



Great Falls Inter-Faith Association

June 26, 2014

"When Helping Hurts" is a book that was recommended that we all read if we get a chance. Pastor Ray opens with a reading from 1st John Chapter 3, Verses 16-18 and a prayer.

Kristy with Alliance For Youth have filled their positions, Tracy McNeil is the case manager working with MIPs, runaways, etc. The case managers are working with parents and children to try to find a solution to problems. Have three on board already. Runaways are the #1 reason for probation violations, and then detaining. They are trying to reveal the reason for running. Tracy makes calls to parents within days of an incident. Referrals are coming mainly from youth probation. As a result from last year's survey to the kids, the top three reasons are *conflict within the home, substance abuse, boredom*.

Jim with the Rescue Mission said they have 120 kids signed up for Camp Life Light this summer. So that will be 240 additional meals a day that they will be providing.

Jenifer with the Center For Mental Health is getting a second year of funding; they've had over 80 kids come through the center. CSCT is a school-based service that takes mental health kids and works with them through the summer. They have 193 kids this year.

Lee-Is taking food from the pantries out to families, some homeless, some not. 308 homeless kids this year.

Jackie with Voices of Hope produces the Community Resource Directory. They are going to do a mass insert of a condensed version in the Tribune. For the full directory, there are still about four or five full directories available, thirty more on order. They also handed out a Mental Health Resource Guide.

Dave with the Great Falls Food Bank-In the middle of summer feeding program, they partnered with the school district; 140 kids a day, 3,900 meals through July. The school pantries really need bulked up. Food donations are good, but they really need funding to buy fresh foods. Open house July 21st. Paris Gibson food pantry has also been open all summer.

Fred-We discussed last year about asking the churches in the areas supplied by each pantry to "adopt" them, and help keep them stocked.

Fred-Proposing that area churches help fund the summer feeding programs, GFIA would start by donating \$1000. Fred moves we donate \$1000 to the summer pantry-feeding program and encourage churches to do the same. Jim seconded, no opposition. Fred also said that Dave Snuggs would be coming to our July meeting to update us on MNIN and their fundraising drive.

Jan from St. Vincent de Paul said the give out about \$2000 per month in rent assistance, travel vouchers, prescriptions, etc. They also provide clothing for job interviews and have showers available as well.

Respectfully submitted by: Stephen and Shelia