

Allied Partners
September 21, 2021

Present: Eileen Dresser (President), Wynn Davies (Treasurer), Rhea Schultz (Secretary for the Meeting), Ryan Estrella, Joe Maldonado, Deb Annen, Flora Flygt, Alice Howard, Sue Hoffenberg, Rev Scott Anderson, Ruth Hein.

Eileen opened the meeting with an inspirational reading.

Addition to the August Minutes:

Allied Partners Education & Training Grants Committee (f/k/a the Scholarship Committee). Wynn Davies has joined the committee. Other members include Su Timmerman and Joe Maldonado. Jacqueline Stevens has been approached about joining the Committee, but has not yet committed. Ryan Estrella will invite Carmella Harris to also join. The Committee is discussing the following improvements:

- Streamline procedures for applicants
- Promote the program within the neighborhood
- Recruit candidates in the neighborhood seeking skills for living wage jobs
- Determine how the program can help individuals obtain the skills they are seeking
- Determine a more adequate amount of funding than the current \$500
- Discuss how to more effectively help people with their employability

Approval of the August Minutes: Alice Howard proposed approving the August minutes. Sue Hoffenberg seconded. Approved as read with Wynn Davies added to the Education and Training Grants Committee.

Treasurer's Report (Wynn): Financial Reports had been shared in advance of the meeting.

- Eviction Prevention:
 - Wynn thanked Bethany United Methodist for a donation this past month. Overall, donations for Eviction Prevention are down. He asked the Allied Partners' representatives to talk to their congregations about increasing donations to the account.
- Scholarship Funds:
 - Follow up required for Teeasia. She reported that the approved check had not been received. However, Ryan reported that it was cashed. He'll respond to Teeasia. Either he or Wynn will investigate further.
- Special Projects:
 - Carmella Harris' event, "Legacy of Love" was well attended. Attendees received flowers, rather than releasing balloons into the air.
- Wellness Center:
 - Funds were reviewed/contributions were reviewed.
 - Schedule for congregations providing "Essential Supplies" was reviewed. Glenwood Moravian has August. No congregation has currently signed up for the month of October. Ruth Hein volunteered PWW (Presbyterian Women of Westminster) to provide Essential Supplies for October.

- The Treasurer’s Report includes the Wellness Center’s list of Essential Supplies and instructions for delivering them to the Wellness Center.
 - Gloria distributes \$5 or \$10 gas cards, 2-ride bus passes (adult and youth), and \$10 or \$25 food cards (Woodman’s or Aldi’s). She leaves it to each congregation to determine the number of cards that they will purchase for the Wellness Center.
 - Wellness Center’s typical monthly distribution of the above cards:
 - Gas Cards: 75 – 100/month
 - Distributed at 5 locations: (4) in the neighborhood + the Wellness Center. If have 100 cards, each location receives 20.
 - May also have some bus tickets to distribute.
 - Some months have zero of a certain category, i.e. gas, bus or grocery.
 - Note that \$5 cards aren’t sufficient for any category, even for working families.
 - Gloria states that all donations are a blessing. Each congregation should contact her in advance to ask what is most needed that month.
 - Wellness Center
 - August Report
 - 85 families served
 - 74 families received supplies more than 1 time from the Community Health Workers and Allied Welcomers.
 - 7 volunteers worked more than 28 hours in August. They assist every Thursday pulling supplies and distributing them.
 - During June, July and August, Latinx families have worked with the Community Health Workers.
 - It is often a struggle to meet the needs of all families, to engage and get them to consistently use the services offered.
 - During the Thursday distribution, children often serve as translators for their parents.
 - Community Health Workers (CHWs) are taking online training at no cost for “Suicide Prevention Education” and “Mental Health”.
 - The Wellness Center also assists with food distribution for families in need outside of the Allied Neighborhood.
 - There has been a change in date/time for food distribution. It is now Fridays from 1:30 – 4:00pm.

Luna’s Groceries Block Party – Saturday September 25th 2:00 – 7:00 pm: Joe Maldonado thanked Allied Partners for its financial support and “heart”. The event will be in the parking lot behind Luna’s Groceries. It will include music, food vendors, bike repairs, the Madison Reading Project, the Fitchburg Fire Department, the Police Department, brats and burgers for sale. Joe asked for volunteers to help with setup, to serve as floaters during the event, and for cleanup. The event will cost ~\$5,000. Individual donations would be appreciated. They can be dropped off at the store. American Family and Madison College are sponsors.

Wynn motioned that Allied Partners donate \$100 to the event. The motion was approved.

Eviction Prevention – Ryan Estrella

- The federal funds for rental assistance received by the Tenant Resource Center have been depleted.
- New round of federal funds available through Community Action Coalition and Urban Triage. However, there is a problem with the application process. Ryan has received an increased number of calls from people seeking assistance. He refers them to other resources to save Allied Partners' funds. He does not receive many calls at this time for assistance with utility payments.

Holiday Toy Drive – Ryan Estrella

- Will do a holiday toy drive again this year, rather than gift cards.
- There were 100 families last year.
- Ryan is reaching out to businesses to participate. He's asking congregations to let him know if they want to participate.
- Families will begin signing up mid-October for their children.
- Community Health Workers will help with the collections.

Alice Howard will send an email report of the Coop Proposal.

Good Shepherd Lutheran: Eileen shared that their Pastor for Community Outreach has had a stroke and no one is currently serving in that role. Also, Orchard Ridge UCC is organizing a group similar to Allied Partners for the Meadowood neighborhood, given concerns with crime. Good Shepherd is becoming involved, since it is part of the neighborhood.

Congregations that are not active with Allied Partners – Can anyone reach out to them to learn why?

- Heritage Congregational
- Midvale Lutheran (Donate monthly to the Eviction Prevention Fund, but do not attend.)
- Arbor Covenant
- Lighthouse
- Orchard Ridge (Meadowood Neighborhood)

Next Meeting: Tuesday October 19th 10:00 – 11:30am via Zoom

Recording Secretary - Rhea Schultz