

St. Perpetua Outreach Committee Meeting

August 6, 2019

Members Present: Pat Snyder (Chair), Mary Terjeson, Dee Dee Hansen, Ann Diemer (Treasurer & Acting Secretary), Marj Ho, Joan Liston, Karen Kalvass and Sandi Gritzer.

Welcome and Prayer: Pat opened the meeting with the Lords Prayer

Speaker: Nancy DeWeese, President of Foster Family Network

Nancy spoke at length and with passion about the many services and activities the network provides to Foster Families in Contra Costa County. The Network is run completely by volunteers. Nancy has 14 handpicked Board Members who do all of the work of the agency from planning and leading activities to filling backpacks. The annual budget is \$20,000 to \$25,000 a year. They do receive some support from the County by virtue of being a local chapter of the State Organization. This support is only provided if their income is less than \$25,000 per year. They also receive from the County a storage unit that the County funds to be used for storage of donated items, such as car seats and cribs.

Two important changes that Nancy has made and is proud of are:

- 1) Grandparents raising their grandchildren are eligible to participate in the network, even though they are not actual foster parents.
- 2) All activities are available to all children in the home. For example, tickets to a special event, all children in the home can go.....not just the foster child or children.

There are approximately 400 to 450 foster families in the County and about 2000 children in out of home placements. Currently there are about 70 families participating in the Network. This number varies and has been as high as 140 families.

Upcoming Speakers: Sept. – Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition; Oct. - We Care

Correspondence and Agency Updates

Ann Diemer reported that Larry Sly, the Executive Director of the Contra Costs Food Bank has announced his retirement and they are currently engaged in a search for his replacement. Larry plans to stay on until a replacement can be found. Also, Candy Espino, who spoke at the June meeting, the Executive Director of Youth Homes, has resigned due to family reasons effective September 12 and they are looking for a replacement. Finally, we received corrected financial figures from Options for Woman and their actual % going to direct services is much higher than they originally reported, at 76%. Mary Terjeson has made this change on the agency recap spread sheet.

Action Item: Profile still needed from Friendly Manor.

Agency Evaluation: Mary Terjeson had prepared an agency recap spread sheet as well as a talking points memo for the Committee to consider in their discussion. There was a lot of discussion but not a lot of consensus on how to move forward. It was mentioned that we should be doing due diligence on any agency that seems to be struggling, such as Bay Area Crisis Nursery, to insure that our funds are being used appropriately. There was also continued discussion of whether we should focus our donations on the agencies with the small budgets and small staffs as they may have the greatest need. The discussion will continue next month.

Financial Report: Ann Diemer

Income - \$1,134 in June and \$6,554 in July (June 30 was a fifth Sunday) for a total of \$7,688. since last meeting ; Donations \$2000 in June and reimbursement to Kitty for CCIC kits of \$600 in July for total donations of \$2,600: Available balance for August Donations is \$7501. The group agreed to make fourteen donations of \$500 each for a total of \$7000, leaving \$501 in the Outreach account.

August beneficiaries are: STAND, Trinity Center, We Care, Winter Nights, Youth Homes, Bay Area Crisis Nursery, Bay Area Rescue Mission, CCIC, Child Abuse Prevention Council, Contra Costa Food Bank, Food Pantry SVDP, Foster Family Network of CCC, Friendly Manor, and Hope Conference. Marj Ho would like to hand carry the Bay Area Crisis Nursery check and Sandi Gritzer would like to hand carry the STAND check.

September 29 is the next 5th Sunday.

Food Baskets

There was no report on the July collection as Kitty and Virginia were both absent. Sandi will follow up to get food collection amounts and put in bulletin for the parish.

The next collection is August 10/11 for Peanut Butter, Jelly and Crackers and will be donated to Monument Crisis Center.

Blue Barrel

It was reported that 29 backpacks were collected during the drive in late June. This seems like a low number and perhaps could be improved next year if we waited until a little later in the summer to do the collection. Karen Kalvass is planning to lead another coat drive this year and the Committee agreed on the weekend of October 12/13, the second weekend of October, to conduct the Coat Drive.

Shoes That Fit: Marj reported there is no update as schools are not in session.

Friendly Manor: 4th Friday of each month lunch is prepared and served. Approximately 35 guests were served in June and July. Mary Terjeson coordinated as Karen Kalvass was out of town. The next lunch is August 23.

Other: Social Justice Update: Pat reported that the newly formed Committee is doing well and questioned the need to continue to report its activities to the Outreach Committee. All agreed that now that the Committee has been launched there is no need for this duplicate reporting.

Winter Nights Update: Karen reported that we have been assigned November 4-10th this year, which is much earlier than past years. Karen will be coordinating signups at Masses on October 19/20 and may need our help. To be discussed at next meeting.

Shelter Meal Update: The kitchen is still not certified. Monica Chappell reports however, that she has done the individual certification and it is on line and not time consuming. So when Shelter Meals resume, the volunteer chefs should find it relatively easy to get certified.

Publicity: No additional information needed at this time.

Closing Prayer: Pat closed the meeting with a Hail Mary.

Next meeting September 3, at 7:30 pm in the Parish Office.

Pat Snyder is rotating chair person.