

**ST PERPETUA OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**November 7, 2017**

**Members Present:** Joan Liston, Marielle Narkiewicz (Secretary), Sandi Gritzer, Virginia LaFaille, Pat Snyder (Chairperson), Kitty Locke, Mary Terjeson, Ann Porcella, Carol Weyer, Diane Hansen, Karen Kalvass, Marj Ho, Heather Keith-Spellman

**Welcome and Opening Prayer:** Pat welcomed everyone and handed out a prayer for the evening about helping those with mental health issues, which often lead to other issues, such as homelessness.

**Speaker: Guest speaker: Friendly Manor, LaRue Williams**

Opened in 1990 by three Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Friendly Manor is a drop-in center and residence for homeless women. As of September 2016, it is a program of St. Mary's Center and we are happy to continue this vital program that has been a beacon of light for women in West Oakland. LaRue has been the program director from the end of August to present. When she begins work there is usually a line of women waiting to get in. They are often women who live in "tent city" within Oakland. Men are not allowed in the front door, offering the women a safe place for them to stay. They may have coffee, a light breakfast, they are able to wash their clothes, make phone calls, take showers; they are able to get referrals, among other services. The women can also celebrate their birthdays there and celebrate each other. They do have rules: to be there you must act accordingly.

Friendly Manor is needed and now due to the winter months there will be more women needing access to shelter. They also may come in to shower and prepare themselves for job interviews. Friendly Manor has a drop-in center (only open Monday -Thursday 9am - 2pm and Friday 9am – 1:30pm) where on any given day they can take 30-50 women; and they have transitional housing (25 beds) for homeless women; they also help their members by identifying materials and clothing needed throughout the year. St Perpetua has contributed coats from Blue Barrels. Something they discuss with the women that require transitional housing are, what the barriers are for the women to get affordable housing and what can Friendly Manor do to make sure those women are selected for affordable housing. They must be at least 18, but age ranges from 25-60.

They have a calendar with a list where St Perpetua may help by volunteering for lunches and other services. They also have a few more openings because of the holidays.

Future Blue Barrel: they have a list of items that would be helpful. Sanitary supplies, incontinence supplies, travel size soaps, condition & shampoo, socks, deodorant, razors, mouthwash, sleeping bags, coats, reading glasses, purses, anything that can be given as a prize for when they play bingo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.

Events: They hold a fundraising gala each spring with a silent auction.

**Future Speakers:**

Nothing planned for coming months.

**Correspondence and Agency Updates: Pat / All**

1. Putnam Clubhouse – Marielle visited on October 20<sup>th</sup> and was very impressed with the organization, routine and what the clubhouse provides. Form sent with minutes.
2. Joan- Trinity Center is going under construction and will begin early 2018, they are moving and the temporary facility will be on California Ave and Bothelo Drive in Walnut Creek. They could benefit from trucks and delivery help until the construction is completed.

**Financial Report & Fund Distribution: Mary T / All**

Fifth Sundays: 12/31

October fund balance was \$11,549. Receipts for the month were \$10,564 of which \$9,010 was from the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday collection. We agreed to donate \$7000 to the fire victims, based upon prior 2017 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday collection amounts, last year's collection amounts, and the number of high value donations (five were over \$1,000). The remaining funds allowed distributions to six agencies which had received less than \$1500 year to date. One agency, Youth Homes, remains under the \$1500 level year to date which we will include in next month's distribution. Remaining month's balance of \$1500 left to cover ANKA sock project and shelter dinners. For October, we would give \$3000 to the following agencies in \$500 increments.

Bay Area Crisis Nursery – Marj will take the check directly to the agency

Bay Area Rescue Mission

CCIC

Child Abuse Prevention Council

Contra Costa Food Bank

RotaCare

**Warm Coat Drive: Karen**

There was a nice, workable amount of donations. Everything was cleaned out & packed up around 4pm from the church hall. Winter Nights, White Pony Express, Trinity Center, Friendly Manor, Mendocino and Wardrobe for Opportunity all received donations. Hillcrest church also came and took a vanload. Planning for 2018: Next year a good idea would be to ask the parish to knit items such as hats. We would notify in advance to allow time to participate.

**Food Basket: Virginia / Kitty**

- October – Went to Monument Crisis Center 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> with canned and dried beans
- November – 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> collection goes to St Vincent DePaul asking for Masa Harina, sugar, flour, oil – we are collecting in the Parish office and in front of the school. Sandi will ask Father to make an announcement during mass. Christoph may also put this in the Daily Perpetuan.

**Annual Christmas Food Drive: Kitty / Virginia / All**

The drop off location will need to be identified. The suggestion is to use the RRC and sort on Sunday, or use a parked truck (like a U-Haul) and then take it elsewhere to sort. Another idea would be the Panther House or the Chapel all sorted by Sunday evening. Pat will talk more with Christoph to determine what the best option is. The simplest area to store and sort items would be the Chapel.

Dates: We will pass out bags on Thanksgiving weekend (November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>) for requested for delivery on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, and we'd pass more bags out this weekend and then collect on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Carol will update the flyer, but all information related to recipients of food (Monument Crisis Center and St Vincent De Paul's Food Pantry at St. Francis of Assisi) and Cash for Turkeys (Bay Area Rescue Mission and Contra Costa Food Bank) will remain the same.

For collecting and sorting bags: Sign up sheet sent around for collection times. We will need additional helpers this year due to the differences in storing, etc. due to the construction of the hall.

**Winter Nights: Karen**

Our commitment is February 6<sup>th</sup> – Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup>. During the January meeting Karen will pass around a sign-up sheet and is requesting help (likely the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>).

**Shoes that Fit: Marj / Carol**

The list was from the new school, Willow Cove, Pittsburg, Ken Winkler Principal. We've had a few people buying the wrong sizes. Carol and Marj will get together on the appropriate sizing to fill out the cards differently for the parishioners to have easy guidance for purchasing the shoes. Currently the list has been 31 and then 34 for the different schools. Not all the shoes have been returned to the parish. Originally Marj and Carol asked for 4 lists throughout the year, now we will ask for a short list prior to Christmas and in the off-chance we get more and there is not enough time for the parishioners to fulfill the requests, the Committee approved funds to purchase 3 – 4 pairs of shoes (if needed).

Carol also sent around a flyer that advertises Nordstrom also donating to Shoes that Fit, since it is related to the agency.

**Other: Pat**

Future Blue Barrels – moving to next month's agenda.

**Shelter Dinners: Pat**

- The 8<sup>th</sup> grade class is doing everything for the November meal.

**Publicity: Sandi**

Sandi has everything she needs.

**Closing Prayer:** The meeting was ended with group prayer of the Our Father.

**Next Meeting: December 5, 2017, Chairperson will be Pat Snyder**