

Allied Partners

November 16, 2021

Present: Eileen Dresser, Mary Collet, Wynn Davies, Ryan Estrella, Gloria Farr, Flora Flygt, Carmella Harris, Sue Hoffenberg, Alice Howard, Rhea Schultz, Carol Rushmore, Anthony Watkin

Eileen opened the meeting with a prayer. October minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report (Wynn)

Eviction Prevention—During September and October, the Eviction Prevention Fund prevented eviction in six situations. The fund received \$2,213 in contributions. Balance was \$14,328 at the end of October.

Scholarships— No activity. Balance is \$1,601.

Special Projects—During September and October, \$100 was contributed to Luna's Grocery for the fall block party. The fund received an individual contribution of \$100 and a contribution of \$500 from Westminster Women for the Brotherhood. Balance was \$183 at the end of October.

Joining Forces for Families (Ryan)—The number of people facing eviction is rising. A major cause is the steep increase in rent; e.g., SN Investments has raised the rent of their properties from \$750 to \$900. Wynn proposed that Allied Partners express their concern to the alders, mayor, and other policymakers. Wynn, Gloria and Sue will draft a letter. • Ryan asked that Alice be reimbursed for her hotel stay during an MGE power cutoff; Alice was at risk because she needs supplementary oxygen. The cutoff was necessary for installing a solar grid at Epic. Flora asked about MGE's policy regarding power disruption. Do they keep a list of people with life-threatening conditions? Residents need advance notice.

Wellness Center (Gloria)—The Wellness Center provides supplies at five locations; 58 families were served in October. Many families are in distress; besides food, they need jobs, furniture, and transport. Gloria's position at the Wellness Center is being phased out at the end of the year. She intends to devote more energy and time to her ministry and will continue to offer health support to the Allied community. She thanked Allied Partners for their support, especially eviction prevention. Wynn applauded Gloria's efforts over the years. Among many contributions, she brought community health workers to a new level. Wellness Center services will continue. Wynn suggested that the president of the Wellness Center be invited to the December Allied Partners meeting to share the direction of the Center, especially in relationship to Allied Partners.

Food Pantry (Carol)—Things are going smoothly. We've been tweaking our system to meet individual needs.

Neighborhood Association (Alice)—The Association needs more support. All offices will be open at the coming election. Alice would like to start a women's support group.

Other Business—• Jail ministry: Rhea is collecting Christian Christmas cards for prisoners in the Dane County Jail. Each card should have a different message of encouragement since the prisoners share their cards. Cards should be signed with first name only. Cards are due to Rhea by December 1,

rannschu@gmail.com

•Second Harvest volunteers: Wynn invited congregations to join volunteers from First Baptist Church in helping out at the Second Harvest warehouse.