



Great Falls Inter-Faith Association

September 26, 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.

Shelia reviewed the August meeting's minutes, and they were accepted.

Janet from the YWCA said that they rolled out their mentoring program. They enrolled 25 girls. They meet with their mentor on Friday afternoons. 6 of the girls were chosen to go to the 'Salute to Women' Event.

Judy from St. Vincent DePaul said the October is Bed and Blanket Month. She said you can drop bedding at your church, the store or they will pick up.

Fred attended the Vets 4 Vets Stand Down dedication event and also took a tour of facility. He said 1/2 of the building was made up of 30-50 providers. The Vets needed to visit with each of the providers and have the providers sign their card to verify that they complied. After they visit each of the providers they can collect their free stuff. He said about 2,000 Vets took part and they really seemed to appreciate what they got. He recommended reading the book "Language of Poverty".

Stephen said they will be lighting the Menorah Thanksgiving at 5pm. It is located at the Civic Center in the same area they have the Nativity Scene.

Udo said we have \$2,024.65. Basically, no money in, any money out! He also said that there are 80 faith organizations in Great Falls and about 1/2 have websites, 10 offer clothing. He is going to put links to the organizations on our website and he has added a calendar to the website. Fred asked if we could send out a calendar of events to attach to the minutes every month and Udo said it would be easiest to send it to the secretaries and we could attach it. It was also asked if we could have links to service organizations and someone said we could use the Voices of Hope Directory.

The Center for Mental Health brought a copy of their wish list. They have 13 facilities that have needs. The list is quite extensive. At their Central West location, the old AGAPE center, they have 8 rooms that need sheet rocked; they need bedding, microwaves and start up stuff for apartments. Hoping to have it completed by November 1st. Fred suggested that the Churches should adopt the Center and tackle the wish list.

Joan attended the Childhood Hunger Conference in Bozeman and 250 people attended it. She said that Childhood hunger can be solved. She said poverty is the main cause of obesity. She said that infrastructure is needed. We can contact Legislators and Senators and write them simple 3-6 sentences letters.

Kate said that Family Promise has 4 churches signed on and they need 13. The formal Day Center will be located at Central Christian Church.

Our next meeting will be October 24th.

Ray adjourns the meeting.

Respectfully submitted.