

ST. BERNARD PARISH
HUMAN NEEDS COMMISSION Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 8, 2023 @ 1:00-2:15 p.m., Higgins Hall

WELCOME – Prayer led by Georgine Jacobs. The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi was used.

ATTENDANCE: Georgine Jacobs, Laura Angle, Helen Drobniak, Dick Seifert, JoAnn Wagner Novak, Barb Roberts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 2023. Corrections noted in minutes under *Way Forward*.

Clarified “moving...from Saturday pick-ups” stopped, as CoVid is no longer a pandemic.

Second correction: “Social services...through a ‘boundary’ (*not territory*) system.”

Approval motion by Barb Roberts with second by Dick Seifert and Helen Drobniak. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Way Forward (MOM)** Update by Barb Roberts. There’s significant increase in client numbers. Latest data estimates serving 6500 people in the past year, a 152% increase in pantry visits. Barb noted they serve nearly 2,000 households (people come for themselves & others, simultaneously). In addition, patrons are allowed > than one monthly visit (unlike others). Way Forward still seems to have a good volume of food on hand, likely due to various resources. They still ask us to continue our food drives.

Current Food Pantry Hours

- Monday. CLOSED.
 - Tuesday. 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.
 - Wednesday. 10:00 am - 12:30 pm. 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm.
 - Thursday. 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.
 - Friday. 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.
 - Saturday. 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.
 - Sunday. CLOSED.
2. **Luke House & Multicultural Center Meal Programs** – Updates from Helen (who filled in at Luke House last 2 months). Numbers are variable: roughly 72 one month and 52 this month. For CMC (Jill Hilbert’s written report), numbers were down nearly 50% this month compared with June. HNC continues to monitor this, and the teams will inform us, should they need additional support.
 3. **Father’s Day Diaper Collection.** Reviewed briefly. No actual count was given but Ellen Krenke delivered a car full of diapers and supplies. This was evident in the pictures she supplied for the bulletin/website. We reaffirmed plans for this annual event with the potential of maybe focusing on certain needs (e.g. wipes or a certain size of diapers for which more are needed).
 4. **Walking with Women in Need** – this segued into New Business. (See #3 next page).
 5. **School Supply Collection for St. Francis Assisi, Milwaukee (sister parish):** Update from Georgine. Overall, we collected 17 bags of supplies, up from the 2022 collection. This year, the barrels were all in one location (none at the West or South, street entrances to church). Yet, parish members managed to find the barrels. We noted ushers were helpful in directing parishioners towards the barrels.
Future Suggestions: Next year for this **and ALL collections**, HNC signs should be updated, especially at the West and South (University Ave) entrances so donors know that barrels are in the Narthex area.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **FOOD DRIVE for Way Forward. Dates:** Grocery Bags distribute, October 7-8; Food Collection, Oct 14-15
Coordinators: **Not formally designated-tasks divided among group.**
Signage (indicating barrel locations): Georgine Jacobs to email Jane Maly. Signs up 9/30 & 10/1.

Notice in bulletin for Food Drive: Ellen Krenke and Barb Roberts.

Paper Bags with List: Ask Barb Harrington to type a Top 10 List from their website. (Georgine)

She'll arrange to print it out & HNC will staple it on the bags.

Bags: we need 200. Current supply, 156. Dick volunteered to canvass for more bag donations. Stores will get credited in bulletin write-ups for those donations.

After Mass Food Storage & Volunteers: **Not designated at this meeting.** Plan is to leave the barrels in place, only storing the donations after the 4:30 Sat. Mass and 10:00 AM Sun. Mass.

Arrangements with both Office & Tom Theis: **Not designated at this meeting.**

Arrangements for delivery to Way Forward: **Not discussed at this meeting.**

2. **Walking with Women Need.** Brainstorming discussion & update.

Background (Barb Roberts & Georgine):

--Recent tour of Women's Care Center (East side on Orin Rd). It's one of 35 nationwide, furnished in the same way. No religious affiliation, although they have a small chapel on site. They provide confirmation pregnancy tests, free (3D) ultrasound, free classes so women can earn credits towards new infant items. Helpful staff, sensitive to unplanned pregnancies, spiritual needs, and resources.

--Meeting with St. Francis Parish (Cross Plains) women (about 10) along with Rhiannon, lead person, who heads up their parish group on Walking with Women in Need. Their plan, approved by Fr. Scott, is to meet with some parishioners/staff in each Pastorate 19 parish to learn what they may be doing. Further, they've acquired Holy Cards with a prayer for women moving through pregnancy. They hope to get parishes to distribute this card and encourage parishioner involvement in praying. The original launch was planned for August 26-27. Given the Middleton Good Neighbor Festival, with a parade right outside our parish grounds, we suggested moving it to Sept 23-24. Note that the KC's have a breakfast planned, so Georgine will discuss coordinating this with them & to confirm dates.

Brainstorming for ideas: **"Marketing the plan"**

Physical advertising. In the large area near Higgins Hall, we need Poster Board and table.

Poster Board to contain information about Walking With Women in Need (Diocesan website)

Table: to contain Prayer Cards, more Info/Brochures about related resources, Women's Care Center, etc.

Marketing Hook: Suggestion from Jo Ann) to use yellow footprints from the hallways towards the Board and Table. Footprints would step out "Will You Walk With Women In Need" and "Will You Pray For Women in Need".

How we get needed Info: One suggestion was someone looking up key website info, finding someone with graphic/skillset to print out small Info sheets to pick up and larger sheets that can be used on a larger poster board. (Dick suggested finding some talented IT teens to design it.)

Have a grand opening of the Mother's Room near the University Ave hallway. Room purpose is To meet nursing and diapering needs. Spare items will be stored there.

We need to get a shelf & prep the space with supplies.

PRAYER & ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM. Closing prayer was the Memorare, led by Georgine, with special remembrance for Jan's children who have currently serious health problems.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 12, – 1:00 p.m. Higgins Hall

Jwn:08/12/23