

TASK FORCE FOR CHILDREN IN POVERTY MEETING MINUTES

August 18, 2019

Attendees: Janie Ballurio, Eileen Cooper, Cary Dahl, Debbie Metz, John Peterson, Karen Peterson, Ron Ramsey, David Stahl, Brandan Sommerfield, Robyn Sommerfield, Kathleen Wilkers

Devotions by Cary Dahl

Approval of May 19, 2019 Minutes

I. Task Force Mission Statement

A. David Stahl presented recommended Task Force Vision and Mission Statement

Mission Statement APPROVED

Vision Statement APPROVED (pending no copyright issues)

Mission Statement

Nurturing, protecting, and advocating for God's most vulnerable children through the promotion of healthy child development and a strong supportive community.

Vision Statement

For everyone born a place at the table,
for everyone born clean water and food,
a safe home and environment for growing and simply to be,
to work and to speak and the right to be free!

*Adapted with credit to Shirley Erena Murray and the **Glory to God** Presbyterian Church USA Hymnary*

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Farrier Court Summer Lunch Program Update – provided by Janie Ballurio

- Summer 2018, a Covenant group received training and served food – child attendance was very slim
- Summer 2019, Janie offered activities after lunch every Thursday in June and July
 - o Attendance numbers dwindled considerably as summer progressed
 - o The Farrier Court building had an approximately half hour time limit for which to conduct indoor activities; when kids did arrive, this limited the duration of the activity
 - o Farrier Court is considering not offering lunch at this location due to lack of attendance
 - o Program is NOT recommended for the Task Force next year
 - o Possibly consider a revamped program of this nature in a different location in the future

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Rally Day – Sept. 8 – Covenant Task Force to have a table in the Great Hall from 9:30-10:20

- Karen Peterson and Eileen Cooper to create a visual display with our Mission Statement and pictures of past events. Display will include sign up sheets for tutoring and First Friday volunteers and handout describing our programs

TASK FORCE FOR CHILDREN IN POVERTY MEETING MINUTES

August 18, 2019

- Cary Dahl, Karen Peterson, Janie Ballurio, and others to be present to answer questions
- B. Shelburne Middle School UPDATE by Peggy Roberson
 - a. Pending – a concern was raised that we need to take steps to ensure safeguards so that any assistance we provide reaches the intended beneficiary
- C. Boys and Girls Club:
 - a. Spirit Nights – one per month planned in area breweries and wineries – 10% of proceeds to be donated to the Boys and Girls Program – an opportunity to meet Boys and Girls Club Board members and employees, and find ways of helping. Next one: Skipping Rock Sept. 8th 1-3 p.m. (October Yelping Dog)
 - b. Tutoring
 - i. Karen Peterson provided an update:
 - Quiet study space (The Power Place) in Staunton redesigned by Covenant Task Force; other spaces redesigned by the Boys and Girls Club as well
 - Tutors have started and thus far it is going much better than last year
 - Timing is an issue – buses are arriving much later than last year
 - Younger kids are not going to the quiet space – a way of incorporating younger kids to receive tutoring assistance is needed
 - Karen plans to talk to Scott Morris, Boys and Girls Club Staunton site manager, to find out how they can work out a better schedule and help the younger kids
 - Covenant donation of books for the new quiet study space well received by the Boys and Girls Club kids
 - Potential to ask Outreach for funding to help with needed pieces of furniture, décor items for the quiet study space – Tutor subcommittee to compile a list of needs and estimated costs
 - Stu Allen built a beautiful bookshelf that is specifically targeted for younger kids
 - Tutor subcommittee may plan to meet separately to work out any issues
 - c. First Fridays Program – Creating a three-year rotational curriculum - Robyn is working on a binder with all of the plans
 - i. FALL 2019, Scheduled for September, October, November, December, to include elements of:
 1. Construction – building a Christmas Tree Gypsy Hill Display
 2. Design – create a one-of-a-kind ornament that the kids design and paint with Makerspace – Planning TOUR of Makerspace for Covenant Volunteers

TASK FORCE FOR CHILDREN IN POVERTY MEETING MINUTES

August 18, 2019

3. Food – high energy snacks and ways to celebrate the upcoming holidays with James (receiving donation from Polyface)
4. See attached First Fridays sheet for more information

D. Community Organizations:

- a. YMCA Update – David Stahl stated there is an opportunity to help provide and assemble snacks; monetary donations are also welcome
- b. Laundromat Literacy Program – Karen Peterson had nothing to report
- c. Barbershop Books – Ron Ramsey with an update on information gathering
 - A Barbershop Book kit is available for purchase for \$475 that would provide a barbershop a stand, books, and 30+ books for restock – the company that provides the kit gives callbacks to the shop to see what other supplies they need
 - Question raised as to whether or not this opportunity to allow for any personal interaction, as that is an important element of the Task Force directive – Ron will do further research and report back
 - Ron will ask Chris Lassiter if Barbershops are gathering points in Staunton or if there are other suggested target businesses
 - An article will be provided on the Task Force webpage with more information
- d. Nutrition – a focus for many task force members: New ideas brought forth
 - Research at the Boys and Girls Club:
 - Look into the USDA grant to see what is included and if there is a way of using the grant to provide a greater amount of nutrition for snacks and dinner for the Club (if a greater amount of autonomy can be used for food selection)
 - Contact Project Grows to see if we can get fresh produce
 - Possibly contact Crystal Moyers and Dan O’Conner from Augusta Health to see if there is surplus food from their Project Grows garden available
 - David Stahl and Janie Ballurio to do further research

E. COVENANT Webpage:

- a. Approved – will be in the format below

Closing Prayer by John Peterson

FUTURE DATES/EVENTS: September 22nd after the 10:30 service (Meetings 4th Sundays after the 10:30 service, as needed)

TASK FORCE WEBSITE

TASK FORCE FOR CHILDREN IN POVERTY MEETING MINUTES

August 18, 2019

- I. Mission Statement
- II. Meeting Minutes
 - a. Task Force
 - b. Task Force Subcommittees
- III. Volunteer Opportunities/Events
 - a. Covenant
 - b. Community
 - c. Past Events
- IV. Resources
 - a. Scholarly articles
 - b. Books