

## **Allied Partners**

### **September 15, 2020**

**Present:** Flora Beavers, Mary Collet (recorder), Eileen Dresser, Wynn Davies, Ryan Estrella, Alice Howard, Sue Hoffenberg, Angela Jackson, Monique Johnson-Crowder, Joe Maldonado, Gloria Manadier-Farr, Leslie McAllister, Molly Plunkett, Rhea Schultz (facilitator), Su Timmerman

Rhea opened the virtual meeting with a prayer. Minutes from the August meeting were accepted.

**New chairperson for Allied Partners**—Eileen is stepping down after more than a decade of dedicated service. We expressed appreciation and gratitude for her leadership. Eileen was presented with a bouquet and card, which Rhea will deliver. We voted in Rhea as the next chair.

**Joining Forces for Families (Ryan)**—Ryan has been holding office hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, by appointment only. Because of the Federal moratorium on evictions and access to County funds, he has not needed to turn as much to the Allied Partners' Eviction Prevention Fund. He anticipates needing more support once the moratorium ends.

Requests for financial aid had plateaued but are on the rise. For the time being, Ryan has been honoring repeat requests (more than once per month per requester).

Ryan has received four scholarship applications. Eileen and Molly are willing to help him process the applications.

**Wellness Center (Gloria)**—Gloria described the careful process she uses to manage financial resources and goods and to track expenditures. Leslie corroborated Gloria's description. Sue Hoffenberg asked if there has been outreach to the Latinx community. Gloria responded that she has a basic working vocabulary in Spanish but is not bilingual. Leslie said that a grant would be needed to hire someone with bilingual skills since the City grant covers only Gloria's salary.

**Treasurer's report (Wynn)**—The Eviction Prevention Fund was used for four cases; the balance is \$2,700. \$500 was given to Urban Triage for a community event. The event did not occur because of COVID and the money will be reimbursed. \$700 was authorized for mattresses for residents displaced by a fire; this money will also be reimbursed since the mattresses were covered by another funding source.

**Community support (Monique)**—The effort to support the community through bags of household supplies was successful. The event also gave neighbors an opportunity to get to know each other. The item most needed is laundry detergent. Wynn will email Monique's contact information for contributing detergent.

**Alder's report (Joe)**—A voter registration drive was held and another is planned for September 18. Bilingual (English and Spanish) flyers with voting information were distributed door to door. Registration was possible at the park. People with internet access were also able to register to vote on the spot.

**Allied Partners meeting time (Wynn)**—Few people from the neighborhood responded to the survey that Wynn distributed via email. Wynn asked if more residents would attend meetings if the time were changed to the afternoon or evening. Several people said that the afternoon wasn't feasible for working people or parents. Early evening might work. The meeting will remain at 10 a.m. for the time being.

**Next meeting:** October 20, 10 a.m.