

December 7, 2023
Social Justice and Caring Committee
Meeting Minutes

Present: Kim Roering, Ann Karner, Father John, Julie Moore, Ann Madlung, Martha Arko, Anne Weyandt, Mary Weyandt, Mary Huettl, Chris Malec, Margaret Malec

Prayer: Ann Karner

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

Important dates coming up to which everyone is invited to participate:

- Congregational Convening 1/18/2024 @ 6:30 - 8:30 at Richfield United Methodist Church
- Start With Home Rally for Affordable Housing 2/20/24 @ 1:00-2:30 State Capitol
- Rent is Due will continue every month on a new scheduled date which will be the first Wednesday of every month

Merrick Food Distribution

All food was given out by 4:15pm. Parish volunteers continued giving out the non-perishable food that was donated to those who continued to drive up. The need continues to grow every month and it is hard running out of food, but will continue to strive to distribute food justly.

Will create a flyer to show all the food shelves in the area to hand out as a resource to those who are still in need of food.

Continue to work on a solution to provide more food and hopefully avoid running out before the shift ends. Possibilities include:

- Use parish "food" money to pay Merrick for additional food
- Find more partners in an effort to attain more food
- Look into grant money

Hope to have a solution by February.

December 18th will be the next food distribution. Mary Weyandt mentioned that she could use more heavy lifters to get the food off the Merrick truck.

Progressive Fishes and Loaves

Feeding a minimum of 120 families each week. Currently there are plenty of volunteers to help out on both Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Continue to need plastic and paper bags for distributing both Progressive and Merrick food shelves. Will work with Thea to remind her to add to Bulletin/Pulse on a regular basis.

Donation Closet for November-Response

Great response from parishioners that brought nonperishable food donations.

Donation Closet for December

Giving Tree donations continue to come into church. Ann Karner will take a load over to Catholic Charities this week and again on December 29.

Angel Tree tags were all taken at Sunday masses and Mary Weyandt will put more out if she is able to connect with remaining contact(s). Mary W. will be in touch with Mary Huettl, Julie Moore and Chris Igielski to set up a time to distribute the gifts to the families.

Donation Closet for January

Will ask for nonperishable food to be donated to Progressive Fishes and Loaves. Ann Karner will let us know exactly what they are in need of.

SJCC Bulletin Board and Webpage

Lots of discussion on how to approach making our church bulletin board more visible and useful to parishioners. Some of the thoughts for the bulletin board were; list all ministries with contact information, goals, developing a QR code to link to SJCC webpage. Use our webpage as a resource to all the ministries, partnerships and goals of our committee. Discussion continued and it was decided to form a committee to discuss thoughts in detail, at a January zoom meeting:

- Ann Karner
- Mary Huettl
- Chris Malec
- Mary Weyandt
- Julie Moore

Also, it was discussed to be sensitive that not everyone is technical with QR codes or website use. Perhaps a couple of ways to access information would be more successful in the end.

Other

Mary Weyandt announced that on January 26, 2024, there will be a Winter Family Game Night in Brioché Hall. She will let us know what type of help will be needed as we get closer to the date.

Next Meeting:

January 4, 2024

Mary Huettl will say prayer

