

DECEMBER WAM MEETING

People in attendance:

Jeff Kill and Kim Morris, Computers for Charity; Mari, BGSU Office of Service Learning; Rev. Robert Barr and Chris Mauk, Salvation Army; Brent Pomeroy, First Christian; Mike Skobeleski and Norm Almanson, Dayspring; Don Neifer, St. Marks Lutheran; Erin Hachtel, First UMC; Barb Whitman and Jo Tutolo, St. Aloysius; Mary Jane Fulcher St. Vincent DePaul; Judy Long, First Presbyterian BG; BG Food Pantry; Craig McAdams, WAM Coordinator; Helen Dukes. Bill Thompson, UCF

Wood County Area Ministries Agenda

December 3, 2009

4:00 p.m.

First Christian Church

Opening Prayer

Minutes

No corrections in minutes

Volunteers

Helen suggested that we should have volunteer cards put in every church's bulletins. Volunteers are needed in other places besides at the Link. The card WILL HAVE various suggestions of where people can volunteer

We need to get more people from congregations to become more aware of WAM

More volunteers are needed at for food pantry at st. als the salvation army needs more people to ring bells

Mari asked for more places for people to volunteer on MLK Day

Discussion of church membership involvement

Referral Forms Jo said we need to get our form done because it will simplify Link operation. The form was tabled. The committee will get on it.

Community Services

Helen said we should know all the services provided in our community so we can refer people to them who call up the Link. We need to know how often and to whom these services will be provided.

A monthly calendar of events and services provided by WAM churches is being put together

Reorganization of Outreach Committee

Bill said he would take care of this. Erin has finished the trifold and it is ready for us to use

Centralization

We are ready to centralize Don and Denise Foos will decide which Bank to use. As soon as that is determined First Christian, St. Marks, First United Methodist and St. Als. The churches will hold back funds to help their own members. If the money is gone from central account don't call above churches.

Don N said we have worked out policy for volunteers to determine who gets help

Time for Our Ministries

Bill of UCF announced that UCF would rent a house for homeless to stay in

Erin announced that the Just Neighbors program would be presented to interesting parties at First Methodist on January 9, 2010

Jeff Kill announced there would be an open house on Dec 13 for computer program at Turning Point after church. They need volunteers to help wrap computers on Saturday. December 12. Wrappingpapers and bows are also needed. There are 20 computers left.

The first United Methodist Church address is 1526 instead of 1506

Time for Craig

Craig's report is attached to these minutes – he emphasized that we need more volunteers from churches not only to get the work done but even more importantly to raise people's awareness. If we have volunteers from churches becoming aware of the problems in the county they will go back to their congregations and make their fellow members aware of the problems.

He said he was not ready to recommend a coordinator because no one has volunteered for the position yet.

He also suggested a committee to look at meeting the needs of homelessness in the county.

He would like to see us do Bridges Out of Poverty so we can learn to communicate with each other better. The person who teaches the workshop will be at our next meeting to get to know us better.

Closing Blessing:

May God bless you with a restless discomfort about easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.

We are therefore I am

May God bless you with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.

May God bless you with the gift of tears to shed with those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you really CAN make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.

AND THE BLESSING OF GOD BE WITH YOU AND REMAIN WITH YOU, THIS DAY AND FOREVERMORE.

Craig's Last Statement

I want to thank everyone for the opportunity to work with you over the last year; it truly has been a blessing.

We have three great leaders working over at the Link in Jo Tutolo, Kady Wolfe, and Molly Whelan (I cannot forget Anne either :). In addition, we have great leaders among the member church representatives. I believe this movement can continue well into the future if everyone comes

together, trusts each other, and puts their faith in the Lord.

Below are my final statements about the future of Wood County Area Ministries. I really value experiences of the past year with all of you. Thank you so much!

God Bless and I will miss you,

Craig T. McAdams
Americorps/UCF
Wood County Area Ministries Coordinator
(937)-207-5777
(my new e-mail address will be craigtmcadams@gmail.com)

IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE:

CONGREGATION VOLUNTEERS

It has been a month since we talked about the importance and excitement of getting volunteers from the congregations implemented into our new process at the Link, and we have had little activity in this area. Please, let us get the ball rolling and the momentum going by recruiting volunteers from your congregations! You could even have one of our leaders come to your service and make an announcement about this opportunity. As the Coordinator situation is right (With Jo Tutolo and Kady Wolfe not being able to take the position), this volunteer process is your best bet for finding and electing a new Wood County Area Ministries Coordinator.

BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY AND CIRCLES INITIATIVE

The Regional Coordinator for the Ohio Benefit Bank, Gayle Loyola, will start attending the Wood County Area Ministries monthly meetings. She is a trainer for Bridges Out of Poverty. I want you to know that my vision for this training was for you, the representatives, to share a concrete experience together that would solidify the unit AND for the group to have an opportunity to be inspired to create new ideas for developing relationships with community members. Now, this can include people from the congregations and students who are interested in WAM, but it must primarily be you, the people in this room, participating in this training. Hopefully, you can work with Gayle in the future to schedule a training at a time (even split up into different parts on different days if needed) that will work for all of you. I truly believe that if WAM ever wants to take it to the next level at some point down the road, then the Bridges Out of Poverty training/simulation and the Circles Initiative will be vital to that goal.

CONGREGATION/STUDENTS/VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

It is a wish of mine that we start utilizing this opportunity/tool to its potential. We have Mari Knuth-Bouracee (mknuth@bgsu.edu) and Heather Challes Utsler (heathcu@bgsu.edu) from the Office of Service Learning, campus organizations through the UCF, St. Thomas More, and First United Methodist, and connections with student organizations like the Social Work Group (Jennifer Karno, jkarno@bgsu.edu) and FREEDOM. Please USE these connections; the potential is unlimited once you start connecting congregations, students, and volunteer opportunities, WE CAN ALL LEARN FROM EACH OTHER. ☺

COMMITTEE FOR BENEVOLENCE

I believe that we should form a committee that totally focuses on the effective and efficient ways to collect and distribute benevolence funds. This committee should be made up of the

representatives from churches/organizations that contribute funds to this process. Also, it would be helpful to have Molly Whelan, Kady Wolfe, Jo Tutolo, and Bob Barr at these meetings. These smaller meetings would be more efficient for collaboration and communication of how to proceed with this project.

HOMELESSNESS IN WOOD COUNTY

We began meeting with each other a year ago with noble, moral ideas about how to help the community in the areas of Housing and Homelessness through advocacy. I am proud of what we have accomplished with communicating and collaborating, but I think the time is drawing near where we need to focus in on certain issues and produce new, creative ways to help.

Homelessness and hospitality is something we can focus on easily, and what better time than the upcoming cold, winter season. The HomeAid meetings are held every month on the third Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. People from this group have many ideas about this issue. The UCF has also had an interesting experience with homelessness this past year (especially the last three months) that could also help contribute to this discussion. I am recommending that we form a committee to start meeting about the homelessness issue. I would like to ask the following people to meet to expand on this idea: Pastor Eric McGlade, Erin Hatchel, Helen Dukes, Don Neifer, Barb Whitman, and Bill Thompson. I believe if you meet about this issue, you can produce creative solutions that you could bring back to the next WAM meeting and present for further execution.

WAM

Let's call the Wood County Area Ministries, WAM! We are knocking out poverty! (this, of course, is a joke) ☺_