



Great Falls Inter-Faith Association

September 26, 2014

Ray opened with a reading from Leviticus and a prayer.

Jan C – Saint Vincent de Paul just had the Friends of the Poor walk, there was a somewhat small turnout, but good relationships were started.

October is bed, blanket, and bedding month. They are giving out bedding and clothes and food to people in need. They are hoping to eventually get some transitional housing.

Jeanne C – The Salvation Army is giving out winter coats at no cost for kids 17 and under. Kids in need can go to 527 9th Ave S to get coats. They are also having food drives Saturday October 11th, Albertsons on tenth, 11am to 3pm; and Saturday, October 18th, at Smiths, 9am-5pm. People will be handing out flyers noting specific items needed for the holiday baskets that the Salvation Army gives every year to people in need, and then collecting items as folks leave the store.

Friday October 10th, 10AM, and 4PM there is a Bell ringer info meeting. These meetings are for part-time **paid positions**. Anyone looking for a part-time job as a bell ringer can go to The Salvation Army Center, just off of 17th Ave S and 9th Street for one of these informational meetings.

Mark K – Mark has brought a new focus to the Salvation Army, at risk kids. One of the greatest challenges are the kids that, due to both parents working, have to go home from school and cook for themselves or for their siblings. Healthy meals tend to give way to quick and easy microwave alternatives. The Salvation Army has a large facility with a commercial kitchen, and would like to include a nutrition program where kids can learn to cook in their after-school program. This would teach many kids life skills, and skills to transfer to the job field. They need more people to make it happen.

Dusti Z – Crisis House – Brought fliers for Youth Crisis Diversion.

They have 8 counselors, and a mobile team with a clinical lead, is dispatched anytime a youth needs assistance, 24/7/365. There is really no limit to where and when they get calls. Over 110 families/kids served. They developed a crisis house. Youth and families can come there instead of places like the emergency room.

Youth will have an immediate assessment by a counselor within the first 24 hours.

They can access services based on their level of care. There is a maximum stay of three weeks, it will be finished September 30th.

It will be a Mental Health Facility, but will be called a Crisis Stabilization Facility.

The Crisis home as of now relies on grant funding, which hopefully will be renewed in November.

However, they are looking for funding for long-term sustainability. For short term, a list of needs include; 6 Twin frames, mattresses and box springs, Dressers, 2 Sofas, 2 Loveseats, End tables, 4 chairs, a washer and dryer, a microwave, 2 mountable TVs and DVD players, 6 sets of bedding, Kitchenware (glasses, plates, utensils), towels, pillows, kitchen tools, incidentals, and a dining table to seat up to 8.

Kristy S – Juvenile Detention Alternatives – She is working on the development of host homes with families that could be licensed to take youth for short or long term care. They are often called “Respite” homes. The licensing piece is important, because it protects the hosting families, and the kids.

Life House in Helena – They have 2 host homes, 1 male, 1 female home, that can take up to 6 kids each; and they have an aging out home. It looks very interesting and they are taking a tour of these homes October 9th at the Montana Crime Prevention Seminar.

The hope is to also have a Crisis Nursery to take kids from 0-8, along with Crisis Homes from 8-18, and an Aging out Home for kids 18+.