

## ST PERPETUA OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 1, 2016

**Members Present:** Ann Porcella, Sandi Gritzer, Joan Liston, Pat Snyder (Chairperson), Carol Weyer, Marielle Narkiewicz (Secretary), Marj Ho, Patty Flynn, Mary Terjeson, Virginia LaFaille, Barbara Riggio; Newcomers: Diane Hansen, Monica Anderson, David Anderson, Patti McGregor, Emily Schultz

**Welcome and Opening Prayer:** Pat Snyder welcomed everyone and handed out a prayer by Bishop Barber from the Catholic Charities Luncheon Prayer.

**Speaker:**

Joan introduced Mary Fenelon as our speaker for the meeting, from Trinity Center.

Trinity center mission statement: doorway to opportunity to homeless people and those in need for services and resources. Vision: community that cares for its homeless people with compassion and provides safety, friendship and dignity. To be a place where everyone knows my name.

Trinity center is a non-residential program serving the homeless and working poor in Walnut Creek and central contra Costa County. They have the homeless fill out a seven-page questionnaire to really get to know the individuals (if they need food stamps, social security benefits, healthcare, etc.). The county has just given them another grant to add a mental health counselor to their staff.

They serve breakfast, lunch, and provide the opportunity or people to take showers, and get assistance with these programs. They serve about 500 people a month (roughly 60 people a day).

They try to place stabilized persons in temporary to, sometimes, permanent housing when available. There is a 1-2% vacancy rate in the county, so landlords are not likely to give them the opportunities to live there.

This year the Trinity Center is having the winter evenings shelter in Walnut Creek- from Nov 12-March 31. There is space for 50 people (57 people have already signed up). They have been vetted by Trinity Center and also by the police department. They get transported from Trinity Center to the Walnut Creek armory where volunteers will feed them (like White Pony Express) and then at 7am the next morning they get transported back to the Trinity Center for the daily services. They do have one issue; once a month the army needs to use the armory, so during that time the Trinity Center cannot be at the armory. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, where Trinity center is located, will house them on one of these weekends, and they are looking for more volunteer spaces.

St Paul's is also now putting up an apartment complex right next to Trinity Center; but this is designed so that there is a courtyard in the center where the tenants can congregate and they will not be "on the street" and instead be confined to the property. This is all for low-income people. The county has reserved 11 project based residential assistance vouchers for this location, which is a great help. Groundbreaking will likely be June, which means the apartments should be open two years later.

Other activities include:

- November 5<sup>th</sup> from 7-2 the Lafayette JRs are holding a rummage sale at Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian church.
- The Gala is at the Boundary Oaks Country Club on May 18<sup>th</sup> and is the largest fundraising event for the TC.
- They meet once a month for the WC homeless meeting, they also meet with the WC Police Department; everyone is very involved.

In December we will have a speaker from STAND.

### **Correspondence and Agency Updates: All**

Kitty: Shelter Inc. Kitty is not here.

Virginia: Friendly Manor is now St Mary's Center and St Mary's Center hired sister Marty McCarthy and she will take care of Friendly Manor

Pat: Winter Nights, began on 14<sup>th</sup> October, they aren't full yet but will likely be soon. They are still looking for someone to replace Joe Macaluso, the social worker that worked with them. White Pony Express is working on getting portable showers for congregations that do not have showers available. There is a walk called the Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP) Hunger Walk that provides funding for local agencies and for world hunger. Winter nights receives 25% of their proceeds. We found out too late for 2016, but are working to get involved for next year's walk.

### **Financial Report & Fund Distribution: Patty**

Patty- we have \$8,794 to give out this month. We don't have to spend it all this month, we can split it up or we can send it all this month. We need to talk about the "5<sup>th</sup> Sunday" with Katherine to make sure we are getting the right funds.

We still need to get the ROTACare on the list.

Project Hope- ANKA socks- Pat has confirmed with Christine, they will finish the first week in December; they will need the money so we need to keep \$1000 off the top, set aside for the ANKA socks. The Faith Formation official (Christine) will take the \$1000 and purchase the socks. So instead of spending \$8,794 we will spend \$7,794 and will not write a check to the ANKA socks.

This month we will donate to Food Pantry, ROTACare, Friendly Manor, Hope Center, Loaves and Fishes, Monument Crisis Center, Options for Women, MOW/SOS, SHARE, STAND, Trinity Center, We Care, Winter Nights, and Youth Homes

### **Share the Warmth Drive: Diane Hansen**

This is held this Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup> Collection is planned for next weekend; we may start sorting on Saturday evening. Looking for help on Sunday from 8am-2pm. They will also order pizza for those staying over lunch!

### **Christmas Food Drive: Pat**

Pat has dates: distribute bags on Thanksgiving weekend (November 26-27) and the following weekend (December 3-4); collecting food the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in December (3-4) and the following weekend as well (December 10-11). We also need people to help sort Monday morning around 9:30am (the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup> of December).

### **Food Basket: Virginia**

October collection: 287lbs, about 30 bags went to Monument Crisis.

Next collection is November 13-14; Masa Harina, Flour, Sugar (5lb bags), Oil

### **Shoes that Fit: Marj/Carol**

Marj hasn't been able to talk to the new VP at Los Medanos. This may be a time to threaten that we will go elsewhere to donate. Ideally we will have a list before Thanksgiving.

**Committee Documents: Mary T**

It seems like we are finalized for the agency profile document. Everything has been updated as necessary and Mary will email the document to everyone.

**Other: Refugee Family: Pat**

There will be a meeting between Sister Elizabeth, Christoph and Mary Kuhn with regard to the refugee family outreach. There are two families here from Burma (Myanmar) that have currently found housing, being sponsored by Santa Maria and by St. Monica's. This is not led by the Outreach Committee, but allows us to get the word out about what is going on with the refugee family outreach.

**Publicity: Sandi**

We want to put something in the bulletin for the Christmas Food Drive and also the Perpetuan (the deadline is November 14<sup>th</sup>).

**Shelter Dinners: All**

Barbara saw online that Ann Diemer has all the volunteers filled.

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

**Next Meeting: December 6, 2016, Chairperson will be Pat Snyder**