

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

July 16, 2018, 7:00PM, St. Louis Room

Present: Julie Haas, Deacon Ron Smith, Doreen Berg, Nancy Heideman, Jarrett Wendt, Mary Ross, Lynn Franco, Joy Fopma, Cynthia Shriver

Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

- A. Call to Order – Doreen called the meeting to order.
- B. Opening prayer – Ron led the opening prayer.
- C. Welcome & introductions were made.
- D. In Service.
 - a. Wings of Refuge - Joy Fopma, Development Director for Wings of Refuge , presented information about the organization. Wings of Refuge is a place of healing for survivors of sex trafficking. Begun in 2012 in Iowa Falls, they have a 24 hour awake-staff, offer medical care and contract with a therapist for psychological issues. They are hoping to move to Ames and are in a capital fund raising campaign to raise \$450,000. As soon as the goal is reached, they will purchase a home in Ames and move the current Iowa Falls program to Ames. It is a Christ centered organization. There is a city wide event at Harvest Vineyard (320 S. 17th St.) August 17, 2018, from 7-9 p.m. Informational flyers were distributed.
 - b. Youth Mission Trip – Ron. Thirteen youths and five adults travelled to Billings, Montana where they performed various labor tasks for a pregnancy crisis center.

BUSINESS MEETING

- A. MINUTES/June draft minutes- Cynthia. **Minutes were accepted by consensus.**
- B. CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you notes: MICA - Monthly support of Story County Dental Clinic
- C. FINANCIALS – Doreen for Jean
 - a. June Financial Report. Monetary Receipts: \$3,676.32, Estimated Value of Food Shelf Contributions: \$712.53, Disbursements: \$3,671.50, Bank Balance as of June 30, 2018: \$73,692.90, Discretionary Funds Available: \$6,657.47, Food at First Chef's Budget Balance: \$243.97. August's Special Allocations: Friendship Arc: \$250.00, Wellspring Missions:\$750.00.
 - b. Discretionary Funds. Distribution of discretionary funds generated the following list of possible recipients: Martha's House of Hope, Community ID, Wings of Refuge, ERP, Individual Assistance.
 - c. Requests - none
- D. NEW BUSINESS

Pastoral Council –Jarrett. New officers and board members were installed.
- E. OLD BUSINESS
 1. Advocacy/Publicity
 - *Bulletin Board – In addition to the bulletin board, Lynn is working on the next newsletter. Please send topics for the newsletter and the bulletin board to Lynn.
 - *Social Justice Brochure – Jarrett distributed the latest version of the SJ brochure. We are close to a final version.
 - *Respect Life/Social Justice Month of October The last Mission Weekend sponsored by SJ was held Oct. 22/23, 2016. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to have another one. Doreen will follow up.
 2. Respect Life and Social Justice Formation. <https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/respect-life/respect-life-and-social-justice-formation-for-all/> -Deacon Ron will be leading a session on July 24, 7 pm, in the Social Hall South on natural family planning, poverty and population control.
 3. AMOS - Nancy

Community ID Program. Nancy distributed information and a script for gathering support for the program. They are explaining the program to city leaders and meeting with the City Council, The Tribune and The Daily. The Ames police are comfortable with the program. Native Spanish speakers need to be recruited. A community event is being planned to recruit

core members. Deacon MuCully suggested a potluck dinner at STC. The next meeting is Monday, July 23.

4. Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance – Nancy. Based on the minutes she received for the May 17 meeting, Nancy reported that the AIRA has recommended that they cease helping a family of four that is in the program. AIRA wants to continue helping the children. DHS is involved and they are hoping that an aunt of the children, who is willing to care for them, is able to do so.
5. Committee reports:
 - a. Good Samaritan - Lynn (need more volunteers)
 - * June 22/23 food pantry donation - 409.5 pounds
 - * July 21/22 envelopes, cart and food transfer- Keith & Linda Huls
 - b. Hunger Collaboration - no report (next meeting July 19th). Minutes of the May meeting and the United Way Alice Report were included in the meeting packet. ALICE stands for asset limited, income constrained, employed. It is a project of Story County United Way. For more information visit <http://www.uwstory.org/alice-project>
A Shop+1 flyer will be included in the July 14/15 bulletin. It explains the need for food at the MICA Pantry since there tends to be a drop off of donations in the summer and there are no school meals during the summer.
 - c. Food at First –Doreen (June average 67.2 meals per day). On the evening of Ragbrai, normally assigned volunteers should come as usual. Chris and Patty are in charge of the meal.
 - d. Good Neighbor – We still are searching for a GNEA board member to replace Phyllis.
 - e. Restorative Justice - Barb/Ron
 - * Congratulations to Barb and Ron for receiving the Iowa Governor's Volunteer Award. They were nominated by Catholic Charities.
 - *Butterfly House - Barb (3 currently living there)
 - *Matthew 25 House – Ron. No report.
 - f. Individual Assistance – Ron stated that the need is high.
 - g. Emergency Residence Project – Julie reported that there has been a huge increase in individuals needing help probably due to other agencies having depleted funds or scheduling appointments out. The shelter's new hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Three families are now housed in the Rapid Rehousing program. Improvements to the buildings and grounds continue. YSS, ACCESS and ERP will be meeting weekly to discuss referral and recommended housing services based on the level of need in the three programs. A street outreach program is beginning with the Ames Police Department. A \$25,000 check from Reggie's sleepout was received. Carrie met with the Mental Health Task force of AMOS to discuss permanent supportive housing options for chronically ill/chronically homeless individuals. Walk throughs by the Property Committee and the Maintenance Committee have been completed or soon will be. Beginning talks on where and how to begin planning for a new shelter have been initiated.
 - h. Sanctity of Life – Garland. No information.
 - i. Home for Awhile – Mary reported that a new lease has been signed for Julie and Bill's duplex apartment. \$8,100 (from Anonymous Bequest) will be given to Home for Awhile to cover the cost of rent and utilities for the duplex apartment.
 - j. Days for Girls – Carol and Mary are speaking to St. Mary's Circle on September 6. Bethesda Lutheran, Nevada Memorial Lutheran and Collegiate Presbyterian want to get involved with the program.
6. Additional concerns. **By consensus, \$1,000 will be donated to Wings of Refuge.** It will be taken out of Anonymous Bequest. This leaves \$840 in the Anonymous Bequest line. We are still waiting for circumstances to be such that we can donate to Martha's House of Hope.
- E. Prayer/Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned with a prayer.