CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:15 Check-in – Norton Center, Birmingham-Southern College; coffee, donuts

8:45 Welcome in the Great Hall

9:00 Keynote: A Picture of Poverty – Dr. Cynthia M. (Milly) Duncan, University of New Hampshire, author of Worlds Apart, and former Ford Foundation program director. Duncan’s 350 interviews with the rural poor revealed a failure of democracy. How can Alabama – and the nation – build pathways out of poverty?

9:45 Workshop Session I

A. The Medicaid funding crisis – Dr. Marsha Rawerson, Brawton, chairs Ala. Academy of Pediatrics; Mary Weidler, ACPP. Each year legislators face a funding shortfall in health care for children and the elderly.

B. Jubilee Amendment to unlock state transit funding in 2005 – Jocelyn Cash, Montgomery Transportation Coalition; Butch Ferrell, bus riders organizer, Birmingham; Stan Johnson, ACPP. December marks the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Yet public transportation still gets no state funding.

C. What “No Child Left Behind” means for small schools – Robin Lambert, rural education consultant, Harlan, Ky. Lambert draws on her long experience with rural Alabama schools and communities to outline the impact of NCLB on small schools.


F. Legislative advocacy 101 – Ron Gilbert and Presdelane Harris, ACPP. How does the Legislature work, and at what points can we make a difference?

G. Making the case for advocacy as a justice ministry – Jim Evans, columnist and pastor, First Baptist Church, Auburn. What can we say to people who say faith and politics don’t mix?

H. Social justice and the environment – Mark Johnston, Camp McDowell; David Ladder, Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation (LEAF), Tallahassee. Why are hazardous waste dumps in poor areas? Environmental justice groups are challenging the pattern.

10:45 Break

11:00 Workshop Session II


J. Forty years on: legacies of the War on Poverty in Alabama – Gayle Cunningham and Theodore Dobro, Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity (JCCEO); Michael Tabbs, Community Action Association of Alabama. From Head Start to LIHEAP, Community Action Programs have offered a hand up in dozens of Alabama communities.

K. Tapping the groundswell for constitutional reform – Mark Berte, Greater Birmingham Ministries. Alabama’s 1901 Constitution tilts the political playing field against the interests of the poor, but people are waking up and getting mobilized.


M. Legislative advocacy 101 – Repeat workshop F.

N. Challenges facing low-income Latino Alabamians – Grace Conmontofski, immigrant rights advocate, Moulton; Javier Morales, Project Acnpre, Oneonta; Juan M. Vargas, community activist, Gadsden. Low-wage jobs attract thousands of Latino/Hispanic workers to Alabama every year – and keep them on the margins.

O. What can one person do? 20 action steps – Kimble Forrister and Stan Johnson, ACPP. People ask where they can start addressing the systemic causes of poverty. Two longtime organizers share ideas.

P. Corporate taxes and incentives – free ride or fair share? – Matt Gardner, Institute for Tax and Economic Policy, Washington, D.C. Corporate income tax revenue has fallen, and it’s not always because business is bad.

12:00 Lunch in Great Hall Room A

12:30 Lunch panel: The policy landscape – Iris Lav, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; Dr. Gerald Johnson, Capital Survey Research Center; Jim Evans, columnist and pastor. Poor people don’t fare well in Congress nor in Alabama public discourse. How can we change the conversation?

1:15 Break

1:30 Workshop Session III

Q. Engaging student activists – Lucy Jones, IMPACT. Members of Generation Y volunteer in record numbers. IMPACT is a new venture to steer this energy toward the structural causes of poverty.

R. Predatory lending, slumlords and the homeless – Lawton Higgs, Church of the Reconciler, Birmingham; Ron Gilbert, ACPP; Dan Williams, Homeless Coalition of the Gulf Coast. With no legal protections from loan sharks and slumlords, Alabama’s homeless face practical hurdles.

S. What emerging issues in child development mean for Alabama child care – Sophia Bray Harris, Federation of Child Care Centers of Alabama; Margie Curry, Childcare Resources, Birmingham; Gayle Cunningham, JCCEO. Birth-to-five brain development is critical, but Alabama’s strategies fall short.

T. Building toward a moratorium on the death penalty – Staff attorney, Equal Justice Initiative; Esther Brown, Project Hope. When it comes to capital punishment in Alabama, race and income too often tip the scales of justice.

U. Medicaid funding crisis – Repeat workshop A.

V. Corporate tax incentives – Repeat P.

W. Advocacy as a justice ministry – Repeat G.

X. What can one person do? – Repeat O.

2:30 Closing plenary

Speaker: Dr. Johnny Green, Center for Diversity and Race Relations, Auburn University

3:00 Adjourn
**REGISTRATION DEADLINE** Friday, Feb. 4

Use this form to register now!
Registration will not be allowed at the door.

Cost: $50; students $15 (registration fee includes lunch and resource notebook). Some scholarships available. Special rate for groups of 5 or more. Call Arise for details – (800) 832-9060.

Name ________________________________
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City __________ State ___ Zip _____
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Phone (h) __________ (w)____________

Amount enclosed: $ ____________________
Make checks payable to ACPP. Be sure to enclose a separate registration form for each person attending.

Circle your workshop choices so we can make room assignments. Circle one letter per session.

Session 1 (9:45)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H
Session 2 (11:00)  I  J  K  L  M  N  O  P
Session 3 (1:30)  Q  R  S  T  U  V  W  X

_______ I need a vegetarian meal.

Mail this form with a check to “ACPP” for your registration fee before February 4 to:

ACPP
P. O. Box 1188
Montgomery, AL 36101

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**STUDENT TRACK**

Students are invited to special plenary sessions, as well as the full slate of conference workshop choices.

8:45 Welcome – Norton Theater
9:00 Keynote: Lucy Jones, IMPACT, Birmingham
9:45 Workshop Session I (See listing inside)
11:00 Workshop Session II (See listing inside)
12:00 Lunch – Great Hall Room B
12:45 Speaker – Dr. Mil Duncan, author of Worlds Apart, in Norton Theater
1:30 Workshop Session III (See listing inside)
2:30 Closing plenary – Great Hall Room A
3:00 Adjourn

**SOCIAL WORK CONTACT HOURS**

This conference has been approved for 5 continuing education contact hours by the Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners.

Arise Citizens’ Policy Project
P. O. Box 1188
Montgomery, AL 36101-1188
(800) 832-9060
www.arisecitizens.org

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Poverty & Policy
Birmingham-Southern
Tues., Feb. 15, 2005

Putting democracy to work to address the causes of poverty in Alabama

A statewide conference presented by Arise Citizens’ Policy Project and the BSC chapter of Alabama Arise