



# Great Falls Inter-Faith Association

December 5th, 2013

## Opportunities Inc. –Resource Center

Ray opened the meeting with a reading from Isaiah and John and a prayer. He also asked us to keep Kim from Opportunities Inc in our prayers as she is dealing with health issues and will be off work for an extended period. He asked that we all introduce ourselves and give any updates we had.

Ron from Central Christian Church reminded everyone of the free meal at 6:15 every Wednesday except Christmas and New Years. He said from 60- 80 meals are served that evening.

Royal introduced himself and he has started a non-profit organization called STOP, which stands for Start Trying Other Programs. It is designed to work with troubled youth with educational, vocational and recreational structures aimed at helping youth make positive and constructive decisions that will benefit them in their futures. They help youth with school studies, aid in GED preparation, drivers education, vocational training in computers, drug and alcohol awareness, and the consequences of their actions. Their staff is from a group of individuals with criminal backgrounds and or drug and alcohol related histories that allow them to relate to the troubled youth and to build a trust with them. They are set up to work with 100 children per week in a clean, safe, and drug and alcohol free environment.

Udo gave the Treasurer's report, but first read John 3 17-18 and thanked everyone for all that they do for the community. He put a wonderful brochure together to mail out to the Faith Based Community to show what we have done and what we plan to accomplish in the next year. It also reminds us all that there is a \$35.00 per year membership dues. Udo said the website is up and running and would love people to submit events for the calendar.

Dave with My Neighbor in Need said that they are now occupying the Times Square main floor with their Give What You Can Store, The Pet Food Pantry, My Student in Need and My Neighbor In Need. It is open 10-5pm and to get help you can call 750-2542 or come into Times Square. Wal-Mart has donated 800 lbs of dog and cat food to the Pantry. Collins has a program to donate beds to MNIN and the Heritage in has donated some queen size beds as well. They were also blessed with a huge donation from Gendco of \$25,000.00 to be held in the trust to help fulfill needs that are not met within 7 days. Missoula County is also taking on My Student in Need.

Fred, with HOME said Center West is coming along. He said they have 4 units already being used and they have 12 units that still need to be finished and furnished. They converted the heating system to boiler heat which is much more efficient for them. The units that are unfinished need to be primed and painted. . They need help with painting, hanging drapes, and other finishing touches. They ask that some churches could sponsor a room and help to finish it up and maintain it. Also to contribute some furnishings, pictures, covering for closets they have no doors and hardware for the interior of the closet. They received a \$7500 dollar donation to help with the project, so they have all the paint and all the painting supplies, they just need the labor. He said it took them about 2 ½ -3 hours per application with 3 people. There is a heater unit in the room to maintain 70 degree temp. He said this is to be a half way house to place homeless clients with mental disorders and to screen them and get them the help and services

they need to be independent. The Homeless Task force wants to get this done and then concentrate on another homeless group.

Ron with Central Christian Church said Family Promise now has 7 Host Congregations, 4 congregations are voting on it in the next month and they have two sponsors. They have a fundraiser set for January 18<sup>th</sup> at the Ozark Club at 6:30 pm with music by a Jazz ensemble. (Sorry I did not catch the name of group).

Jan from St. Vincent De Paul said they are busy with their Christmas Basket food sign up until the 9<sup>th</sup> of December. They will be assembling the boxes of food at the Paddock Club at the fairgrounds. They will hold a volunteer training on December 14<sup>th</sup>, Saturday from 10-2 at the Westside Thrift store. They need volunteers to help with at the food bank and they need volunteers to help with home visits. It is a two person team that goes into the client's home to assess their needs.

Jim with the Rescue Mission said on December 23<sup>rd</sup> they are having their Family Christmas Party and already have 925 signed up and are expecting about 1300 people, 800 of which are expected to be children. They are asking for donations of new toys. They need the gifts to be unwrapped. You can also sponsor an ornament which is child or family specific. They will need volunteers to help wrap the toys at 209 4<sup>th</sup> Street South from December 10<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>. Fleet Maintenance is also holding a coat drive for them. If you take in a coat or a ham, they will give you a coupon for a \$40. 00 oil change.

Kathy from Benefis said Tom came on at the end of April and helped to restructure the chaplaincy program at Benefis. They reached out to the community at our last months meeting at Benefis asking for volunteer chaplains. They had 10 attend their 8 hour training. When they did their tour of the Hospital people were standing in long lines to thank them for volunteering. She also stated that they now have Bibles in all the rooms.

Our next meeting will be Thursday January 23<sup>rd</sup>. . . .

Ray adjourns the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelia