to provide sustainable income for the organization and training for program residents. This greenhouse

grows and sells flowers, vegetable plants, herbs, fruit plants, trees, shrubs, raw honey, and some outdoor furniture. [Contact Bruce Dietrick](#) for more information.

- Union Gospel Mission (Salem, Oregon) recently had a ribbon-cutting ceremony for their new Men's Mission. The building will house 78 guests instead of the previous 43 and increase seating in the new dining room from 72 seats to 232.

*TELL US: Do you have news to share with other network members? Send a blurb to [Marvin Harrell](#). Include as many details as possible. We'll handle the editing.*



### **California Governor Cancels Past-Due Rent**

Gavin Newsome recently announced a new policy to [forgive lease debts for residents](#) of the state. California will use \$5 billion in COVID-19 relief from the federal government to cover the accrued tenancy bills from low-income renters that have been stacking up since December 2019. The rental-relief program will cover 80 percent of boarders' back rent and require landlords to forgive the remaining 20 percent. The policy has everyone, including landlords, breathing a sigh of relief now that this government assistance will cover most of the rental debt. But there is still another shoe to drop: The full impact of the end of the eviction moratorium has yet to play out. *Consider: Have you thought about how you might connect with those on the edge of losing their residence?*

### **National Bipartisan 'Vaccine Confidence' Task Force Report Now Available**

While vaccination rates have plateaued in the U.S., current trends indicate that we are not on track to reach the herd immunity levels that experts believe are necessary to prevent future outbreaks. Further, it is feared that more deadly variants of COVID-19 could develop before cooler weather arrives unless we see an uptick in inoculations. The Get the Medications Right Institute (GTMRx) recently released a report and plan to help shelter providers encourage their guests to get vaccinated and become knowledgeable advocates in their communities. [Check out the GTMRx resources](#) and sign up to receive the report. *Consider: It's in our history to be lifelines for those around us. Perhaps we should begin local efforts to mobilize trusted messengers in the community to address individuals' concerns and boost vaccine confidence compassionately.*

### **Update to Gifts-in-Kind Reporting Standards**

In case you missed it, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) [updated the accounting standards](#) for presenting and disclosing gifts-in-kind for not-for-profit entities. ASU 2020-07 seeks to increase transparency about gifts-in-kind by providing additional information about how these non-cash gifts are valued and used. The change, which is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2021, will require you to list gifts-in-kind separately in the statements of activities and list and explain each category of gifts-in-kind in the notes to the financial statements. The update does not change existing valuation standards but alters how those gifts are recorded and notated on your reports. *Consider: You will want to forward this information to your auditor to maintain fiscal transparency.*

### **Supreme Court Rules Unanimously in Favor of Foster Care Agency**

In a recent ruling of *Foster v. City of Philadelphia*, Pennsylvania, the Supreme Court [affirmed the religious freedom rights](#) of Catholic Social Services (CSS) of Philadelphia to choose to limit placement of foster children with married couples composed of a man and woman. This practice was pursuant to CSS' religious beliefs but contrary to the city's nondiscrimination law. The Supreme Court's decision was unanimous (9-0) in its ruling that the City of Philadelphia violated CSS' right to free exercise under the First Amendment by excluding CSS from the foster care program due to CSS's refusal to certify places with same-sex couples. While the ruling was unanimous, the reasoning for the decision was not. Three separate opinions with different reasoning were filed by justices. It's a positive outcome for supporting

religious freedom, though the varying opinions provide less direction than many would like for understanding the Court's direction on religious freedom.



### **VA Anticipating an Increase in Homeless Vets**

Leaders in the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) are drawing attention to [an urgent crisis for American veterans](#). There is grave concern that many of those who have nobly served our country will lose their homes once the eviction moratorium comes to an end. In cooperation with, and to address HUD's recent report citing 37,000 current homeless veterans, the VA and HUD are prepared to move significant financial resources to help with rental assistance for American veterans. In addition, HUD is planning to increase housing vouchers for veterans by 70,000. We will keep an eye on any updates and provide new information when it becomes available. *Consider: How are you currently helping veterans in your community through a local connection with the VA?*

### **One in 10 Seniors at High Risk**

With the deadline of June 30th having just passed, [many Americans are faced with an impossible truth](#)—pay back rent or hit the streets. And many of those are seniors on a fixed income. Roughly 10 percent of renters over the age of 65 are behind on their rent. This translates to approximately 800,000 people currently at risk. Even though Congress allocated \$45 billion to be used in rental assistance, with many organizations prioritizing seniors, the relief is slow to make it to the bank accounts of those in danger. The National Low-Income Housing Coalition reports that 33 state and local assistance programs have distributed less than 20 percent of allocated funding despite the relief bill becoming law six months ago. The burden of care will fall either on family, friends, or strangers. *Consider: What has your leadership team talked about for long-term strategies to help seniors survive tough times?*



### **Canada–U.S. Border to Remain Closed for Now**

Bill Blair, the Canadian Federal Minister of Public Safety, [announced the 49th parallel would remain closed](#) for at least one more month. Canada extended the restrictions in cooperation with the United States on non-essential travel to the U.S. and other international locations to July 21st, 2021. Currently, plans for fully vaccinated Canadians, permanent residents, and others presently permitted to enter are being evaluated. The border has been closed since March 2020, and both governments are eager to move forward, but not if it means endangering the health of their citizens. Despite the current closure, Prime Minister Trudeau says Canada could relax border restrictions in the coming weeks if everything continues to go well.

### **Quebec Preparing to Go 'Green' as COVID-19 Cases Drop**

Despite a lag in vaccination rates for young Quebec residents, premier François Legault announced [the province would move to the green zone](#) across the region. On Monday, June 28th, the entire area enjoyed more allowances in all things related to gatherings and recreational sporting events. Daily case numbers continue to drop, 80 percent of the population has had the first dose of vaccine, and 20 percent are fully vaccinated with two doses. The next wave of focus will be on un-vaccinated citizens in Montreal aged 12 to 45.

## **JP Morgan Calls for Revamping Appraisal Industry**

To root out racially discriminatory housing valuation practices, JP Morgan Chase is using its considerable influence to promote legislation and policy changes that [take on racial partiality in today's home assessments](#). With the devaluation of Black and Latinx homes under more intense scrutiny, the efforts to root out and change systemic barriers are the ultimate goal of current actions. The housing industry's discrimination problem is both a result and a contributor to America's racial wealth gap. As buying a home requires savings, and homeownership is the best way to build savings and wealth, many Americans of color find themselves unable to move into homeownership. And with homes in predominately black neighborhoods being valued 23 percent less than those with few black residents, the gap continues to widen. Another disparity is seen in the fact that fewer than 2 percent of appraisers are people of color.

## **New Study Emphasizes Racial Inequity in Health Care**

A paper entitled "State- and Provider-Level Racism and Health Care in the U.S." was recently released in the *American Journal of Preventative Medicine* and [examines the relationship between racism and health-care access](#) for non-Hispanic black and white individuals. The pool of respondents included 2,110 black adults and 18,920 white adults. Additional data included publicly available state-level statistics from the Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Justice to create a racial index serving as a guide to structural racism. The researchers used the index to determine racism scores for all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The results are staggering but, unfortunately, not surprising. More state-level racism was associated with 5 percent higher odds of securing care and 6 percent higher odds of sufficient time with a health-care provider among white individuals. Among black individuals, additional state-level racism was associated with 8 percent lower chances of getting care. Provider racial discrimination was also associated with 80 percent lower odds of a provider explaining care, 77 percent lower odds of a provider answering questions, and 68 percent lower odds of sufficient time with a doctor or nurse. *Consider: How could you better advocate for clients of color to receive high-quality health care?*

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## **The Touch of the Master**

In our cushy American culture, many consider it a valuable investment to indulge in a monthly massage. People look forward to having sore muscles kneaded and kinks worked over in an attempt to keep their bodies functioning optimally. It's like a hybrid of preventative and restorative treatment.

Enveloped in a serene atmosphere created by tranquil music, a warm blanket, calming aromas, and skilled hands, anxiety gives way to a loose, languorous state of mind. Even the deep, sometimes painful work is considered "good" because it ultimately brings relief and restores function.

Think about it—the work the massage therapist does provides a great analogy for how the Lord works in our lives. When we submit to His hands and allow Him to address the aching and knotted areas in our hearts and lives, His touch can restore those dysfunctional areas. But if we resist the deep work, we limit the benefits He intends for us by holding onto the tensions and toxins that He wants to remove.

Why can't we treasure the therapeutic touch of the Master's hands as a preventative and restorative treatment that allows us to function at our best in the same way we look forward to an appointment for a massage?

And then, after your brief suffering, the God of all loving grace, who has called you to share in His eternal glory in Christ, will personally and powerfully restore you and make you stronger than ever. Yes, He will set you firmly in place and build you up.

1 Peter 5:10 TPT

*Written by Alice Gifford and used with permission*

*To contribute: If you would like to write a devotional thought for StreetLight, please make it about 200 words, include at least one Bible verse or passage, and submit via [email](#).*