

ST PERPETUA OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 3, 2016

Members Present: Mary Terjeson (Chair Person,) Virginia LaFaille, Pat Snyder, Ann Porcella, Joan Liston, Kitty Locke, Carol Weyer, Sandi Gritzer, Sarah Ellison, Patty Flynn and Ann Diemer (Secretary.)

Welcome New Guests and Opening Prayer: Mary Kuhn attended for the first time. Mary Terjeson handed out a prayer for all to recite.

Speaker: Sr. Marti McCarthy from A Friendly Manor was the May speaker. In June, there will be a speaker from Youth Homes. Sr. McCarthy explained that Friendly Manor began as A Friendly Place in January 1990 to provide a place for homeless women to gather during the day. They could get a snack, use the phone, take a shower and use laundry facilities. After a time about 60-70 women were showing up each day and more space was needed. In 1994 a new structure was purchased and renovations began. The new facility was opened in November of 1996 and given a new name, A Friendly Manor. In addition to the day time drop in services, 26 single occupancy rooms were available on the second floor. The facility operated as a non-profit with it's own Board of Directors for nearly 20 years. Recently the Board made the decision to turn operations over to another entity due to staffing difficulties. The operation had become too much for the few sisters remaining. After some research it was determined that St. Mary's Center would be a good fit. The operation of Friendly Manor as well as the building itself have been turned over to St. Mary's Center. Their annual budget is \$100,000. Friendly Manor will retain its name and its finances and donations will be accounted for separately from St. Mary's Center, although they will use St. Mary's Center Tax ID. These administrative changes should be transparent to the clients and to donors. They do utilize any toiletries and greeting cards that they receive so Virginia LaFaille will take care of delivering whatever is collected in the Friendly Manor basket in the vestibule of the Church to the Friendly Manor periodically.

Correspondence and Agency Updates: We received thank you notes from a number of charities for their \$500.00 donations.

Agency Support Review: Ann Porcella requested that we support SPRED with one \$500 donation per year. She believes the service they provide is unique and valuable and deserves our support. Their mission is to introduce and integrate the developmentally disabled into the Church. The group agreed to an annual contribution. Joan Liston noted that the Committee had collected \$970 at the Church over the last two weekends for Trinity Center. She stated that she is still recommending Trinity Center for addition to our list of Group 1 agencies who receive multiple donations during the year. Ann Diemer asked how many agencies we are considering adding and Mary

Terjeson noted that at this time there is only Trinity Center. Ann Diemer continued that, given that Trinity Center is the only new agency currently under consideration, she believes that Joan has made an eloquent case for including them and is ready to support that. Other members agreed and Joan thanked the group for adding Trinity Center to our Group 1 agencies. Joan also mentioned that she continued to have some reservations about supporting Cambridge Center and will continue to monitor them and bring the matter back to the Committee when she has more information.

Financial Report & Fund Distribution: Mary Terjeson stated that the month end balance for April was \$3,317.17. After discussion it was decided that \$500.00 each would go to the following agencies: SPRED, Monument Crisis Center, SHARE, We Care and Bay Area Rescue Mission for total donations of \$2500. There will be a fifth Sunday in May so there should be more money to distribute at the June meeting.

Winter Nights: Winter Nights was held at the Orinda Community Church and St Perpetua was providing assistance Wed., April 13 – Sun., April 17th. This program provides a clean, safe and warm facility at night during winter for homeless families with children. Karen Kalvass coordinated the volunteers from St. Perpetua but was not present at the meeting to update us. This item will be continued until Karen is present.

Food Basket: The April collection of 19 bags of canned fish/meat (tuna, chicken, turkey, spam, corn beef) was delivered to Monument Crisis Center. The May 14/15 collection will be for oatmeal and other unsweetened cereals.

Blue Barrel: Clothing Drive for Hillcrest Clothes Closet in Pleasant Hill, also benefiting Trinity Center in Walnut Creek, St. Anthony in San Francisco, Wardrobe for Opportunity, Loved Twice, Winter Nights and others took place on the weekend of April 9th and 10th. Karen Kalvass had the sorting very well organized and a lot of clothing was received. They could have used more volunteers for sorting as the response was much more than had been anticipated. Mary and Sarah indicated that if we do another clothing drive more volunteers will be needed.

Shoes That Fit: Carol Weyer reported that a list is expected on Wednesday from the Vice-Principal for Los Medanos Elementary School, Nicole Kitchen. As it is nearing the end of school it will be important to fill the needs quickly. There was some discussion of the church being very crowded the next weekend or two due to First Eucharist. Carol and Marj will coordinate with Christoph.

Other: Mary distributed a list of Officer positions and duties for the review of the Committee members and encouraged some of the new members to take a turn at one of the positions. In particular, it is important to have at least one lead and one backup for each position. Mary Terjeson, Pat Snyder and Ann Diemer have been tag teaming the Chairperson role. Judith Russell, Ann Diemer and Carol Weyer have been tag teaming the Secretary role. Judith will be moving out of the area and Carol is assisting

with many other Outreach projects so it would be nice to have another person to share the Secretary duties. Anne Meyer and Mary Terjeson have been tag teaming the Treasurer role. Again, Mary does so much for the Committee, it would be nice to have another person to share the Treasurer duties. Mary is acting Chair through June. This matter will be discussed again at the June meeting.

Mary Kuhn asked what role the Outreach Committee is playing or will play in the two initiatives that the Bishop is focusing on, which are resettlement of refugees and human trafficking. Mary Terjeson noted this has not been determined and further discussion will be needed before a final decision is made. She will check with Christoph to see if any other parish groups are getting involved with these two issues.

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 timelier manner lately.

Shelter Meals: Everything is all set for the May Shelter Meal. Denise Rosson will be the chef assisted by Monica Chappell. Trina Audley and family and Betty Clogher will transport and serve.

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

Next Meeting: June 7, 2016