

## April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 General Membership Meeting Minutes

Rev. Meg Decker opened the meeting and two new attendees introduced themselves. Bill Halpin of North Coast Church led the invocation.

April is Celebrate Volunteers month and the program today is focused on volunteers at ICS. Micki Hickox, Volunteer Services Manager and Laura Hernandez, Volunteer Services Associate shared some statistics. Interfaith has 3,134 volunteers and last year they served 47,074 hours. In California, volunteers are valued at \$29.00 /hour and in the U.S. at \$24.00 /hour. This is over a million dollars of value.

Mickie introduced some volunteers who shared their experiences with us. Larry is a longtime volunteer who works in the morning soup kitchen and with Volunteer Tax Program, VITA. He said his participation is a blessing. He is humbled by the people who are trying to overcome hardships and how grateful they are for the help provided. He is amazed to see people living on such meager funds and appreciates the opportunity to give back. Jessica started as a volunteer and is now a staff person. She described some of her experiences. She felt that the volunteers come from a place of love. Don is a driver for Recuperative Services and veterans.. He described how he came to be a volunteer at Interfaith and how much he enjoys it. He drives vets all over San Diego for appointments. His work with our clients has made an impact on his family and friends as their attitudes toward the homeless have changed after hearing about his experiences. Marion volunteers as an Intake worker. She is a retired master's level social worker and before finding a volunteer place at Interfaith had felt that something was missing in her heart. She described how she helped one client who was homeless and had lost everything, access the many services that are offered at Interfaith and how appreciative the client was. We heard about the Rapid Rehousing Assistance program from Ashley. She described a client that she worked with and expressed appreciation for the resiliency of the clients. Roy who has been a volunteer for many years described how he got involved and what he does. He has been involved with providing meals and working with the clients. He is all about food and people! Laura read a very moving essay that had been written by a teenage volunteer at Interfaith as part of her college application. Her essay described making dinner for the Haven House guests and about their generosity.

Rev. Meg Decker gave an Interfaith update. As of the end of March we have housed 989 people including 54 veterans toward the goal of the Housing 2019 program. We are on target. The Offering Hope in Housing program has raised \$32,860 so far. She encouraged everyone to go to Interfaith's Facebook page and vote for Interfaith in the Harrah's challenge that could bring as much as \$55,000. There was a handout explaining this and on the reverse side was a Save the Date for a special event honoring volunteers on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Meg encouraged all to attend.

Mary then made further announcements about upcoming activities and closed the meeting at 12:35.