

Allied Partners

July 17, 2022

Present: Eileen Ahearn, Erica Anderson, Debra Annen, Mary Collet, Blanca Cruz, Wynn Davies, Molly Plunkett, Carol Rushmore, Jacqueline Steven

The meeting was facilitated by Molly. June minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report (Wynn)

Eviction Prevention—No contributions were received in June, leaving a balance of \$8,736. In June, the fund was used to offset utility costs and assist with rent in five situations.

Scholarships—Current balance is \$1,725. Wynn wrote a letter to **President** Jack Daniels of Madison College proposing collaboration on job-related training for Allied residents. Eileen noted the importance of a sustained commitment in terms of funding. Several barriers to seeking training were identified: lack of money for tuition and other fees, lack of childcare, lack of transportation, lack of confidence, English language skills, legal status, family structure, and access to documentation of previous education. Eileen, Erica, and Jacqueline expressed interest in working with Wynn and Madison College.

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

Discretionary Fund—Both Ryan Estrella and Erica Anderson have access to this fund.

◆ Wynn noted that Allied Partner contributions should go through Just Dane; Allied Partners and the name of the fund should be noted on the check memo line. Blanca will provide a quarterly statement of contributions to the Wellness Center received directly from congregations.

Joining Forces for Families (Erica)—Erica continues to work between the Allied Drive and Badger Road neighborhoods. In-person office hours at Allied are Monday mornings. Afternoons and all-day Friday are conducted virtually. The main problem with the Allied location is lack of space. Molly said that she would connect Erica with Sue Hoffenberg re alternate meeting space. ◆ Erica met with an ad hoc group from First Baptist and Bethany Methodist who are providing support to neighborhood Afghani families. The families have secured a van, but no insurance as yet. They need a list of essential supplies in their native language (Pashto?). Blanca suggested taking photos of the items; she will be arranging a meeting with a translator. Molly said that Prairie Unitarian could provide space for language classes.

Wellness Center (Blanca)—The Wellness Center also needs more space, preferably with access to a kitchen. The Center has received grants for hiring 2.5 community health worker positions, one to be bilingual. In response to a question if Spanish speakers are being catered for positions, Blanca said that the intent is to hire a combination of African American and Latinex workers; the intent is to represent the whole community and to serve everyone. ◆ Essential supplies are being distributed quarterly. Allied Fresh continues to provide boxes weekly to an average of 225 families. ◆ Efforts are being made to reach out to youth; education on preventing teen pregnancy is being considered.

Transportation initiative (Jacqueline)—Jacqueline, a certified community health worker, needs a car for her transportation initiative—to fill the huge need of Allied Drive residents for transportation. She has met with the Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative. Jacqueline asked whether her need for a car could be circulated among Allied Partners congregations. That decision was postponed pending Jacqueline's completion of a business plan. The discussion also raised questions about how she would be able to finance ongoing operation of her service. Molly will send Jacqueline information on low-interest loans.

Food Pantry (Carol)—Carol is exploring resources for fresh food since Second Harvest is making changes in their operation.