

## St. Perpetua Outreach Committee Meeting

April 2, 2019

Members Present: Mary Terjeson (Chair), Dee Dee Hansen (Acting Secretary), Karen Kalvass, Ann Porcella, Ann Diemer, Marielle Narkiewicz, Joan Liston, Kitty Locke, Pat Snyder, Virginia LaFaille

Welcome and Prayer: Mary welcomed everyone and began with an opening prayer.

Speaker: Bill Shaw from Winter Nights provided an update on their shelter and overnight accommodations. These include:

- A Parking Lot Program is new (January-April) and has been very successful this year. 33 individuals (16 families) safely park and live out of their car overnight in a designated Pittsburg church parking lot. A staff member from Winter Nights monitors the site at all times. In addition, toilet facilities, cooking facilities, as well as a hot meal (leftovers Winter Nights dinner) are served every evening. Also, PLP residents are permitted to shower during the day if they wish at the permanent facility for Winter Nights in Walnut Creek.
- Winter Nights Shelter Program has expanded their services to coincide with the school calendar. The program started September 9 and will conclude this year in the middle of June.
- Future plans include a volunteer "Mentoring" program with mentors from previous Winter Nights who can share insights and advice with residents. "Kids to Kids" is another volunteer program where community youth can work, interact, and have fun with the children from Winter Nights.

Correspondence and Agency Updates:

- Everyone approved of Marj Ho's description of the BACN and their upcoming gala to be printed in the parish bulletin. We agreed to include the gala as the agency had requested given they are transitioning to new management and are experiencing some financial difficulties.
- Submitting similar descriptions for other agencies and advertising of galas for future bulletins was discussed. Questions raised regarding whether we want to promote all the agency galas as it may be too much. Most agreed that a short paragraph describing the agency and its work is a good idea and, if there is an agency event, include a referral to the agency website for more details.
- Mary has a master list of agencies and when they last presented to the Committee. She will include that list with the minutes.
- Ann Porcella suggested that we eliminate SPRED from our agency list. The main reason is that none of its services fit our updated profile and they now primarily serve Alameda County.
- The group liked the ORC Agency Overview/Recap created by Mary. This format provides an excellent summary of agency information.

Financial Report:

Ann Diemer presented the Financial Report. Parishioners donated \$5060 in March including monthly Electronic Funds Transfer as well as the fifth Sunday Outreach Collection on March 31. The Committee's current balance on the ledger is \$5390 which is sufficient to distribute \$500 to the next 10

agencies on the agency list drawing the balance down to \$390. The ten agencies include: Bay Area Crisis Nursery, Bay Area Rescue Mission; Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition; Child Abuse Prevention Council; Contra Costa Food Bank; SVDP Food Pantry; Foster Family Network of CCC; We Care; Winter Nights;

Youth Homes. In addition, another \$385 came in for fire relief making the total donated in the special collection for the Fire Victims in Paradise \$4,167. These funds have already been donated to Catholic Charities in Sacramento.

Food Basket: 45 bags of canned fruits and vegetables were collected in March and delivered to SVDP Food Pantry. April 13 and 14 is the next Food Basket collection that includes donations of canned meat, fish, and Spam.

Blue Barrel:

The Blue Barrel in March was well advertised and new underwear, socks, baby wipes, and diapers were donated by parishioners over two weekends. Donations collected were 3-4 times greater than last year! Items were distributed to Trinity Center, Friendly Manor, STAND, BACN, and Project Hope. The consensus was that we should continue with the “two week” donation time-frame next year.

Shoes That Fit:

No formal update but it is understood that two pairs of shoes are yet to be turned in. Mary reiterated that the church can fund the purchase of these shoes if necessary.

Friendly Manor:

On March 22 a group from the parish served lunch to 27 women at Friendly Manor. The menu included Sloppy Joes, corn, and fruit salad. The next date is April 26. Karen plans to form teams of volunteers who can rotate in preparing and serving the lunch on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month.

Other:

- Social Justice Update: Pat reported that the committee is working to better educate the parish on the social justice issues by creating and placing short, informative articles in the parish bulletin.
- Daffodils: Karen reported on the daffodil sale in March to benefit Friendly Manor. At St. Perpetua 160 daffodils were sold which yielded a donation of \$2600. Seven churches participated in the Daffodil sale which totaled \$9225.
- Winter Nights: Next winter our assigned time will be the first two weeks of November. The location will be the same as this year at the Orinda Community Church.
- Rotating Chair and Rotating Secretary positions will be discussed at the next meeting.

Publicity: No additional information needed at this time.

Closing Prayer: We ended the meeting with a Hail Mary.

Next meeting will be May 7 at 7:30 pm in the Parish Office.