



Great Falls Inter-Faith Association

August 22, 2013

Opportunities Inc. –Resource Center

Ray opened the meeting with a reading and a prayer. He asked that we all introduce ourselves and give any updates we had.

Steve reviewed the July meeting's minutes, and they were accepted.

Udo gave a financial report: the checking account stands at \$2,024.65. He also mentioned the membership dues for Great Falls Inter-Faith Association are due in January. He gave a quick update on the Website.

Janet from YWCA showed a video called "Walk with Me". The video is about Domestic Abuse. It is narrated by Janet and Pastor Lundgren, from the Church of the Incarnation, is the videographer. In 2010, Law Enforcement responded to 355 cases of domestic violence. Between 2000 and 2010 98 deaths were reported by domestic violence Native Americans account for 14% of deaths. Between 2011 and 2012 162 women and children were served.. 4251 meals were served. 1230 days utilized. 679 were provided clothing through Y's Buys Voucher System . The Eagles Daughters Program will be in place this school year and they are working on an Eagles Sons program as well for boys. They are working with the school system to start a mentoring program on Friday afternoons for 8th grade girls that are challenged to help them excel and to help them to understand that they are worthwhile.

Joan said that the Childhood Hunger bills, 2 of them failed in the Legislature and one legislator said that the Churches needed to step up. 10 steps to end childhood hunger conference in Bozeman September 23-24. The Documentary, A Place at the Table will be shown. Agendas include sessions for communities to get together and discuss solutions, gaps and duplicating efforts. Registration is \$70.00 or \$65 per person of a team.

Roger from the Vets 4 Vets Stand Down said they are having their next Stand Down on September 26th, 27th and 28th. They have providers for several services free of charge for Vets. They have optometrist, doctors and nearly 50 agencies to help. They will have educational, legal, medical screens, Easter Seals, and the Salvation Army. They have served 5,000 Vets in 6 years. 7-10% is homeless. He said the Ad Club has done a lot to put theirs on the map. Red Horse and MAFB are also involved. They really need help getting volunteers, donations and barbers. They have to pay \$2500.00-\$2900 to rent the building at the fairgrounds. They need \$6600 for storage.

Jim said the Rescue Mission is having their annual Back to School Rally Sunday at 2pm. They gave out 835 backpacks last year and this year they will be giving out 965. They anticipate that they will have 1600 people coming. It took \$90,000 to do this all donated by the community. He said they have moved their offices across the street to the new building and now have 6 new rooms to house 29 people.

Keith drew up a model of how the task force should operate. Each of the 5 task forces should meet at least quarterly, report back to GFIA, who would facilitate biannual round tables between all of them.

Our next meeting will be September 26th, same time and place.

Ray adjourns the meeting.

Respectfully submitted.