

ST PERPETUA OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 4, 2017

Members Present: Ann Porcella, Sandi Gritzer, Joan Liston, Mary Terjeson (Chairperson), Carol Weyer, Marielle Narkiewicz (Secretary), Kitty Locke, Ann Diemer, Karen Kalvass, Virginia LaFaille, Pat Snyder, Mary Kuhn, Diane Hansen

Welcome and Opening Prayer: Mary welcomed everyone and handed out a prayer for the evening.

Speaker: Guest speaker: Bobby Preston from No One Left Behind

No One Left Behind (**NOLB**) is an organization, which is dedicated to assisting the special immigrant visa holders who worked for the US government in Iraq and Afghanistan. They are still being allowed into the country at this point, but it's getting increasingly difficult. These people are targeted by the Taliban because of their involvement with the US government. They must be immigrated to the US to get safe haven. It takes 3-4 years for them to receive their visas. They also must pay for their medical exam, which is needed to get the visa (which is \$1500). Some were embassy workers, or support workers at the hospital. They are very highly vetted; they are required by the CIA and FBI to get screened every 6 months. NOLB mission is to ensure that these people are treated as the heroes and veterans that they are. At the present time, they are not interviewing any more of these people. The new requirement is that they would have to work with the government for 2 years (as opposed to the 1 year previously). After they have their visa, they can get reassigned to a resettlement agency, or they can get on the next plane and leave the country. The resettlement agency is required to provide support for the first 90 days and also provide the RNP (resettlement money). Last year that money was \$1850 per person, half of that went to the family and the other half went to the resettlement agency (and this was a one-time payment). NOLB mission is to support this by providing household essentials, employment and education opportunities, social support, donated vehicle grants and emergency rent assistance. The organization has a 5-year commitment promise to help those being resettled, which coincides with timing for citizenship application. Since August of 2015, NOLB has helped over 200 families. Right now they have 152 families they are actively supporting.

They provide gently used furniture and household goods (especially beds). One such good would be a family computer. They have a deal with a group called Tech Exchange that provides a new (refurbished) computer. Sewing machines are another great tool to donate. A bicycle is another good tool for them to get their lives going.

They have a group to go to the home to plan donations needed. There are also 'circles of caring' where 5-6 people will take on one family unit (for example, a language helper, etc.). They also provide educational support, for example ESL tutors and scholarships. This really helps when the 90-day support time from the resettlement agency runs out. They also help with employment (such as writing a resume, identifying job opportunities, and specialty mentors and job coaches). They also provide family mentors that help out with other things related to living and thriving in the US. East Bay Donation Station- started as a blog to find out what might be available in the area to help different outreach needs.

Current needs are more for people power rather than goods right now. They need:

- Volunteer intake officer
- Pickup and delivery of goods
- Inventory the storage container weekly
- Family home visits after registration
- Take responsibility for a small segment of donations (and identify which family needs it and arrange for delivery)

Contact Marge@nooneleft.org

Future Speakers: RotaCare for May (Pat has to confirm); Monument is confirmed for June

Correspondence and Agency Updates: Mary/All

1. Putnam Clubhouse – research being done to determine if we add to permanent list.
2. Meals on Wheels – federal funding cuts- are other agencies impacted? Could this change the way that we give our funding (possibly giving more than we normally do)? Continue to watch.
3. We still have three other opportunities to act as liaison for new group:
 - a. Bay Area Rescue Mission – Mary Terjeson and Ann Porcella will be joint liaisons.
 - b. Child Abuse Prevention – Ann Diemer visited them and said she will be the liaison
 - c. Options for Women – Still looking for a visit and a liaison.

Friendly Manor is having a gala in April and they are looking for prizes.

Meals on Wheels senior outreach has a gala coming up May 18th and they are also looking for prizes.

'Options for Women' is having Walk for Life on Saturday May 20th.

Ann Diemer suggested as a future item to consider some type of actual or electronic bulletin board to advise the parish of fundraisers for the charities we support that they may be interested in.

Financial Report & Fund Distribution: Ann D / All

April funds to allocate: \$5053 reported by parish office but of that \$1000 is still in question due to some accounting issues. Ann D. recommended distributing to 7 agencies each are \$500 donations for a total of \$3500, and keeping \$1553 reserved:

1. Food Pantry
2. Foster Family Network
3. Friendly Manor
4. Hope Conference
5. Loaves & Fishes
6. Monument Crisis Center
7. Options for Women

Postpone the New Treasurer until we have developed a more standard routine with the parish office and possibly recruit from the parish.

Blue Barrel: Kitty & Sandi

We received many towels (26 single bath towels and 9 bathroom sets) which went to CCIC cleaning kits and Friendly Manor, and 50 pair of pajamas going to STAND.

Maybe we could do diapers for the next collection because so many of the agencies we support need them.

Socks can be added for the fall as a blue barrel collection or possibly just collected on one of the good collection weekends.

Food Basket: Virginia / Kitty

April 8/9 Tuna, Chicken, Turkey, Spam, Corned Beef all going to Monument Crisis Center.

Shoes that Fit: Marj / Carol

No updates right now.

Other: Refugee Family: Mary K

There is a second meeting tomorrow night at the religious center (about 50 people interested, with 20 coming to the first meeting). Tomorrow they will organize tables based on committee with attendees getting a better understanding what is expected of them- the goal tomorrow is to organize the teams. Mary just found out that there is a family of three coming in at the end of this month (from Iran).

One suggestion was to hold a Blue Barrel to donate household goods for the refugee family. We could also do it, like we do the Shoes that Fit, and have cards specific for each family member and what they need.

Other: Lenten Simple Soup Supper: Mary T

Thank you all for the help! Way to go Ann D. with all your delicious soup!

Other: Rotating Chairperson:

We need volunteers for June-December. Mary will pass this around during the next meeting.

Shelter Dinners: Ann Diemer

The next dinner is this Thursday: Monica is cooking and James Fulton is transporting with Mike Whitechurch and Dick Jacobberger and Mary Terjeson.

Publicity: Sandi

Sandi has everything she needs.

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

Next Meeting: May 2, 2017, Chairperson will be Mary Terjeson