

## ST PERPETUA OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 7, 2020

**Members Online:** Marielle Narkiewicz, Sandi Gritzer, Pat Snyder (Chairperson), Mary Terjeson, Carol Weyer, Heather Spellman (Acting Recorder), Kitty Locke, Diane Hansen, Ann Diemer, Karen Kalvass, Marj Ho

**Opening Prayer:** Pat welcomed everyone with a pandemic prayer.

**Speaker:** Shelter, Inc. to be rescheduled; no further speakers until quarantine lifted. Circle back with Bay Area Crisis Nursery, Food Bank and Friendly Manor.

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

1. Monument Crisis Nursery: Implemented Emergency Food Distribution program to serve most vulnerable, at-risk prior to March 2020 plus those newly in need of meal support. Extra donations/cash needed. Providing 2-3 food distributions per week for 300+ families with no qualifying criteria. Anyone may come for food. Food donations are accepted in paper bags. These are set aside for a period of time to decontaminate.
2. Loaves and Fishes: Altering serving/delivery of 500-600 meals per day from 4 dining rooms to "to-go" containers (approximately 2,500-3,000) from front doors and pre-filled bags with food items. Using newly purchased safety and sanitation supplies such as gloves, masks, gowns, sanitizers, and cleaning rags. Adding more food for additional families with school age children, and recently laid-off workers. Depending on crisis length may need additional staff or pay for additional (non-budgeted) hours of current staff to provide services in central kitchen. Normally rely on 100 volunteers per week. Currently large number of volunteers not coming in for health concerns. Also supporting non-profit partner Trinity Center with increased meal delivery from 2-3 days a week plus groceries to cover member lunch and dinners.
3. SHELTER, Inc. continues to support most vulnerable. Those impacted grow daily as people lose jobs and schools extend closures. Continues to help families and individuals facing homelessness. Its prevention team, which helps families and individuals BEFORE they become homeless, has experienced exponential rise in calls. In response, created additional prevention program for rental assistance, utility payments, and grocery gift cards. Opened NEW program by contracting a Concord hotel and working with City's homeless outreach team to bring homeless in for protection during outbreak. Includes bug zapper to treat

possessions for bed bugs, providing additional clothing, sanitization products, and food during duration. Volunteer projects, including providing shelter meals have been suspended. Some volunteer groups have been donating restaurant meals, so food meets code requirements, or donating cash for restaurant meals to be brought in. SHELTER, Inc. shelters now “closed campuses” to protect those living in congregant fashion. Providing easily sanitized outdoor activities for adults, along with reading material, arts & crafts supplies. Helping parents keep school-aged children up to date with online schooling.

4. St. Vincent de Paul – Inundated with new demands; organization needs rent money for needy facing May evictions, food and other monetary donations.
5. Meals on Wheels, Contra Costa. – Regular daily deliveries suspended. Instead, seven frozen meals being delivered once a week. Drivers making calls to clients on regular delivery day to ensure needs are met. Organization stable for now.
6. Trinity Center – Food service suspended. Some provided by Loaves and Fishes.
7. Winter Nights – Project over at this time. Three families remaining; one getting housing. Four cars in parking lot program.
8. Friendly Manor, Oakland – St Perpetua Daffodil Drive for FM raised \$2,000. Combined with other churches holding flower sales for the organization, \$7,000. Decision not to provide monthly lunch during pandemic due to committee risk factors in gathering/transporting/delivering. Adjacent St. Vincent de Paul location has food available served with social distancing requirements.

**Financial Report & Fund Distribution: Ann D - Remaining 5th Sundays: 5/31, 8/30, and 11/29**

Currently \$1,655 available for distribution during this trying month. Decision to prioritize agency funding of \$500 for those addressing hunger and homelessness. This would allow three donations of \$500 to those in the best position to help the most in need: Monument Crisis Center, Loaves and Fishes, and St. Vincent de Paul food pantry at St Francis of Assisi in Concord. Missed 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday March 29 Outreach Collection; uncertain when services resume therefore likely not much money to distribute in future months, excepting what comes through automatic deductions. Due to the increasing need, the Committee will appeal to Parish for direct donations to above three agencies as well as to Shelter, Inc. by preparing an announcement with links to their websites to be distributed through the Timely Perpetuan. Shelter Dinners discontinued and Friendly Manor closed so no need to reserve funds for these two activities.

**Food Basket: Sandi** - Food collection will wait to resume until restrictions lifted. Agency leads know best what’s needed. Sandi and DeeDee have revised food list going forward: plain bagged rice, spaghetti, cooking oil- canola/corn, jam, soup, pasta sauce, unsweetened cereal. Growing number of clients are Hispanic, Asian and middle eastern; donations need to reflect their dietary norms.

**Shoes that Fit: Carol/Marj** - No schools or stores open; program concluded for now.

**Publicity:** Sandi to coordinate on parish message for suggested agency donations.

**Closing Prayer:** Meeting ended with the Our Father.

**Next Zoom Meeting: Chair – Melly, Recorder – Heather on May 5, 2020.**