

NHPP Update: Candidates continue to respond to non-profit issues

Continuing to carry the message that not-for-profits are a significant basis for our nation's health to both parties, Cynthia Mills, TCIA president, was successful in personally meeting with a number of candidates throughout the late summer.

As a result of speaking with Governor Mike Huckabee, 2nd Republican runner-up in the Iowa straw poll, he was the first candidate to agree to meet personally with the not-for-profit community, in New Hampshire on September 13 in Dover. This meeting resulted in television and print news coverage – a springboard to getting other candidates to meet with us throughout the fall.



Cynthia Mills with former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee.

In addition, Cynthia has met personally with Representative Tom Tancredo (R-CO) and Governor Bill Richardson (D-NM); attended rallies for Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and Senator Barack Obama (D-IL); having the opportunity to speak with Obama about not-for-profits as well.



Mills with Rep. Tom Tancredo.

Here is a sampling of the kind of interaction that is occurring: Cynthia queried Rep. Tancredo: "In the 1800s, a young French aristocrat, Alexis de Tocqueville, traveled our country and observed that the genius of our nation was that when there was a problem, people gathered together to fix that



Senator Barack Obama during a rally in Manchester, N.H.

problem. Congressman Tancredo, I have been blessed to serve as CEO of the only national trade association in New Hampshire – one of 7,000 not-for-profits in this state alone. Sixty million volunteers hire 14 million professionals to run these not-for-profits – 10 percent of



Sen. Hillary Clinton, with former President Bill Clinton looking on, during a rally in Concord, N.H., the state capitol.

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our nation's wages. As you know, these organizations are providing services that the government is not – and the Congressman interjected, "and Should Not!" – I continued with "cannot provide. Our community is interested in how, as President of the United States, you would support this critical leg of our nation's infrastructure and enhance our sector."

Rep. Tancredo responded, "That is a GREAT question." He then spent considerable time talking about the floods in New Hampshire and about Hurricane Katrina; noting that while the government has thrown tremendous amounts of money at the Gulf Coast, the devastation continues. Instead, he emphasized that personal responsibility and



Sen. John Edwards spoke at Manchester city hall, while, below, his wife, Elizabeth Edwards, listened.



the coming together of our citizens is part of what makes America great. As President, the Congressman said that his job would be to elevate successful organizations – to showcase the organizations that are doing things well in our sector. The Congressman was VERY clear that not-for-profits' work is very much in line with his view of the future of our nation – individual responsibility being at the core of that philosophy; that government was not the sole answer; nor necessarily the best answer; to every problem. These are views that are very similar to Governor Huckabee's.

Governor Richardson's answer included that on the issue of taxation, it was important for us to maintain our status. He saw us as providing partnership in everything from energy research to housing to poverty. He perceives we are strongest in areas like these and is supportive of finding new ways to partner.

At the Republican National Debates September 5, Cynthia also had the opportunity to speak with former New Hampshire Republican Congressman Jeb Bradley, TCIA's 2005 Legislator of the Year. He has not forgotten us and will be running again in 2008.

Each of these interactions puts TCIA on the map as the representative of an important business segment in our nation. The repetition and familiarity provides a recognition that can be useful in the future as each individual returns to their various roles in government and one secures the White House. TCIA's goal is to have enhanced access to those whom we will count on to support our industry and the vital role it plays in our communities and the overall health of the environment.



Mills with Governor Bill Richardson.



Congressman Paul Hodes (D-NH) introduces Sen. Obama in Manchester, N.H.