

## ST PERPETUA OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 1, 2018

**Members Present:** Joan Liston, Marielle Narkiewicz (Secretary), Mary Terjeson, Sandi Gritzer, Pat Snyder (Chairperson), Ann Porcella, Ann Diemer, Carol Weyer, Diane Hansen, Heather Spellman

**Welcome and Opening Prayer:** Pat welcomed everyone to join in an opening prayer.

### **Speaker: Guest speaker: Options for Women**

The Options for Women agency had visited today and was introduced by Ann Diemer. Blayne Wittig and Ruth Tilly came to speak; Blayne is the Executive Director. The woman who founded Options for Women began the agency by collecting baby clothes in her garage, and it grew from there. Options for Women have been in the community since 1984; they are a non-profit center for women to help them gather resources while they are pregnant. In 2003 they went from a resource center to a medical center. They are now considered a health clinic. They have a mobile-minute clinic that is out in front of Planned Parenthood. And though they haven't had any trouble with the Planned Parenthood personnel or clients, they also have not have anyone in that area step onboard the mobile clinic. They receive no government funding and all funds come through the community and partnerships. The purpose is to serve women who are in unplanned or crisis pregnancies.

Their mission statement is: Options for Women exists to empower women to make pregnancy choices that affirm life and health, while providing Hope in Christ. They partner with about 30 churches in Contra Costa.

Everyone that works within Options for Women does sign a statement of faith. All their services are free, such as, first and second trimester ultrasounds, pregnancy tests, STI and STD screenings, options counseling and education (which is the primary focus for guiding the women in these situations). They talk with the women about faith and what their beliefs are and help guide them through the process. They also do community referrals, for example with insurance, apartment hunting, etc., all to help these women succeed after they deliver. They also have a post-abortion healing program in the form of intense, structured bible study. As this is meant to be intimate and private, all the sessions occur at an undisclosed location. And only women that have previously had abortions will lead this bible study.

Empower-Ed is the teen education program held within churches meant to create a pregnancy-prevention strategy. They also have a secular version that they are trying to

get into the schools, and recently taught at a school in East Oakland. They also just launched a new program this past March called Earn while you Learn. This is a program when a mother decides she will have the child, she can enroll into these resources, earn credit, like taking a class or being a part of the community, and when she builds up enough credits, she can access the Care Closet, which is filled with new items for a new mother.

Some statistics: 70% of women who think they want an abortion that go through counseling with Options for Women end up choosing life and giving birth. They serve about 40 women a month. They have a budget of ~\$430,000.

Recently, they took their case to the Supreme Court. The government is forcing them to put something on their walls telling women where they can get an affordable abortion, but their principle is based on the fact that they don't refer for abortions. If they win this case, hopefully they won't be required to do this. They will have a hearing in June to determine the outcome.

#### **Future Speakers:**

- No future speakers declared.

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

1. St Vincent de Paul request for donations – follow up from previous meeting: Sandi is still not able to contact the gentlemen to deliver the items for donation, but she recently visited and they are open. Sandi will put a note in the bulletin to publicize their opening.
2. Thank you from St Vincent de Paul and Loaves and Fishes
3. Letter from RotaCare regarding a new fundraising campaign for \$25,000 they are having.
4. Mary has an update on Meals on Wheels naming: Mary got a hold of Meals on Wheels of Contra Costa County, who told her that the MOWCCC contract out to four different contractors, one of them being MOW Diablo Region (previously called MOW Senior Outreach Service (SOS)). This group does the fundraising for MOW and organizes the caterer for the MOW. The caterer then gets the food to the MOW Diablo Region. Joan will reach out to MOW Diablo Region to determine what our outreach donation goes to for clarification.

## **Financial Report & Fund Distribution: Ann D**

Fifth Sundays: 7/29, 9/30, and 12/30

The April income includes the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday for the total of \$5,232. We had a private donation of \$3,000.

There will be nine \$500 donations distributed to the following agencies, for a total of \$4,500 in donations, leaving \$732 in the coffers:

1. Project Hope Anka
2. Putnam Clubhouse
3. MOW/SOS
4. RotaCare
5. SHARE
6. Shelter Inc.
7. STAND
8. Trinity Center
9. We Care

### **Food Basket: Kitty / Virginia**

- April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>: Collection – St Vincent de Paul received 20 bags and/or canned fish and meats.
- May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>: Collection – Monument Crisis Center – oatmeal and cereal (unsweetened)

### **Blue Barrel: All**

Monument Crisis center is doing a back to school backpack event in August and we could do to backpacks and leave them empty or fill them with all needed school items. We can do this blue barrel to collect in July (to be completed before July 19<sup>th</sup>, their deadline). Sandi will get a list of items needed and items to avoid (like certain colors, cloth backpacks where schools require clear backpacks, etc.) and we will work the dates for the blue barrel at the next meeting outreach in June.

### **Shoes that Fit: Carol**

Carol said that all the shoes have finally been delivered. In this school year, 107 pairs have been delivered, and 702 pairs have been delivered throughout the program. There will not be another donation before the end of the year.

### **Shelter Dinners / Friendly Manor Lunch: Ann D / Karen**

The last Friendly Manor lunch was meatballs, French bread, salad and fruit salad. The next lunch for St. Perpetua is May 25<sup>th</sup>. Please let Karen know if you would like to help out with serving and / or preparing the food.

**Other: Joan / Pat / Mary / All**

- Social Justice at St Perpetua's:
  - Joan and Pat met with Christoph to discuss this further on what we can do as a parish. At some point we will announce a meeting to the parish for anyone who is interested in addressing justice for the vulnerable and marginalized in our community. The next thing we will do is collect the names and contact information for the people that would be interested in this, then a meeting will be organized. In the meantime we will gauge how interested the people are in the parish that we know, just to determine if there is enough interest at this time.
  - Pat is sending around a note on effective housing meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup> if you'd like to attend to voice your support.
  - Joan also showed a poster she received at the last multi-faith action coalition meeting regarding the east bay housing organizations. We might hang this in the glass-enclosed bulletin board outside the church- Joan will check with Christoph on this.
- Catholic Legislative Network:
  - A voice for life and dignity in California – [leginfo@cacatholic.org](mailto:leginfo@cacatholic.org)
  - This is a mainstream way for Catholics to be active.

**Publicity: Sandi**

Sandi has everything she needs.

**Closing Prayer: All**

The meeting was ended with group prayer of the Our Father.

**Next Meeting: June 5, 2018, Chairperson will be Pat Snyder.**