**Human Service Committee**

**Meeting Minutes for September 5th, 2023**

Members present: David White, Marcia Shell, Alicia Presti

It was suggested that we remove “At the end of the meeting, Cate Cushing decided to join the committee! Thank you, Cate!”

Without a quorum, we were unable to approve of the minutes from our August 1, 2023 meeting.

Appreciation Dinner for Food Pantry Volunteers, October 3, 2023 at 6pm

Dunkin Donuts has agreed to donate gift cards to be used as part of the thank you gifts provided to pantry volunteers. Dave will confirm a final count and number of gift cards needed to Greg Sagris the last week of September. Alicia will pick up the cards and pay for any balance due.

Alicia will connect with HR Clough to inquire about car wash gift cards which could also be an item in the thank you bags.

Alicia will look into options centerpiece flowers, as well as availability of tablecloths at the Slusser Center.

Sandy Smart has agreed to play the piano for guests during the evening.

Alicia will ask Neal to speak a few words to the volunteer group.

Awards will be given to recognize three pantry volunteers. Several ideas of gifts to accompany the awards were discussed. An email will be sent to the entire committee to have feedback as to which idea or ideas will be used.

We will accommodate meals for at least 1 vegetarian and 1 volunteer who is gluten free. Alicia will inquire about any other food restrictions from the guests.

Dave will prepare vegetables and food ahead of time on Monday at 4pm at the Slusser Center. An email will be sent to request help from the group.

Ukelele group performance at Park Avenue Apartments

Ric Waldheim and Dave White have both offered to have their group perform as a program offered by the Human Service Department at the Park Avenue Apartments.

Dave will inquire with the group as to when they are available to perform in October.

Alicia will call Bonnie at the apartment complex to see what dates and times in October will work for hosting and request that the program be promoted in the October newsletter.

Report of the Human Service Coordinator- Alicia Presti

* Trained new pantry volunteers. We are now fully staffed with substitutes available again.
* Shared Harvest has just wrapped up for the summer. In addition to providing fresh vegetable to pantry recipients, I was able to bring extras over to Park Ave Apts and distribute amongst seniors and the Center.
* VNA program on Memory had 33 in attendance. Next offering will be October 11th.
* Participated in additional Walk Audit mentoring. Second Walk Audit was held on August 19th. I was unable to attend. Next Walk Audit is this Thursday from 2:30 until 4 or so.
* Backpack Program was completed. 39 students received all necessary school supplies as well as gift cards for clothing.
* Clothing swap held on August 28th received a lot of donations and was well attended by shoppers. Feedback from many was that they’d like to see this as an annual event.
* Evites were created and sent out. 16 volunteers so far, have RSVP’d that they can attend. I will follow up over the next week with those who have not gotten back to us.
* No welfare financial assistance was provided in August; however, one application came in last week that is being processed, looking for assistance with overdue fuel bills.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Presti

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 7TH at 4pm