

**U.S. Department of Labor**

Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives  
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20210



July 25, 2007

Reverend Jonathan E. Ford  
Turning the TIDE  
425 South 61<sup>st</sup> St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19143

Dear Reverend Ford:

On behalf of the Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (CFBCI) at the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), I commend the important work that Turning the Tide is carrying out in the City of Philadelphia. Since 1999, your organization has provided valuable services to countless members of the Philadelphia community, and for this, I congratulate you.

For three consecutive years, Turning the Tide has successfully competed against hundreds of other applicants to obtain a Workforce Investment Act Grassroots Grant from the Employment and Training Administration. After receiving the grants, your organization has distinguished itself again by delivering solid results. What makes these outcomes even more impressive is that Turning the Tide is serving individuals with significant barriers to employment—welfare recipients, high school dropouts, and ex-offenders. According to data that you have submitted to the Labor Department, Turning the Tide has utilized its \$160,000 in DOL-awarded grants to serve 652 individuals, place 86 people in employment, and leverage 568 volunteer hours to better serve men and women in your community.

That is why the CFBCI named your organization the March 2007 “Champion of Compassion.” This honor is given to faith-based and community organizations that distinguish themselves by the quality of their work in the community. Your commitment to helping disadvantaged men and women is evidenced by the number of people who have been able to better their lives. I thank you and your staff for helping them to succeed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rhett Butler".

Rhett Butler  
Director  
Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives  
U.S. Department of Labor