

ST PERPETUA OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 6, 2017

Members Present: Mary Terjeson (Chairperson), Carol Weyer, Ann Diemer (Secretary/Treasurer), Pat Snyder, Kitty Locke, Marj Ho, Joan Liston, Sandi Gritzer, Erica (MOW/SOS)

Welcome and Opening Prayer: Mary welcomed everyone and handed out a prayer for the evening which spoke about sewing seeds of change to help the suffering.

Speaker: Guest speakers Sandra Scherer Executive Director and Cheryl Disimone, Faith Community Engagement Coordinator from Monument Crisis Center.

Sandra spoke at length and extemporaneously about the many programs at the Monument Crisis Center. They are thrilled with their relatively new location on Monument, which has a large sign that is visible from Market St. in Concord and from Highway 242. Interestingly they do get some walk in traffic because of the signage. It is a long way from the 10 ft by 10 ft room they started in back in 2003. Sandra noted that Mary Bert Smyth of St Perpetua was one of the original participants, as was Kitty Locke. Early staff came from St. Mary's college and they were very impressed with Mary Bert's sedan covered with leftist bumper stickers! Mary Bert gave the program a picture of people "Building a Rainbow" which still hangs at the Center and Sandra thinks it is a good way to summarize all that they do at the Center. Sandra remembered once when she was scheduled to speak at St Perpetua about the Center she saw a beautiful rainbow as she was driving over to the church and when she got there the gospel that day also mentioned rainbows!

When the center started in 2003 it was intended to be an emergency food pantry for the Monument corridor. Volunteer staffing and donations came from Carondelet, De La Salle and Mount Diablo high schools. It quickly became apparent that a whole range of services were needed by the clients. They were primarily Spanish speaking and did not know how to access available social services. Most were working hard but their income was not adequate for them to meet their basic needs. The programs began growing out of client necessity. Today there are five core programs:

- Food Distribution
- Resource and Referral/Health and Wellness
- Youth
- Seniors
- Community Engagement

Some 2016 Statistics are as follows:

Served:

- 3,731 Families
- 10,727 Individuals
- 35% of clients are children
- %16 are senior citizens

Distributed:

- 27,400 Diapers
- 15,600 USDA Commodity Bags
- 26,800 Food Boxes (food for over 1 million meals)

Community Support:

- 310,000 volunteer hours
- 254,300 pounds of food donated
- 40% of financial contributions from individuals

The annual budget is approximately \$1.3 million in cash and \$1.7 million in in-kind donations. There are only four full time staff plus the Executive Director to make all these good things happen!

Future Speakers:

Ann Diemer will check with Child Abuse Prevention Council and others are welcome to check with their charities.

Correspondence and Agency Updates: Mary/All

There is still no real information on the Federal budget and what cuts may be made that will impact our agencies. All will keep an eye on this as the Federal budget process moves forward and bring any particular concerns regarding their agencies back to the Committee.

We received thank you's from a number of agencies, including RotaCare, Trinity Center, MOW SOS and Options for Woman. Mary T. reported that she had spoken with Loaves and Fishes Board member who mentioned that David Gerson will be retiring and they are looking into whether there would be some benefits to consolidating Loaves and Fishes with the White Pony food operations.

Also, Diane Hansen and Mary Kuhn were going to follow up on doing a profile on Putnam House and making a recommendation to the committee on whether they should become one of our supported charities. Since they were not at the meeting, this discussion was tabled.

Financial Report & Fund Distribution: Ann D / All

April funds to allocate: \$1239 reported by parish office. Ann D. recommended distributing to 3 agencies each a \$500 donation for a total of \$1500, and keeping \$406 reserved. The next two agencies going down the alphabetical listing are Winter Nights and Youth Homes. In addition to those two, Ann Porcella requested making our once annual donation to SPRED in June. So the three receiving donations will be:

1. Winter Nights
2. Youth Homes
3. SPRED

Postpone the New Treasurer recruitment until folks return from summer holidays.

Blue Barrel: Mary

There was a discussion of possible collection themes. It was decided that school supplies are done by a lot of groups and with the Committee not meeting in July it is not realistic to get organized for a school supply blue barrel. Instead we will focus on the following with more discussion at the August meeting and hopefully the blue barrel in late August.

- Socks (men and women)/underwear (men's)
- Women's Health - Menstrual materials/feminine hygiene products for Shelter Inc. and STAND

Food Basket: Virginia / Kitty

May collection for St. Vincent DePaul was 45 bags of assorted cereals. The next collection will be for Monument Crisis Center on June 10/11 and will be for powdered milk, vegetable oil, and masa harina.

Shoes that Fit: Marj / Carol

Los Medanos school never responded with a new list of children needing shoes. So we have done only 32 pair of shoes this year. Marj has done some research on different schools that could benefit from the donations. Her recommendation is to add another school in Pittsburg where she has a relationship with the Assistant Principal, which should facilitate getting the program set up. We would continue with Los Medanos in hopes that they will get more engaged in the program. The new suggested school is

Willow Cove, which is across the freeway from Los Medanos. It is 85% Hispanic with 75% English learners.

Other: Refugee Family: Mary K

Marj Ho reported that she had attended the recent meeting regarding the refugee family and they seem to have all they need for the moment. There will be a talk at masses in the upcoming weeks about possible cash donations and also a parish picnic is being planned so the family can meet other members of the parish.

Other: Rotating Chairperson:

Pat Snyder will pick up the Chair position for August thru November.

Shelter Dinners: Ann Diemer

How will we continue to do Shelter Dinners when they begin the kitchen remodel? Discussion continued and several agreed to contact other churches in the area to see if they would be willing to allow use of their kitchen. There are still some funding issues with the remodel so it is unlikely to begin construction any time soon and therefore there is time to figure out an alternative cooking site.

Ann Diemer was chef for June and transporters/servers were Dennis Diemer, Dick Jacobberger and Carlo Combi.

Publicity: Sandi

Has all the information she needs for the bulletin.

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

Next Meeting: August 1, 2017, Chairperson will be Pat Snyder