

ST PERPETUA OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 3, 2015

Members Present: Mary Terjeson (Acting Chair), Marie Bonilla, Ann Diemer, Sharon Flower, Sandi Gritzer, Terese Hagerty, Marj Ho, Virginia LaFaille, Joan Liston, Kitty Locke, Ann Porcella, Judith Russell (Acting Secretary), Pat Snyder, Carol Weyer

Welcome & Prayer: Mary Terjeson welcomed the members and opened the meeting in a prayer from St. Thomas More, which is prayed by Pope Francis daily.

SPEAKERS. Mary Terjeson introduced two speakers from LOAVES AND FISHES (L&F): David Gerson, executive director, and Mike Hazelwood, a St Perpetua parishioner who is also a volunteer board member of L&F. Mike said that he and David had come to the St Perpetua Outreach Committee to make a one-time special request [to support their capital campaign drive for the purchase & remodel of a building in Martinez. It will contain a kitchen and replace the space they have been renting.](#) David began by presenting some background about L&F. He said that he had been a tax lawyer for 25 years. Three years ago he came to L&F. L&F has been renting space for five dining rooms: Martinez, Bay Point, Pittsburg, Antioch, Oakley. In addition, they have been providing services beyond food by partnering with Cal Fresh, Food Bank, Fresh Start, Rubicon (job training for people coming out of incarceration), Opportunity Junction (training for clerical skills), Shelter Inc for homeless vets, Hi Cap for seniors, County Homeless Health Van, DVC Dental Hygiene, Cal State Hayward's Nursing Program, and Esurance (subsidiary of Virgin cell phones) which provides free cell phones with minutes and texting, The kitchen staff is full time, David is full time, and everyone else is part-time. David would like to hire a full-time mobile social worker to go to a different site each day and help people get services. Also, he would like the social worker to have leadership skills. Thirty to forty volunteers per day are helping in the dining rooms. For the future L&F [would consider a merger](#) with the Food Bank (now serving 50,000/month). Recently, Spencer Fisher interviewed an L&F client on TV.

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Then, David announced that a new building has been purchased for L&F by the Ludell Deutscher Charitable Lead Trust (Trust) through L&F board member, David Deutscher, the Trust's trustee. L&F has initiated fund-raising toward a CAPITAL CAMPAIGN goal of \$337,000. \$100,000 will be used as a minimum down payment toward repaying the purchase by the Trust. \$237,000 will be used to remodel the building, which had previously been an IOOF lodge (Odd Fellows and Rebeccas). The Trust has already donated \$100,000 to the CAPITAL CAMPAIGN. Other donations are in process from the Thomas J. Long Foundation and the Headco Foundation. Wells Fargo is interested in helping support a new culinary training program, Wild Thyme catering will help create the training program and provide job-links to the graduates with restaurant & catering people in the area for jobs. The new hall will be available to rent to community groups, such as, AA. L&F will have a Fund Raiser, Sunday, June 7 at the Hacienda in Moraga.

CORRESPONDENCE AND AGENCY UPDATES. Mary passed out mail from Bay Area Crisis Nursery, We Care, SPRED, and Child Abuse Prevention Council.

Sharon Flower said that she spoke with Nancy deWeese (Foster Families) who said that FOSTER A DREAM IN MARTINEZ gives away prom dresses. The St P Knights of Columbus declined participation in a pancake breakfast fund-raiser. Marie Bonilla suggested that Sharon talk with the Knights at John Vianney. Virginia LaFaille announced that A Friendly Manor will have a Spring Gala, April 12, at \$30/person. Ann Porcella said that the Bay Area Rescue Mission is celebrating 50 years. Also, a thank you was received from SPRED. Marj Ho said that the Bay Area Crisis Nursery will have an annual Easter Basket drive for 200 children. The Blue Barrel Collection is going well. Marie Bonilla said on March 25 there will be a St Pat's luncheon in Pleasant Hill for Birth Right.

Mary Terjeson passed out a list of agencies that have not had speakers at the Outreach Committee. Joan Liston suggested that we ask Cambridge Community Center to send a speaker. Kitty Locke will check with Shelter Inc. Then Mary Terjeson collected updated Volunteer Opportunities list. Mary Terjeson said the Outreach Committee's annual report had not been in the bulletin to date and would follow up with Crystal.

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FINANCIAL REPORT AND FUND DISTRIBUTION: Mary Terjeson reported for Anne Meyer that our balance is \$3,173.87. Mary asked the committee to consider giving extra money to Loaves and Fishes this month. She said that it was really important that they are bringing together many services, considering merging with Food Bank, and maintaining multiple distribution sites to serve the needy. The Committee decided to give L&F \$2,500 this month. They will move the other agencies down a month. Marj Ho said this month's 5th Sunday will help us get back on track.

FOOD BASKET: Virginia LaFaille said we did very well -- 43 bags, all cans (very heavy!) [The March 14-15 collection will go to Monument Crisis.](#) Bill Garner said he can do it on his own.

BLUE BARREL: Marj Ho said she's got distribution under control. Crisis Nursery is not interested in baby furniture. Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition (Bev) will pick up furniture.

SHOES THAT FIT. Carol Weyer has compiled a list of requests and deliveries. The last list was for 18. There are 5 left to deliver. Regarding shoes' color, Carol said NOT SOLID RED, but the new vice principal said blue is okay. Marie Bonilla suggested pictures of unacceptable shoes (in a circle with line or x through it). Marj Ho said Payless carries half sizes.

PUBLICITY. Ann Diemer said that Sandi Gritzer's write up in the Bulletin was very nice. Carol Weyer said that we might look at possible Committee information for the Church website.

SHELTER DINNER: Ann Diemer said that the school (8th grade) is doing the Shelter dinner in March.

OTHER: Sharon F said Nancy at the Foster Family network was happy to get car seats. Mary Terjeson will be chair for March, April, and May.

CLOSING PRAYER: Mary Terjeson read Father John's recent bulletin message from John Wesley.

NEXT MEETING: April 7, 2015. Rotating Chairperson: Mary Terjeson.

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