



# Great Falls Inter-Faith Association

October 24th, 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.

Chan with Alliance for Youth said that they had received a \$500,000 grant for substance abuse prevention, that they are starting a parent advisory board and already have a student advisory board.

Jim with the Rescue Mission said they can now fit 102 people in the chapel. They have 7 new rooms in the shelter, they will also be having their Thanksgiving meal on Tuesday at the Fairgrounds and are expecting between 7 and 800 people. They will have a smaller Thanksgiving meal on Thursday at the Mission.

Udo said the website is up and running and would love people to submit events for the calendar.

Kim with Opp. Inc. said LIEAP has housing subsidies money available for rent and deposits. Families with pets cannot get in to some motels, so there is a need for families to foster pets for a night or two. Head Start is taking enrollments for children 0-5 years.

Ron with Central Christian Church said Family Promise now has 7 Host Congregations. He said in Helena they have worked out a system to foster pets for the families.

Tom with GFPS requests prayers for schools, teachers, and students. He said that some people say there is not spirituality in the church, but he said there is. He said every other year the school system does a broad scale survey and anyone can get the results of the survey from Mickey Messman. He said in going over the surveys the most startling statistic was the amount of students in Middle School who said they have contemplated suicide.

Homeless Connect is having another event on January 25<sup>th</sup>, Saturday from 10-2. Homeless can get dental care, haircuts, clothes and shoes. You can get more details at [projecthomelessconnect@gmail.com](mailto:projecthomelessconnect@gmail.com)

Andre from Living Word Church said Grace Baptist Church merged with his church.

YWCA, Power for Sisterhood, the Friday afternoon mentoring program for girls has 26 students participating at East Middle School.

Home will have a 7am meeting at Salvation Army Family Center where the 5 Homeless Teams will cover the critical needs of each group on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The old Agape building now called Center West has 12 units almost ready. They have 4 units painted. They need help with painting, hanging drapes, and other finishing touches. They ask that some churches could sponsor a room and help to finish it up and maintain it. Also to contribute some furnishings, pictures, covering for closets they have

no doors and hardware for the interior of the closet. Voices of Hope have moved from the main Center for Mental Health and now occupy the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Center West.

Family Promise has received their 5013c designation and could possibly have a benefactor with a substantial amount and they will possibly have a fundraiser coming up as well.

Our next meeting will be December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Ray adjourns the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelia Stone