Saint Ann Conference, Saint Vincent de Paul

Meeting Minutes

Date May 9, 2023

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Next meeting: |  | Tuesday, May 23 at 3:30PM in Delaney Hall |
|  |  | Tuesday, June 12 at 9:30AM in Delaney Hall |

1. **Call to Order; Opening Prayer**

Mary Ann Conlon opened the meeting at 9:35 AM.

1. **Welcome**

There were no new members to the conference.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the 4/25 meeting were approved by a voice vote.

1. **Ministerium Update**
   1. Virginia Giuffre is our new representative to the Ministerium
   2. The group is looking at opening the Bethany men’s shelter this fall/winter.
   3. There is a desire to have the Beebe mobile health care unit at OLG on a Thursday when the pantry is open.
   4. Virginia reminded members that the CROP walk is scheduled for October 15; she strongly encouraged members to show up to represent the parish.
2. **Treasurer’s Report**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Balance | Revenue | Expenses |
| 4/1/2023 | $57,482 | $20,864 | $12,952 |
| 4/30/2023 | $65,394 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

* 1. As expected, pantry costs were the primary expense, making up almost half of the total.
  2. Note that our special account has about $40K currently.

1. **Pastoral Council**
   1. In addition to Marty Malarkey and Lorraine Jordin, from our conference, Betty Wisgirda has joined thecouncil as a representative.
2. **Updates**
   1. **Food Pantry**
      1. The Fire Marshall paid us a visit and was not happy about our pantry area:
         1. Alarms not working properly
         2. Storage room being used past the last refrigerator (Probably not our stuff)
   2. **Neighbor Contact**
      1. Despite Renata now working two jobs, she was unable to keep her apartment; she is now housed in a hotel. Her fridge and stove need to be moved.
   3. Extended Care
      1. Carlos Mitchell is being added to our neighbors needing extended care. If he contacts us through the hotline, please notify the team.
   4. **Fund Raising**
      1. A pampered Chef fund raiser is being held on 6/27, proceeds to SVdP. More information to follow.
      2. Lorraine is selling SVdP magnets for $5.
      3. Suggested that we run a 50/50 at our meetings.
   5. **Building plans**
      1. The committee met with the architect on the 8th. The total cost appears to be in the area of $1M. Before we proceed with any approvals, we will need to produce artist’s renderings of the finished construction. Those renderings will cost approximately $20K.
      2. Carol’s goal for the conference is to have the building in use within two years.
      3. We’ve identified 5 sources of grant funding: Catholic Charities, Perdue, Mountaire, Tyson, and Freeman.
3. **Spirituality – Reflection**

# This meeting’s reflection was prompted by today being the memorial of St. Louise de Marillac..

1. **President’s Remarks**
   1. Plans for the Breaking Bread gathering with our neighbors are moving forward; a meeting is scheduled for the 18th. So far, 120 of our neighbors have signed up.
   2. Vinnies in the Vineyard is being held on May 13 at St. Jude. Carpooling is available, The main topic is affordable housing; representatives from Catholic Charities, First State Community Action, Housing Alliance Delaware and Sussex County Community Development will discuss and be available for questions.
      1. Notes from the meeting are attached, courtesy of Alice Donnelly
   3. Tish is not here today, as she is delivering a presentation to Sussex Community Housing.
2. **Upcoming Events**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| May 15 | Team 4, Food Pantry 5/18 |
|  | Breaking Bread Meeting at 10:00 AM at OLG |
| May 22 | Team 1, Food Pantry 2/25 |
|  | Regular Meeting 5/23 @ 3:30 PM DH |
|  | Team Leader Meeting 5/23 at 2:00 PM in DH |
| May 29 | Team 2, Food Pantry 6/1 |
| June 5 | Team 3, Food Pantry 6/8 @ 3:30 PM |
| June 12 | Team 4, Food Pantry 6/15 |
|  | Regular Meeting 6/13 @ 9:30 AM DH |
|  | School Supplies Meeting at 11:00 AM after Regular Meeting |
| June 16 | **5:00 PM to 8:00 PM Breaking Bread Fiesta at OLG** |
| June 19 | Team 1, Food Pantry 6/2 |
| June 26 | Team 2, Food Pantry 6/29 |
|  | Regular Meeting 6/27 @ 3:30 PM |
|  | **Note No Meetings until August 22** |
| July 3 | Team 3, Food Pantry 7/6 |
| July 10 | Team 4, Food Pantry 7/13 3:00 to 5:00 PM |
| July 17 | Team 1, Food Pantry July 20 |
| July 24 | Team 2, Food Pantry 7/27 |
| July 31 | Team 3, Food Pantry 8/3 |
| August 7 | Team 4, Food Pantry 8/10 3:00 – 5:00 PM |
| August 14 | Team 1, Food Pantry 8/17 |
| August 21 | Team 2, Food Pantry 8/24 |
|  | Regular Meeting 8/22 @ 3:30 PM DH |
| August 28 | Team 3, Food Pantry 8/31 |
| October 17 | **Ozanam Orientation on Tuesday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM** |

1. **Closing Prayer; Adjournment**

***(see Attachment)***

***On Saturday, May 13, Vincentians from St. Ann’s attended “Vinnies in the Vineyard” at St. Jude’s.***

*Allice Donnelly provided the following notes*

The problem of homelessness was addressed by the following groups: Catholic Charities, First State Community Action, Housing Alliance Delaware and Sussex County Community Development.

**Jamie Sayler from First State** (302-856-7761, 308 N. Railroad Avenue, Georgetown) gave an overview of services offered with the intention of helping our neighbors move forward from crisis to thriving.

Some of the topics included were:

Housing counseling, assistance in purchasing homes, foreclosure support

Energy and cooling assistance

Income tax prep

Emergency food, rent, utilities, medications, shelter

Case management, including employment, childcare, education, transportation

Transportation – will help with car insurance so that neighbor can keep car to get to job

Prison re-entry – employment, housing, education

Rental assistance including security deposit and first month’s rent

Senior employment – teaching of new skills to enable re-entry into workforce

Workforce development – training in areas which require low skills with earnings of high wages

Education- college and career readiness, after school programs which provided academic and social enrichment, youth summer employment, summer enrichment to include recreation and academics, programs for high school students with disabilities, adult culinary arts program

Springboard Pallet Village, 40 cabins, is located at 411 Kimming Street, Georgetown.

**Kate Culhane-Suluai of Housing Alliance Delaware** addressed the housing problem in Delaware.

Central Intake provides immediate help with crisis.

Sussex Housing Group’s primary focus is to help with affordable housing in Sussex County.

Continuum of Care works with local government in addressing affordable housing issues.

The agency works with shelters to provide emergency housing. Neighbor needs to call everyday if seeking emergency shelter. **Centralized Intake M-F, 8-5pm 1-833-346-3233.**

**Day for Housing 2023, May 18, 2023, 12-3 pm**

**Where: Delaware Legislative Hall, 411 Legislative Avenue, Dover, DE 19901**

**Meet with Legislators regarding affordable housing crisis in Delaware.**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED. For more info contact 302-654-0126 x103**

See attached flyers from Housing Alliance Delaware

**Sussex County Community Development** presentation was given by **Brandy Nauman** (302-855-7779). They will help with repair, rehab of property and rental.

Coastal Tide is a new rental housing development located behind Home Depot in Rehoboth. There are 26 affordable housing units. Contact Coastal Tide directly or Brandy Nauman.

Some goals of this group include:

Incentives to builders to build affordable housing in specific areas that have employment opportunities and transportation.

They have programs to help families purchase homes, help home owners with county taxes.

The **Catholic Charities** presentation was given by **Gary Belkot of Casa San Francisco**, Milton, DE (302-684-8694). Casa San Francisco is an emergency shelter for 6 men and 6 women for 30 days. They provide meds, laundry, clothing, transportation vouchers for public transportation, and case management. They have an emergency Food Pantry and Senior Food program

**Micro Loan Program** was discussed by **John Lozes**. I believe he is with SVDP in Wilmington.

SVDP can offer small loans of $1000 - $2000 for a one year term at an interest rate of 9%. The interest can be reimbursed to neighbor at payoff, closing is quick, loan is Council funded and partnered with Artisan Bank.

The advantages of Micro Loan Program include:

1. Alternative to predatory loans
2. Improvement of credit score
3. Empowerment

Reasons for offering micro loan: Extraordinary need – medical, educational, funeral expense, home repair, transportation.

At the end of term, Artisan bank keeps interest and SVDP reimburses neighbor for interest paid. If neighbor defaults, loss is shared by Council and Artisan Bank.

**For more loan information: svdpwilmington.org**