

Allied Partners

April 19, 2022

Present: Eileen Ahearn, Jamie Almquist, Eileen Dresser, Mary Collet, Wynn Davies, Ryan Estrella, Sue Hoffenberg, Rhea Schultz

Eileen opened the meeting with a prayer. The March minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report (Wynn)

Eviction prevention fund—Contributions of \$50 from Bethany United Methodist and \$262 from Midvale Lutheran (quarterly contribution) were received. The fund was used to prevent eviction in four situations, which illustrated the paycheck-to-paycheck plight of many residents. Two uncashed checks totaling \$350 were restored to the fund. Current balance is \$12,336.

Scholarships fund—No activity. Current balance is \$1,725. The idea that the fund be used not only for post-secondary education/training but also to upgrade employability through training “has not found footing.” Wynn welcomed a volunteer to “bring more life into the fund.”

Special projects fund—At the February meeting, \$400 from the fund was allocated toward efforts by Bethany Methodist and First Baptist to settle Afghan refugee families in the Allied community. The fund is currently depleted.

Ryan Estrella discretionary fund—\$500 was used to help a homeless former Allied neighborhood resident to provide a funeral service and cremation for her son. Ryan mentioned that he receives a lot of calls for help for cremation fees.

Wellness Center fund—\$200 from the Friends Meeting was forwarded to the Wellness Center.

Gift from Memorial UCC—We received a \$800 undesignated contribution. Wynn's proposal that the money be divided equally between the Eviction Prevention and Special Projects funds was approved.

Joining Forces for Families (Ryan)—Ryan said that he feels very fortunate to be associated with Allied Partners; this kind of association with congregations is rare among social workers. MGE has resumed disconnect notices. Rents are rising. The rental support program through Urban Triage (part of Dane County CORE) is not prepared for the high number of requests for assistance; paperwork is cumbersome, though the process is moving faster. Ryan is working to resurrect a landlord association with the goal of working together, not adversarial.

Wellness Center—Molly Plunket reported that the Community Health Worker Manager position has not yet been hired. The weekly Food Fresh distribution of food and monthly "essentials" is reaching nearly 200 households each Friday afternoon. Volunteers are needed. See attached "Allied Fresh Orientation" and contact Janice Ferguson at alliedfresh8@gmail.com or 608 469 6132 for more information on how volunteers from your congregation can be used.

Gloria Farr—Gloria was unable to attend the meeting but sent word that she will continue to serve the Allied Community on Mondays and Thursdays under sponsorship of Nehemiah. She intends to continue to operate the "Essentials Pantry" and would appreciate donations from Allied Partner congregations.

Other—♦Molly will invite Yannette Figuero, the new District 10 alder, to the next meeting. ♦Alice (not present) continues to advocate for a community center. Ideally, the building would provide room for service providers and community projects. Would congregations be willing to raise funds? Could support be garnered from the Dane County Supervisor? A firm plan is needed. ♦ Allied Drive Community meals have resumed. ♦Rhea distributed a flyer about a mobile free lunch program (MUNCH) sponsored by the River Food Pantry. The Allied Drive neighborhood could participate; volunteers would be needed to help distribute the lunches. For more information, contact Helen Osborne-Senatus at helen@riverfoodpantry.org.