

Allied Partners December 2021

Present: Eileen Dresser, Debra Annen, Mary Collet, Wynn Davies, Ryan Estrella, Sue Hoffenberg, Alice Howard, Leslie McAllister, Molly Plunkett, Carol Rushmore

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

Treasurer's report (Wynn)

Eviction Prevention—The Eviction Prevention Fund received donations from Bethany United Methodist (\$105) and First Baptist (\$500). To date, the fund has received a total of \$20,356 in 2021. In November, the fund was used to prevent eviction in three situations. In one, a lease was not renewed even though the resident had lived in the apartment for 20 years. Ryan said that a new owner has taken over the apartment complex and will raise the rent by \$150/month in January. The resident is on disability and cannot afford the rent increase. Leslie explained that tenants have no power, especially when they have a month-to-month lease. Most landlords operate for profit. There is only one not-for-profit owner in the neighborhood and tenants must have vouchers. Changes are needed to be made on the state level.

The balance in the Eviction Fund is currently \$13,283.

Scholarships— A \$500 follow-up scholarship was given to Teeaisia Hoye, who is in her final semester at UW Milwaukee, to help with the cost of books, tutoring, and travel expenses. Teeaisia will receive a BA in Marketing and an International Business Certificate. The balance in the scholarship fund is \$1,102.

Special Projects—\$500 from Presbyterian Women was forwarded to The Brotherhood. We also received a contribution of \$217 from First Baptist, bringing the balance of the fund to \$400.

Wellness Center Fund—The Wellness Center fund received an individual contribution of \$100. To date, Allied Partners individuals and congregations have donated \$2,457 to the Wellness Center.

Joining Forces for Families (Ryan)—Two hundred children participated in the Christmas toy program. Ryan said that he referred fewer cases to Allied Partners for help with preventing eviction because he has been helping tenants apply for emergency rental assistance through CORE, a partnership between Dane County, the City of Madison, Urban Triage, Tenant Resource Center, Community Action Coalition and other community entities. Applications need to be filled out “just right,” so it’s hard to fulfill the requirements. Ryan’s office continues to be closed to walk-ins; meetings are by appointment only.

Wellness Center (Leslie)—The city of Madison grant that had funded the Center for 10 years will be terminated at the end of the year. The city is focusing on crisis intervention, individual support and case management. The Center has received other grants that will focus on health care. The plan is to hire a full-time administrator, who will oversee hiring of health care workers and ensure that volunteer activities are meaningful. Funds will not be able to cover part-time employment for all the health care workers. Leslie asked Alice for help in hiring.

Given the changes occurring in the Wellness Center, Allied Partners will hold off on purchasing transportation cards and essential pantry supplies.

Neighborhood Center (Alice)—Alice has been looking into sidewalk repair.

Allied Partners Members—Discussion focused on reaching out to more congregations, such as the Lutheran Church of the Living Christ, Holy Redeemer, and Mt. Zion. Alice suggested that we also reach

out to local businesses that are patronized by neighborhood residents, such as Home Depot. Molly suggested sending thank you letters to participating congregations. She will follow up with contacting congregational representatives who have not been attending Allied Partners meetings. Alice offered to help her. Wynn will draft a letter. Sue suggested that congregations be called first, then sent the letter. She will draft a call list and divvy it up among active Allied Partners members.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting will be on January 18, 2022.