

Allied Partners

November 18, 2020

Present: Rhea Schultz (president), Mary Collet (secretary), Alice, Debra Annet, James Costello, Eileen Dresser, Wynn Davies (treasurer), Ryan Estrella (Joining Forces for Families), Janice Ferguson, Flora Flygt, Carmella Harris, Dina Hermann, Sue Hoffenberg, Joe Maldonado, Gloria Manadier–Farr, Molly Plunkett, Marcio Sierra, Jr., Su Timmerman

Rhea opened the meeting with a prayer. The minutes from the October meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report (Wynn)

Eviction prevention fund—We received Midvale Community Lutheran's quarterly donation of \$262.50 plus a \$500 anonymous donation. The fund was used to prevent eviction in five situations, all spawned by the pandemic. The balance at the end of October was \$2,271.

Scholarship fund—Carmella Jenkins was awarded a \$500 scholarship to Madison College. Thanks to Joe Maldonado and Su Timmerman for agreeing to serve on the scholarship committee with Ryan Estrella. The balance in the fund is currently \$2,052.

Special projects fund—We continue to supplement congregational contributions to the Essentials Pantry by \$100 each month.

- Queen of Peace returned the \$100 contribution for September since it was received after they had already made their purchases
- \$100 was sent to the Nehemiah congregation
- Westminster Presbyterian chose not to accept a contribution for November
- We will send \$100 supplemental contribution to Prairie Unitarian for December

Wellness Center—Received \$500 from Memorial UCC and an anonymous donation of \$100. Through the end of October, Allied Partners has contributed \$5,000 to the Wellness Center.

As we approach the end of the year, Wynn asked us to consider telling the Allied Partners story to our congregations. He is willing to put together something to distribute.

Eviction prevention (Ryan)—Ryan has been working from home exclusively, except for emergencies. He and Gloria stagger their hours. He has been overwhelmed with requests for assistance. Most calls are COVID-related; e.g., loss of employment. If a person has COVID, it is possible to offer assistance twice. Two-thirds of requestors are Spanish-speaking. Support funds are running out. The MGE moratorium will be in effect until April 2021. The holiday party will not take place this year; larger programs sponsored by Joining Forces for Families as well as Toys for Tots will still take place.

Scholarships—Ryan sees a need to rethink scholarship outreach. Joe Maldonado suggested getting in touch with high school guidance counsellors and multicultural coordinators.

Wellness Center (Gloria)—Needs are rising. Allied Drive welcomers and community health workers have been out in the neighborhood, distributing packages with supplies from the Essentials Pantry, personal protection equipment (e.g., masks), and gas, bus, and food cards. Recipients sign a form confirming receipt. 124 people were served in October. Community health workers are in training and will be certified in 2021. The biggest challenge continues to be reaching out to the Latino community. Pastor Marcio said that he will look for a bilingual volunteer from his congregation.

Community Agency Bridging the Gap (Carmella)—Carmella described her work in crisis intervention in serving the critical mental health needs of the Allied community. CABG is a first-responder service that engages in an intake process, referrals to long-term mental health services, and brief solution-oriented

therapy. Carmella works out of her home. She has a staff of 8 persons, including a doctor. CABG needs office supplies, gas and bus cards, grocery cards, clothing, and baby supplies. A proposal to donate \$600 from the Allied Partners Special Projects Fund was approved. Rhea suggested taking information about CABG back to member congregations. Donations, earmarked for CABG, can be sent to Center for Community Stewardship, 116 N. Few St, suite 3, Madison, WI 53703.

Alder report (Joe)—Voters came out in huge numbers in Fitchburg (86%), including 212 new voters. A series of break-ins on Jenewein Drive are under investigation in conjunction with the police. Joe said that a youth program might make the neighborhood safer.

Speakers for future meetings (Wynn)—Wynn proposed inviting agency representatives to learn about neighborhood needs, particularly in regard to the Latinex population, children, and the criminal justice system (i.e., probation, parole). Suggested contacts were Madison Urban Ministry (MUM) and the Kids Forward program.

Alternative meeting time—There was general agreement that scheduling a meeting for late afternoon or early evening might draw residents who can't meet during the day. Gloria suggested a simple survey to ascertain neighborhood interest, which she would be willing to distribute. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for January or February.

Allied Neighborhood newsletter (Rhea)—There was general agreement that if the newsletter is to continue, it should be produced by a resident. Alice will ask someone she knows. Several people spoke to other ways of communication, namely Facebook and the Allied Neighborhood website.