

Allied Partners August 16, 2022

Present: Eileen Dresser, Eileen Ahearn, Erica Anderson, Deb Annen, Mary Collet, Wynn Davies, LaBresha Green, Sue Hoffenberg, Alice Howard, Molly Plunkett

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

Joining Forces for Families (Erica)—•Sue helped clean the basement of the Allied Drive office space; many clothes needed to be discarded because of mold. Wynn said that his church could use clothes in good condition for their US/Mexico border clothes drive. •Erica reported that residents have been adjusting to the transition in social workers. Unless there is an emergency (i.e., 5-day notice to pay rent), she is referring residents to CORE for assistance. CORE still has Covid-related funding, though the application process takes time and the landlord has to be patient. Erica is preparing for when that funding runs out. MGE provides assistance with paying utility bills; payment takes about 2 months. Wynn said that congregations should be reminded about the importance of Allied Partners' support in preventing eviction and utility turn-off. Erica said that the neighborhood is blessed to have Allied Partners. • Erica's office hours are Wed morning; Tues, Thurs, Fri all day. • Pictures of essential pantry supplies were provided to the Afghan refugees; Erica will explore other needs. On August 25, social workers will help the refugees with school registration.

Treasurer's report (Wynn)

Eviction Prevention—The Eviction Prevention Fund received \$262.50 from Midvale Lutheran, a quarterly contribution. The fund was used to prevent eviction in two situations. Current balance is \$8,393; year-to-date dispersal is \$13,600. Both Erica Anderson and Ryan Estrella will be drawing from this fund in the future.

Scholarships— The scholarship fund is nonfunctional at present; the balance is \$1,725. Wynn and others are meeting with the president of Madison College on August 17 to explore possibilities for greater involvement with the College to enable more Allied Drive residents to improve their job prospects through education. Barriers to going to school, such as lack of transportation and childcare, will also be discussed. Wynn will send out a follow-up report. Alice noted that young people need to know how to manage money. Wynn suggested that congregations could play a role in mentoring. It was noted that the Urban League provides free training and has connections with Epic.

Special Projects—No activity. Current balance is \$400.

Ryan's and Erica's Discretionary Fund—No activity. Balance of \$200.

Wellness Center—To date, only \$200 has been channeled through Allied Partners to the Wellness Center in 2022. Molly will talk with the Center's bookkeeper about tracking contributions. Janice Ferguson is phasing out of her involvement with the Wellness Center and hopes that Blanca will fill in.

Neighborhood Center (Alice)—Alice has talked with an architect about the proposed community center. She distributed a summary of the proposal of the Allied Community Hub. Many questions remain, such as Who will own the building? Who will manage it? Allied Partners could provide support through endorsement of the project. •Alice reported that there will be a revival on Sep 4 at Allied Park from 3 to 7 pm. All congregations are invited. Eileen D will distribute the flyer to Allied Partners pastors.

Bilingual Books for Kids (Eileen A)— Eileen brought several Spanish-English books for children published by Books for School; they cost \$2 each. She will take a test batch to the Allied Food Pantry.