

Allied Partners

February 16, 2021

Present: Rhea Schultz (president), Mary Collet (secretary), Wynn Davies (treasurer), Jackie Austin, James Costello, Eileen Dresser, Ryan Estrella (Joining Forces for Families), Janice Ferguson, Ruth Hein, Gloria Manadier–Farr, Jim Jenkins (RSVP), Carol Rushmore (Allied Food Pantry), Deborah Speckmann (RSVP), Jacqueline Stevens, Su Timmerman, Deb Annen

Rhea Schultz opened the meeting with a prayer. The January 2021 minutes were approved.

Allied Fresh (Janice Ferguson)—Allied Fresh is a program to address food insecurity by bringing fresh food to the Allied Drive neighborhood. The Allied Wellness Center and Reach Dane have formed a partnership with the Community Health Volunteers' (a UW student organization) Grow Program. The Allied Fresh program, which is still in the planning stage, will deliver weekly, free, fresh produce to the Allied community. In addition, community health workers will offer nutritional counseling and recipes for using fresh vegetables. The plan is to deliver food to two sites, Reach Dane and the Boys & Girls Club. The goal is to serve 50 to 100 residents each week. Allied Partners are being asked to participate by supplying volunteers, especially from the Latinex community; about 10 volunteers will be needed. Volunteers will help with set-up and movement of food out of the trailer/refrigerator as well as interact with the customers. Also needed are a vehicle with a trailer hitch, transportation to food partners and food banks, and communication about the program. Initiation of Allied Fresh is pending funding from grants. Jim Jenkins said that RSVP would be a good source for volunteers. Wynn suggested that volunteers might provide samples of food made from fresh vegies (pending COVID limitations) along with recipes.

Eviction prevention (Ryan)—Ryan continues to work primarily from home; office hours are generally confined to Fridays. The number of calls requesting financial assistance continues to be high. Ryan is relying on Allied Partners for eviction prevention assistance since the COVID funds have run out.

Allied scholarships (Ryan)—The applications have been incomplete because of a snafu in duplicating the form. Ryan has been thinking about ways to make the application form easier to use. Su Timmerman has done much outreach.

Treasurer's report (Wynn)

Eviction Prevention—The Eviction Prevention Fund received \$2,245 from Bethany United Methodist and \$2,220 from Midvale Lutheran. The fund was used to prevent eviction in five situations (\$300 per household for a total of \$1,500).

Scholarships— No activity in January. Balance is \$2,302.

Special Projects—One expenditure of \$277.

Wellness Center—We contributed \$100 received from an individual.

Total balance as of the end of January is \$15,450.

Note: *Checks intended for Allied Partners should be written to MUM dba Just Dane. Indicate Allied Partners in the memo line.*

Wellness Center (Gloria)—15 to 20 people are served per week. In January, 67 people were served. Gloria is at the Wellness Center every day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m, except for Fridays, when she's gone

from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Community health workers and welcomers continue to do outreach. There is a new volunteer, Chaplain Kate.

RSVP representatives (Jim Jenkins, Deborah Speckman)—The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) places senior (55+ years old) volunteers in 80 nonprofit groups. Their office has moved from Segoe Rd to Watts Rd. COVID has limited many activities, but they're starting to resume services. RSVP wants to contribute to Allied Partners efforts and will send a member to the monthly meeting. RSVP plans to send donations to the Wellness Center during April ("volunteer month"). It was reminded that donations are needed not only for the Essentials Pantry but also for gas cards, bus passes, and food cards. Once COVID is under control, RSVP will resume providing medical rides for seniors and could help the Allied community in this way as well.

Allied Food Pantry (Carol)—The number of people frequenting the pantry is down because of the severe weather. In general, 20 to 25 households are served per week.

Feedback on special session in January—A common theme was the need for a neighborhood community center. The Boys and Girls Club was originally supposed to serve that purpose, but access to the building has become more and more limited. Rhea will invite Mackenzie from the Boys and Girls Club to attend the Allied Partners March meeting to describe their current status.