



DRAFT

CITY OF PARK RIDGE

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PARK RIDGE HUMAN NEEDS TASK FORCE

"To assess the human needs of the community and to help ensure that they are met by utilizing existing resources.

To identify areas of human needs not currently met by existing resources and recommend a plan to address those needs.

To raise awareness and promote more effective communication as it relates to the human needs of the community."

Human Needs Task Force Meeting Notes
Mayor's Conference Room
January 10, 2011 8:30 am.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kate Kerin, Marsha Warnick, Eva Gertzfeld, Leroy Joesten, Carolyn Joesten, Dean Whitford, Darlene Hejza, Ramon Sanchez, Adrienne Timm and John Benka.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Floyd Kortenhof, Millie O'Brien, Erin Biernbaum, Fran Hook Hume, Rozan Dein, Milada Gorelik, John McNabola and Brian Halverson.

ALSO PRESENT: Jennifer Steurer.

I. INVOCATION

Invocation was offered by Darlene Hejza.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the December 13, 2011 meeting were approved.

III. GUEST SPEAKER

The Lyceum students from Maine East will be the speakers at next month's meeting. John explained they are a group of very talented kids of all races and nationalities, that get involved in a variety of social projects and initiate outreach efforts.

IV. ONGOING BUSINESS

1. Community Needs-Follow up or new

Marcia reported there will still be money available in the energy assistance program through May. These funds can be used for gas and electricity. Anyone making under \$21,380/year will qualify for a one time credit amounting to nearly \$100. Please contact Maine Township.

2. Review of funds

Currently there is \$1,369.39 in the HNTF account. A motion was made to purchase \$500 worth of Jewel food vouchers. The motion was unanimously passed. Jennifer will purchase those and distribute them accordingly to Maine Center and the Center of Concern.

3. Food Drive

John spoke about a food drive project completed by the 5th grade resource students at Franklin School. The teacher and the students gave speeches, made posters, organized, collected and delivered food to the Maine Township Food Pantry. They followed up with thank you notes and had a tour while they were there.

Marsha suggested for the next food drive, to utilize the staff at Maine Townships for the food pick up. The Township would need a list of the bins and people would be directed to call them when the bins are full.

V. AGENCIES/CHURCH REPORTS

St. Luke's

Carolynn reported over 100 people attended the reading of the Christmas Carol by Dickens, on December 17. The actor did not charge for the evening, but \$800 was collected in donations that will go to the Maine Township Food Pantry. On January 28, they will hold an indoor Farmer's Market from 10am- 2pm and will also serve lunch- soup and bread. The Farmer's Market is sponsored by Faith in Place. All monies collected will go to farmers in crisis.

St. Matthew's Center for Health

No report.

Center of Concern (COC)

Eva reported they have been very busy. Fifty packages filled with goodies were delivered to community residents. In addition, 10 huge boxes of food were delivered to their transitional housing clients. Currently, there over 40 individuals waiting for home sharing matches, from all age groups and walks of life. At the January 23 COW meeting, the COC will be waiting to hear if the City Council and the Mayor will approve their budget again. Eva requested, to please go to the meeting or write letters to your Alderman supporting the COC. It appears some Council members only wish to serve Park Ridge residents. The COC has always helped everyone that came to their doors.

Medical Supply Closet (Park Ridge Community Church)

Dean complimented Kate on the Kibosh display at the Park Ridge Library. Dean passed out a statistical report on lending activity. In 2011 they had 358 returned items and 197 were still out at the end of the year. In 2010, there were 285 returned and 141 still out and the end of the year. The word must be getting around, as they continue to increase in activity levels.

Advocate Lutheran General (LGH)

No report.

Park Ridge Community Fund (PRCF)

No report.

Avenues to Independence

No report.

Maine Township

Marsha thanked the community on behalf of Maine Township for all their support. The response from everyone has been overwhelming and has filled up their coffers through April!

Maine Center

No report.

Mary, Seat of Wisdom (MSW)

Darlene reported they have a wonderful outreach program at MSW. More families from MSW themselves, are in need.. They sent over 300 gifts out to various organizations. This year they had 3 vans plus 1 car of food delivered to Maine Township, compared to 3 vans and 3 cars last year.

Healthy Community Partnership (HCP)

John reported the HCP is still reorienting with their new leadership. Their next meeting will take place on January 25. John wants to get a message to the City Council and the Mayor, via a letter or other avenue, that there is a dynamic outside of the City hierarchy, that is responding to the City's needs. Discussion ensued about that subject.

Maine East Township High School

No report.

Kate Kerin: Community volunteer

Kate reported the Park Ridge Teen Center's attendance has been going up and down. They have very old equipment and much of it is broken. They are very excited they were chosen by the Park Ridge Junior's Foundation as their major recipient for funding .The Kibosho group leaves on January 28 to do their Mount Kilimanjaro climb. They expect to raise about \$30,000 for the East Africa library program. The Peace Corps volunteer left yesterday for Kibosho, and is taking some training for the Dewey Decimal System with them to teach a librarian the system, extend the hours and also obtain computers.

Millie O'Brien: Community volunteer

No report.

Genesis

Ramon reported United Way provided 200 toys for families at the clinic. That was a significant donation and the families were so touched by that gesture. One story came to mind-a doctor gave a girl a toy and she began to cry, as well as her parents. When the doctor asked why they were crying, they stated they both lost their jobs and their child would not have received anything if not for their help. Ramon passed on the information about the medical beds to the Genesis Center but it appears it is the timing. They will continue to keep trying.

St. Mary's

No report.

St. Paul of the Cross

Adrienne reported they had a nice Christmas, serving 112 families. Those families received ham food boxes and were adopted by parishioners. They had a surplus of volunteers over the holidays and still do. The Center of Concern can always use help , so Adrienne will let the volunteer know to contact the them. Adrienne passed out their annual report to all attending. Sunday Night Suppers are going strong and 82 people attended the last one. During the dinner, she did notice a change of mood in the people attending, perhaps due to the holidays, stress, economy, etc.

Attached is a wonderful thank you letter:

Dear Parishioners,

Because of your most generous monetary donations, Social Service Ministry was able to assist this gentleman over the holidays with \$500 towards his rent. Thought you'd like to read his thank you letter. I have his permission to share this in our bulletin.

Sat, Dec 10, 2011

Hi Adrienne!

I am the man that was referred to you by Myrna, a social worker, at Center of Concern. I would like to write you to thank you for your help! I don't really suppose you can imagine how much I appreciate this and how grateful I am!

The help you have provided for me will be the difference between living in an apartment and being literally homeless.

I am one of the victims of the current bad economy situation I suppose. Since I was part of a mass layoff almost three years back I have undergone a very disheartening and discouraging experience with job searching. I started out with a little money in the bank and was able to get unemployment insurance of course so I could hold out a little but all my savings soon ran out and I had to apply for food stamps to eat even.

The unemployment was not sufficient to cover everything so I tried pretty desperately to find a job. All I heard was "Its a bad economy were not hiring." So I resorted to doing some handyman work and trying to temp.

As of the point when I started working with Myrna things had hit rock bottom. I was denied the last "Tier" of unemployment. The reason: "I did not work enough last year."(?) At that point I had no more savings an even the temp agency could find nothing for me.

I got into negotiations with my landlord in which he told me I had to do something about the 100s of dollars I was in debt or "We will have another talk in December." Thank God - around this time- the temp agency did find a janitor job for me. It doesn't pay much but I stretch to pay the expenses. But this left the problem of the money I already owed which seemed impossible.

Yours and Myrna's help came at just the point where I was actually packing to move! My landlord is now quite content. The past is covered and even a little more for next month.

Adrienne. I believe in God and find it difficult to accept these two events occurred this way - so opportunely - without His direction, but without your cooperation it wouldn't be possible.

I am by no means out of the woods - I have a struggle - but I have a chance now. I really thank you and Myrna from the bottom of my heart. Your help made all the difference.

Happy Holidays!

Messiah Lutheran Church

No report.

Park Ridge Ministerial Association (PRMA)

Lee has nothing new to report. The Crop Walk that was held on October 15, was a huge success. Their goal was \$30,000 and they ended up with \$33,000. Twenty five percent of that total will go to Maine Township. Marcia stated the \$8,000 check was the largest they ever received from a Crop Walk.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion ensued about writing a letter to the Mayor and the City Council in support of the Center of Concern and Maine Center continuing to receive funding. Kate and John will draft a letter and send out to everyone to review. This will get done within the next few weeks.

Adrienne added St. Andrew's played a huge part in their food pantry outreach including Sunday Night Suppers.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

**The next meeting will be held on February 14, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.
City Hall, Mayors Conference room**