

General Membership Meeting Minutes for January 16, 2019

Welcome and Introductions

Rev. Meg Decker, *Chair of the Board of Directors, Interfaith Community Services*

Reverend Meg led the General Membership meeting with introductions of first time attendees: Karen Cassidy-Church of Rancho Bernardo, Karen Roblantz-Heart to Heart, Tim Mitchell-Emanuel Faith.

Invocation

Carol Sumner, Lifebridge Church

Adopt-a-Family Wrap Up,

Laura Hernandez, *Volunteer Services Associate, Interfaith Community Services*

Laura provided the following outcomes for 2018: Interfaith received \$12,000.00 in monetary donations, \$2,000.00 in gift cards and 634 clients were adopted through the Adopt-a-Family event. She also shared a story of one client's only wish to go to Disneyland and one adopter who made that wish come true with not only 4 tickets, but also parking pass and gift cards for food. Thank you cards were mailed out to all Adopters for their generous giving!

Interfaith Updates and Housing 2019

Greg Anglea, *Chief Executive Officer, Interfaith Community Services*

Greg provided some insight on how the government shutdown has the potential to impact most of our services. One of concern is our Tax Preparation program. With the IRS offices closed and no one to consult with there, we are hoping to receive the latest IRS Tax Updates by January 28. Our concern is that many of our clients will be at risk of turning to costly alternatives if we are unable to provide the service soon. CalFresh distributed February's benefits to families this week, we are uncertain how benefits will be affected if the shutdown continues next month. Greg also provided an update to our Intermittent Community Health Clinic with Neighborhood Health providing services here at Interfaith. We are hoping to open by spring. This service will target our current clients, but also open to the public. He announced that in the first 6 months of our Housing 2019 campaign, 721 people have ended homelessness. With all the allotted governments grant exhausted, Hope in Housing funds will be needed to fulfill this goal this year.

Offering Hope in Housing

Veronica Blea, *Director of Supportive Services, Interfaith Community Services*

Veronica briefly shared how Hope In Housing helps to prevent clients from falling through the cracks when they don't qualify for or when other government funding is no longer available. She noted that we receive 15-20 calls on the rental assistance line daily. She shared stories of a mom in recovery and a dad recently divorced were helped through Hope in Housing funds and Make it a Home that created a place they could call home for their families.

Make It A Home

Vicki Wodarczyk, *Faith Coordinator, Interfaith Community Services*

Vicki reminded the membership that Faith Centers can refer clients to our programs. She shared a story of how our Make it a Home program helped a multigenerational family who moved into an apartment and had nothing to start with. Make it a Home program provided furniture, kitchen and bathroom supplies to get them started. These family members were all accessing services at Interfaith through four different departments that worked together to support this family.

Offering Hope in Housing and Make It A Home

Rev. Meg Decker

Meg shared a story of one of her parishioners. Her husband lost his job recently. She came to Trinity for help with rent over \$1000. Trinity referred her to Interfaith where she received the help

she needed. This parishioner, had also donated \$150 to Interfaith to help others. Meg introduced the March to Housing Campaign and how the Faith Centers can participate. If 13 Faith Communities participated in the past, how much more can we do if 20 participated by taking an offering? It \$250-\$500 typically keeps a family in housing, \$250-\$5000 on average move a family in housing. Monetary donations from the Faith Communities can help support the Hope in Housing Fund, while household supplies and furniture can support the Make it a Home program.

Discussion

Re. Meg Decker

Meg led the discussion on How can we bring Offering Hope in Housing to more faith communities? Responses and suggestions included: emailing out to congregation an Interfaith Needs list involve church groups to participate in soliciting funds, invite Interfaith staff (Greg) to speak at services, tithing 10% of offering, create Special Fund opportunities to give. Someone even suggested to access Assisted Living agencies as a resource for Make it a Home. Meg noted that Interfaith staff will pick up donated items for Make it a Home and encouraged the membership to share flyers and program info in your congregations.

Announcements

Mary Ferro, *Faith Liaison, Interfaith Community Services*

- The new Mayor of Escondido is meeting at Trinity on Wednesday 1/30
- The new Mayor of Escondido will have office hours at Interfaith. His first monthly meeting will be held on March 20th at 10:30am in the Nutrition Room, prior to the General Membership Meeting.
- The Point in Time Count- Interfaith is coordinating in Escondido on Friday 1/25 from 4am-8am. For more information go to <https://rtfh.volunteerhub.com>.
- North County Stand Down will be held at Green Oaks Ranch on February, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th.

Closing

Rev. Meg Decker, *Chair of the Board of Directors, Interfaith Community Services*

Meg closed the meeting at 12:40