

Allied Partners

December 15, 2020

Present: Rhea Schultz (president), Mary Collet (secretary), Wynn Davies (treasurer), Deb Annet, Eileen Dresser, Ryan Estrella (Joining Forces for Families), Flora Flygt, Dina Hermann, Sue Hoffenberg, Alice Howard, Joe Maldonado, Gloria Manadier–Farr, Molly Plunkett, Su Timmerman

Rhea opened the meeting with a prayer. The November minutes were approved.

Announcements: Luna grocery store is collecting unwrapped holiday gifts for the neighborhood. Allied Partners are invited to the annual meeting of the Madison Area Jail Ministry on January 31. Rhea describes the ministry as one of presence. Eileen said that the Allied Food Pantry needs volunteers.

Treasurer's report (Wynn)

Eviction Prevention—The Eviction Prevention Fund received \$4,000 from Bethany United Methodist and \$300 from individuals. The fund was used to prevent eviction in three situations. The balance is currently \$5,671.

Scholarships— Carmella Jenkins was awarded a \$500 scholarship to Madison College. Thanks to Joe Maldonado and Su Timmerman for agreeing to serve on the scholarship committee with Ryan Estrella. The balance in the scholarship fund is \$2,051.

Special Projects—\$500 from this fund was given to Ryan Estrella for the purchase of holiday gift cards. In the meantime, Ryan received \$500 from St. Maria Goretti for this purpose, so he will reimburse the Allied Partners treasury.

City grants—Wynn has been looking into a city grant to bolster the eviction prevention fund. He would like assistance.

Joining Forces for Families (Ryan)

Eviction Prevention— County funds for eviction prevention are nearly exhausted. Calls for rental assistance have dropped to about 10/day. Ryan can help about 12 to 15 families per month. The Allied neighborhood is mainly stable; Ryan isn't aware of any evictions. Ryan will work with Wynn and Flora on exploring a County grant. Ryan will be working remotely after the holidays.

Scholarships—Ryan, Su, and Joe will meet in January.

Holiday gift cards—\$25 gift cards will be given to about 50 kids through JFF staff. To contribute, write a check to Just Dane earmarked for holiday gift cards. Mail to Ryan Estrella, JFF, 2225 Allied Drive, #2, Madison 53711.

Wellness Center (Gloria)—Assistance (gas cards, clothing, food, essentials) was given to 80 families. A bilingual volunteer, who has been working with Carmella, has been assisting in the Wellness Center on Wednesdays. The certification process for the home health workers continues. Gloria is looking for a way to recognize their efforts.

Proposal to invite agency reps to Allied Partners meeting (Wynn)—The two issues are (1) to find an alternative time for the meeting so that community leaders can participate; (2) to invite representatives of various agencies. The idea is get a broader look at the neighborhood. It was decided that the January meeting will be held on the third Tuesday from 4 to 6 pm. Alders Joe Maldonado, Dorothy Krause, and Zachary Henak will be invited to attend.

Alder's report (Joe)— A holiday gift drive was conducted, which included a web link for donations.

Allied Neighborhood newsletter (Alice)— Sandy Parks has volunteered to produce the newsletter. Funds are needed for supplies and printing. We may be able to provide support through the Special Projects fund.

Other concern (Sue Hoffenberg)—Sue spoke to her concern about litter and drug activity in the neighborhood of the Revival Ridge apartments. She proposed sending holiday cards to the Revival Ridge residents as a gesture of caring. Those interested in participating can email Sue for a list of addresses. It was suggested that the holiday cards include information on neighborhood resources.