



Great Falls Inter-Faith Association

June 27th, 2013

Opportunities Inc. –Resource Center

Ray opened the meeting with a reading and a prayer. He asked that we all introduce ourselves and give any updates we had.

Steve reviewed the May meeting's minutes, and they were accepted.

Udo gave a financial report: the checking account stands at \$2,249.64. Also a website update, the last meeting, Ray asked Udo if he would make a website, which he did and the address is www.gfinterfaith.org. Our new website lists resources, for Shelter, Youth, Family, and list current projects. Each section lists all the resources available pertaining to the specific need. Steve asked if Udo could include an e-mail reflector so that we don't have to use our personal emails, he said he would look into it. Udo would like us all to go look at our new website and address comment to him. The goal of the website is to make info and resources more readily available to the public. Udo is our new webmaster, contact him with any comments and information for church listings etc.

Ray brings the expenses of the new website totaling \$259.99 to the board and entertains a motion to reimburse Udo. Joe moves Denise seconds, all approved.

Jillian is moving to Washington. She will leave a large gap in our little organization. She left us with a very large directory of transitional resources and organizations.

H.O.M.E. Task force updates by the facilitators of focus groups,

Lee is trying to find a place for underage youth to stay, so far he hasn't gotten an OK from the Department of Family Services. His new focus is to find kids Jackson knows to see if we can do anything for them, and to stay in contact with them as much as possible. There are so many different situations, with parents etc, and these kids are just trying to survive and get through school. They don't know the support that's available, and we need input from them.

Tom: Jackson has a pretty good idea of how he can help, We're are trying to get something in place before the weather turns. Concern on the School district and GFIA's side is liability and legality. We have found a place, but need staffing, people licensed or experienced in working with teens, and this plan has to be sustainable. Past shelters have opened with a grant, then money ran out. We are trying not to repeat mistakes of older shelters.

Denise: The summer feeding program is moving right along, there are four centers, the Paris Gibson breakfast AND lunch only through June, the Boys and Girls club, the Great Falls housing authority, and First English Lutheran. Any child can come in and get a free meal, Monday-Friday, lunches start at 11:30, and they can come all the way through 18 years old. So recently graduated students can come. They don't have to give names, or any other info, just show up and eat! Text "lunch" to 877877 and it will ask for your zip code, then let you know where to go for a free lunch.

Janet: The YWCA has released a video called "Walk with Me", it is based on Psalm 6, reaching out to victims of domestic violence. She wants to show it in any organization, and she will come do the presentation.

Terry: Family Promise, the organization which temporarily houses the homeless in churches, is slowly moving ahead, the problem is convincing people that they are not duplicating resources, and that there are many issues involving homelessness. Great Falls is the last major city in Montana to put this program in place. August 3rd is Family night at the Voyagers ball park!

The Rescue mission has moved into their new office building which Pastor Ray, Josh, and Fred were instrumental in acquiring. They are in the process of renovating and repurposing the old buildings for short term housing for families. Part of securing the new building was pledging to help support them for the first year. Ray has contribution forms to help support the new Great Falls Rescue Mission facility.

Our next meeting will be July 25th, same time and place.

Ray adjourns the meeting.