

ST PERPETUA OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 7, 2016

Members Present: Mary Terjeson (Chair Person,) Virginia LaFaille, Pat Snyder, Ann Porcella, Joan Liston, Kitty Locke, Carol Weyer, Sandi Gritzer, Patty Flynn, Mary Kuhn, Marielle Narkiewicz, Karen Kalvass, Marj Ho, Anne Meyer (Treasurer) and Ann Diemer (Secretary.)

Welcome and Opening Prayer: Mary Terjeson welcomed everyone and our guest speaker and handed out a prayer for all to recite regarding helping others.

Speaker: Ann Diemer introduced Stuart McCullough the Executive Director from Youth Homes. Youth Homes is a non-profit that provides housing and other services for foster youth under contract to Contra Costa County. Stuart has been the ED for Youth Homes for 23 years. Prior to that he was the Mental Health Director for Contra Costa County. He related that 25% of the population of Contra Costa County is under 18 years of age....about 250,000 children. 90% of those youth live in stable families. About 10% of the families struggle and of that 10% the bottom 10% of children are in danger and must be removed from their families for various degrees of neglect and abuse. That results in about 2500 children in foster care in the County. Youth homes generally accepts the most traumatized children, those who would have difficulty fitting into a foster home. They are generally between the ages of 12 and 18 years of age. Their philosophy is to try and find the children doing something right. It is difficult because the children all want a loving parent and the staff at the Youth Homes are not their parents, so they must set boundaries. They have four homes all in the Mt. Diablo School District because they are the most willing to work with foster youth. Each home can house up to 6 children by state law. In addition they offer services to youth in foster homes. Their annual budget is about \$7 million. A large portion, a little under 90%, of that is government funding for which the uses are very prescriptive. The remainder, about 11% are donated funds which are critical to the program in that they are discretionary and can be used for things such as music lessons or prom attire that allow the foster children to be more like "normal" children. Stuart provided some touching anecdotes about youth who have been served and thanked the Committee for their ongoing support.

Correspondence and Agency Updates: We received thank you notes from a number of charities for their \$500.00 donations as well as a thank you note from Youth Homes for the donation of clothing from the recent clothing drive.

Agency Support Review: The group discussed support of refugee families and the No One Left Behind group. Karen Kalvass would like do a blue barrel type collection for a refugee family during July. She already has a list of needed items. The Committee

agreed this was fine and Karen should get approval from Chris Nauer and then send an email to the Committee if she needs assistance. Mary Kuhn related some information on the larger commitment of sponsoring a refugee family and the group agreed this is more of a project for the parish as a whole and would require leadership from Chris Nauer or some other group within the parish. The Committee would prefer to be in a support role.

Financial Report & Fund Distribution: Anne Meyer stated that the month end balance for May was \$3,674.73. She recommended 6 donations of \$500 each for total of \$3000. The agencies receiving donations will be Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition, Contra Costa Food Bank, Foster Family Network of CCC, Friendly Manor, Hope Conference and Youth Homes.

Winter Nights/Clothing Drive: Winter Nights was held at the Orinda Community Church and St Perpetua provided assistance Wed., April 13 – Sun., April 17th. The program went well and Karen Kalvass thanked everyone for their assistance.

Food Basket: The May collection of 40 bags was delivered to St Vincent de Paul. The June 11/12 collection will be for powdered milk, vegetable oil and masa harina.

Blue Barrel: Karen commented that the clothing drive she organized during the second week of April went well with clothing donated to White Pony Express, Friendly Manor and Youth Homes. In the future, if a similar drive is conducted, they could use more sorters! In addition, as noted above, Karen will be organizing a collection for a refugee family of specific needed items in July. She will coordinate with Christoph Nauer and email the Committee if she needs assistance. There was also a Grateful Gatherings collection of used items for needy families organized by the school and held in the upper parking lot. Karen Kalvass reported that it went well. Check out the Grateful Gatherings website if you are interested.

Shoes That Fit: Marj Ho reported that the last of requested shoes had been received and all shoes returned. For this school year a total of 112 pair of shoes were donated bringing the program total since inception to 558 pair of shoes. Marj would like to give some thought to expanding the program to include other items of clothing. Possibly uniforms or sweatshirts. She will check with the school to see what the needs are and bring back to the Committee for discussion in August.

Other: Mary Terjeson reported that we have two new volunteers for Committee positions. Patty Flynn has volunteered to be Treasurer. Anne Meyer will train her and remain as backup. Marielle Narkiewicz has volunteered to be Secretary. Also, Judith Russell will be staying in the area and wants to continue on the Committee and may be available to be backup Secretary as she has done a great job in the past. Ann Diemer will provide some training to Marielle prior to the next meeting. Given that the Secretary position has been filled, Ann Diemer volunteered to be Rotating Chair Person for the

next three meetings.....August, September and October. There will be no meeting in July.

Publicity: Sandi Gritzer stated that she has all the info she needs for the next church bulletin. The information has been getting into the bulletin in a timely manner.

Shelter Meals: The June meal was prepared by Ann Diemer. Trina Audley and family and Dick Jacobberger transported and served.

Closing Prayer: The meeting was ended with group prayer the Hail Mary.

Next Meeting: August 2, 2016 Chairperson Ann Diemer