

Minutes of Allied Partners Meeting November 19, 2019

Attendance: Jennifer Carter,* Mary Collet, Wynn Davies, Eileen Dresser, Ryan Estrella (JFF), Cindy Bacon Hammer, Zachary Henak (alder), Marge Lyford, Gloria Manadier–Farr, Ann Moffat, Michael Newheart, Molly Plunkett, Rhea Schultz, Regina Smith,* Donna Vernig.* (*Allied Neighborhood Coop)

October minutes—Approved as written.

Treasurer's report (Wynn)

Eviction Prevention Fund—\$1,400 was disbursed in October among five individuals. The fund is running very low. Balance at the end of October was \$1,006; as of November 19, \$606. Ryan (JFF) reported that some County funds are available, but there are more restrictions Thanks to Midvale Lutheran for their contribution of \$262.50. Checks should be made out to MUM and earmarked for the Allied Partners Eviction Prevention fund.

Scholarship Fund—No activity. Balance is \$2,252.60.

Special Projects Fund—\$50 was contributed to the Wellness Center for a cake for the “Allied-oween” party. Balance is \$1,512.46.

Wellness Center Fund—To date, Allied Partners has channeled \$1,550 in individual and congregational donations to the Wellness Center in 2019 and has contributed an additional \$1,375 from the Special Projects fund for specific needs. Congregations are invited to purchase gas cards and bus passes (sign-up sheet was circulated).

Wellness Center (Gloria)

- 69 individuals were served in October; 11 first-time visitors and 25 youth (some duplicates); 50 used the Basic Needs Pantry. Personal products and diapers are especially needed. 15 to 20 gas cards were disbursed.
- 100 bags of candy and \$20 cash prizes for contests were given at the Allied-oween party. The party included food and games.
- Community health workers—Program is on hold for lack of funds for supplies. Funds from a Game Changer Grant lasted about 6 months; workers were paid \$15/hr.
- Would like UW students to mingle with residents in addition to providing health information.
- Received \$10,000 grant from Epic for developing a website.

Joining Forces for Families (Ryan)—

- Eviction prevention—MGE is being more proactive about power disconnections by working with social service organizations. Ryan used County funds to reconnect three households.
- Holiday gifts for kids—About 300 children will receive gifts.
- Voter registration—Ryan and Alice Howard have been working with the League of Women Voters to encourage voter registration. The owner of the Luna grocery is being included in this effort. Residents need to encourage each other to vote and to be given the option of filing an absentee ballot. The Fitchburg polling site at the Fire Department is intimidating.
- Input to Fiscal District Reps—Ryan and Alice are looking for ways to get feedback from residents regarding a neighborhood school. Molly offered to ask about circulating a survey at the learning center.

Allied/Dunns Marsh Community Coop (Jennifer, Regina, Donna)

- The banquet held on Nov. 11 was successful.
- Alice Howard has stepped down as president; Annette Miller is acting as interim president.

- The Coop meets on the third Thursday of the month in the Revival Ridge community room. Since moving there, attendance has dropped. They are hoping to build a resource center that would house the Coop, Wellness Center, and Joining Forces for Families. They have been exploring whether \$30,000 from a grant could be used toward building the center.
- Jennifer has done a great job in maintaining the info kiosk.
- Regina and Donna have reinvigorated Gems. Outreach to 5 to 7 girls to participate will be conducted by word of mouth in December. The program will become active in January. Wynn said that Allied Partners could provide food and volunteers for Gems meetings; food (like pizzas) may also be available from the food pantry.
- Wynn proposed to give Gems and the Brotherhood \$100 each from the Special Projects Fund. The proposal was approved.

Scholarship Committee (Ann)—The deadline for applications is December 6. Info is being posted in the newsletter and on the kiosk.

Other Concerns

- Newsletter (Cynthia)—Remember to send info on meetings and events for the calendar. A suggestion was made to include coupons from businesses in the newsletter; e.g., Luna, McDonald's, Home Depot
- Dental clinic—The clinic hasn't been used much since it requires insurance and does not provide a sliding scale. The Smiles program visits schools. Could it come to the neighborhood? Molly will check it out.
- The community meal is held on the last Friday of the month at the Boys & Girls Club. Inconsistency of location has cut down on attendance.

Next meeting: December 17, 10 a.m., Boys & Girls club. Bring cookies!

Prepared by Mary Collet