

## **Allied Partners Monthly Meeting**

### **April 22, 2020**

**Note:** No meeting was held in March. The April meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

**Present:** Wynn Davies (facilitator), Scott Anderson, Mary Collet (recorder), James Costello, Ryan Estrella, Sue Hoffenberg, Ann Moffat, Molly Plunkett, Rhea Schultz, Su Timmerman.

Wynn opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Food pantry**—Mary described the response of the pantry to COVID-19. Only volunteers are allowed in the food pantry. Volunteers fill bags with canned and dry goods according to family size. Fruit, meat, eggs and margarine are also included. Customers register outside and their groceries are brought to them. Three UW medical students have been helping out since the onset of the pandemic.

**Neighborhood needs** (Ryan)— All offices have been closed since March 16 and Ryan has been working at home. Consequently, he feels that he doesn't have as good a pulse of community needs as he would like. He has received a record number of phone calls; 95% have been requests for financial assistance from Latino residents who have lost their jobs. Ryan has been reassuring them that until May 26, evictions are on hold and MGE will not turn off utilities. He has been funneling people to larger sources of financial resources (United Way, Centro Hispano). If residents filed their taxes through another person, their Federal stimulus check might have been sent to that person.

Barriers to looking for employment include busy phone lines and lack of access to the internet. Places that offer free internet service, such as libraries, are closed.

Ryan asked whether the Allied Drive Boys & Girls Club has been changed into a food distribution center. The Club distributes free breakfasts and lunches from noon to 12:45 daily; the food comes from the Madison Metropolitan School District. School social workers have been reaching out to families.

Ryan is concerned about ways to inform the community about resources while his office and the Wellness Center are closed. One avenue might be the kiosk. Gloria has been personally distributing supplies to the community. She is working on creating a way for people to donate to the Wellness Center through its website.

Wynn said that the Special Projects fund could be used to support community needs. Wynn will follow up with Jan Fergusen, the contact for donating to the Wellness Center.

**Needs of Latino community**—Sue Hoffenberg spoke to the disparity of distribution of resources to Latinos, who comprise 75% of the Allied Drive neighborhood. Ryan agreed that this has been an ongoing challenge. Financial assistance is needed for medications, food, and rent. Sue will write a proposal to Allied Partners.

Luna grocery store has been serving as the hub for information on COVID-19, which is much needed in the community. Luna could also serve as a distribution center for donations. What is really needed is a community organizer. Ryan noted that Joining Forces for Families in Sun Prairie has such an organizer, who has been funded through the County. Allied Partners decided to form a team to work on a proposal for a community organizer to focus on the growing Latino population in the Allied community. Sue Hoffenberg, Ryan, Wynn, and Rhea volunteered to serve on the team. Wynn will convene

**Other reports**—Wynn will ask Gloria and Alice for written reports.

**Feedback from congregations**—Wynn asked about COVID-19 efforts by congregations. First Baptist distributed a letter asking parishioners to consider redirecting their stimulus checks to those in need. The Catholic Multicultural Center held a food drive to restock their pantry.

**Financial report**—The eviction prevention fund has a balance of \$5,081, the scholarship fund \$2,251, and the Special Projects fund \$862. The Wellness Center still has outstanding checks.