

## Homeless Task Force Leader Meeting Minutes 11-22-2013

Fred H. called the meeting to order, and started introductions and asked that we tell something about ourselves that makes us each “uniquely available” to people.

Fred introduced a book: When Helping Hurts; and suggests that we all read it.

There is a community-wide wish list of projects that needs work, Fred suggests that GFIA takes a project a month to work on.

The project of focus for this meeting is the old Agape Center Project, now named “Center West”.

George Mollander:

Overview of the Center West Project:

Center West as a one-horse operation was not going to be sustainable; they realized they needed to meet multiple needs.

Phase 1: Voices of Hope moved to second floor of the center; they have several immediate crisis rooms available for very temporary use.

Phase 2: Wing A was made into eight group units.

Phase 3: Wing B was made into 12 individual units. Everything from the power pole out needed to be reconditioned, the parking lot had to be replaced to fix drainage issues. The heating system needed redesigned, they have new boiler and baseboard heating. The units need finished, bathroom doors, closet doors hung. They also need specifically metal or plastic furniture, as wood tends to attract bed bugs. A full wish list of needs can be found on the GFIA website.

These are single rooms; couples would be on a case-by-case basis. As the facility is designed to be a halfway house, they are temporarily housed until they can get the help they need, or can get to a more permanent facility.

Funds are running low; Benefis has helped fund this project because of cases when the ER had a crisis, but not necessarily a medical issue, they needed someplace to send people. But, the funding is running out, so trying to get community support is needed. Possibly having an organization or community sponsor a room on a continuous basis seems to work in similar projects.

Udo W: Website. We needed a website showing resources available. It is up now, has a database of over 70 faith-based organizations in town. It will be a great communications tool, there are people willing to help, but they don't know where or how to help. We want to be careful about what and when we send out emails, so that we don't send unnecessary emails.