

# ST PERPETUA OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 5, 2016

**Members Present:** Pat Snyder (Acting Chair), Ann Diemer (Acting Secretary), Patty Flynn, Marj Ho, Sandi Gritzer (Publicity), Joan Liston, Kitty Locke, Anne Meyer (Treasurer), Ann Porcella, Mary Terjeson, Carol Weyer, Terese Hagerty, Sarah Ellison, Erica Brooks (guest), Karen Rose (guest).

**Welcome & Prayer:** Pat Snyder opened the meeting and handed out a prayer, which the group read aloud.

**Speakers:** There was no speaker as the agenda for January was very full, but Pat encouraged everyone to bring forth ideas for speakers for future meetings.

**Correspondence and agency updates:** Letters were distributed consisting of thank you's for past donations. There were several requests for special discussions as follows:

Winter Nights Pasta Feed: Monica Chappell has asked for some support on the Pasta Feed. Based on her correspondence with Monica, Pat Snyder suggested the Committee assist with ticket sales prior to the Pasta Feed. In addition Monica later asked for members of the Committee to speak at masses prior to the Pasta Feed to increase interest. Pat is following up with the Committee to develop a signup list.

Trinity Center Adult Shelter: Joan Liston gave an update. The *Trinity Center* was not able to use the Armory for a homeless shelter as previously planned. Instead, St Paul's Episcopal Church will use two of their buildings to conduct the nighttime shelter and has gotten approval from the City of Walnut Creek to do so. They were able to open at *Trinity Center* on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> instead of on the 7<sup>th</sup> as previously planned due to this delay. They are currently housing 29 homeless singles. There is additional information on their website. This is one of the few programs for homeless singles. Joan Liston feels it is a good program that could use our support.

Hillcrest Center: We also received a thank you letter from Hillcrest Congregational Church thanking for the blankets and coats. Christoph had suggested that we might consider supporting them. Kitty Locke had done some further research. We will consider this request when we revisit current support policy guidelines.

The *White Pony Express*: Erica Brooks, VP of Growth and Development spoke to the Committee. This program started small as a food rescue operation to collect unused/past date food from stores and restaurants and get it to the needy through existing programs such as Trinity Center and other shelters and distribution centers. It was started by the Sufi community in Walnut Creek but is now an independent operation. They are now expanding to mobile boutiques that bring gently used clothing to sites throughout the County. They are currently well financed but can always use volunteer help for sorting/driving/putting tags on clothing. They also can use donations of gently used clothing particularly men's clothing in larger sizes.

Grateful Gatherings: Karen Rose and Chris Flitter spoke to the Committee. Chris worked

with Shelter Inc in the past on their Adopt a Family program where they outfit a family with furniture and household items. Recently Chris resigned and started her own non-profit to do the same thing on a larger scale. She is looking for groups who will adopt a family and commit to filling their needs for furniture and household items and with helping set up their new apartment/house with these items. This is something the St Perpetua school has done in the past and could be extended to the whole parish.

All of these various requests were tabled for further discussion when we review the current guidelines for parish support in future meetings. With the exception of Trinity Center where a recommendation for an immediate one-time donation was made in light of their current high level of need.

**Financial Report and Fund Distribution:** Anne Meyer said that our current balance is \$4,682.34. It was agreed that donations of \$4000 would be appropriate leaving 682.34 in the fund for any needs prior to next collection. Given the presentation and lengthy research on Trinity Center over the last two meetings and their current need, the group agreed to give \$1000. to Trinity Center. The remaining \$3000. was divided into six \$500 each donations to Food Pantry at St Vincent De Paul, Loaves and Fishes, Monument Crisis Center, SHARE, Bay Area Rescue Mission and Foster Family Network of Contra Costa County.

**Food Collection:** The Christmas food collection totaled 250 bags split approximately equally between Monument Crisis Center and St. Francis of Assisi. The next food collection is January 9/10 for Hearty Soups and Ramen and will go to St. Francis of Assisi. This completes the handout/list from 2015 so Carol Weyer will prepare a new flyer for 2016 and ensure that it is an insert in the bulletin in advance of the next food collection weekend on February 13/14.

**Shoes That Fit:** Marj Ho reported that all shoes on the current list were delivered before the Christmas break. Two pairs were purchased by the school in order to complete the list. For the year 2015 a total of 156 pairs were delivered bringing the total since the program started to 529 pairs. Marj expects to get a new list in a few weeks.

**Shelter Dinner:** Ann Diemer said Monica Chappell and her family and friends would be chefs and the Price family would be transporting for the January 7, 2016 dinner. Monica had also communicated that she is still looking for four chefs for 2016. Pat and Ann will be in touch with her to see how the Committee can help and Ann will pick up one of the dates, whichever is of most assistance to Monica.

**Annual Report:** Very little time was left for discussion of this item but Mary Terjeson requested several pieces of data and will work on a draft for next meeting.

**Current Support Policy:** Very little time was left for discussion of this item as well. Sarah Ellison will continue her research on Parish International Support and report back at next meeting. Earlier in the meeting there were a number of groups asking for assistance so it is a good time to revisit the current support policy. This will be tabled till next meeting.

**Publicity:** Sandi Gritzer will assist with publicity for the Pasta Feed to raise money for Winter Nights in addition to all the typical publicity items such as food collection and shelter dinner thank you's.

**Speakers:** Mary Terjeson noted that there was a handout on the table regarding past speakers that could be referred to as members think about which agencies might be appropriate to have speak at future meetings.

**Closing Prayer:** Pat Snyder led the group in saying the Lord's Prayer.

**Next Meeting:** February 2, 2016. Rotating Chairperson: Pat Snyder. This is Pat's last meeting as rotating chair for the time being so a list soliciting new chair persons will be circulated at next meeting.