

Wood County Area Ministries Minutes

Date: January 6, 2010

Location: First United Methodist Church

Attendance: Erin Hachtel, First United Methodist Church
Don Neifer, St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Jaci Tiell, St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Wib Miller, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Christian Food Pantry, Habitat
Mary Jane Fulcher, St. Thomas University Parish
Bob Barr, Salvation Army
Christine Rodriguez, UCF/Common Good
Annette Obregon, Vineyard BG

Reports on Ministries:

Financial Report from the Emergency Relief Fund: No financial report was available at this time. Erin will follow up with Denise Foos and E mail a copy of the financial report to each member of the network.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church: Don reported the following:

Furniture Pantry: In 2010 423 pieces of furniture were delivered 100 more pieces that last year.

Car Ministry: 15 cars were donated, 8 cars given away

Wednesday Night Meals: 3,635 people served, 500 seconds were served, cost under \$1.00 a meal.

Christian Food Pantry: Wib reported that 750 people were served in 2010. Food and financial donations have been coming in well at the end of the year, as expected.

Habitat for Humanity: Wib reported that Habitat mostly depends on grants to build homes. They have received grants from Northwood and First Energy. These grants sometimes determine where the houses will be built. Currently they are in the process of helping people learn to reduce their debts so that they may qualify to purchase a habitat house.

St. Tomas More University Parish, Food Pantry: Mary Jane reported that 2,428 people were given food in 2010, These people were part of 797 families and these families had 910 children, 1346 adults and 172 seniors. The pantry is struggling to keep up with the food needs of the people who come for help. The pantry has recently received \$540 from the Meir's Store Holiday collection which has been very helpful.

Vineyard Church: The pastor, Annette reported that their congregation is small but growing. They have had an increase in the number of children coming to their

church. They have a food pantry and have had a very successful summer with their outreach to the Migrant Community. They have partnered with other churches and the public library to meet the needs of the Migrant Community.

UCF Christine reported that she has been doing follow up calls for WAM. The follow up calls have made her aware of people's needs for food and clothing. She also hopes to work on getting more churches involved in WAM. Christine has been working for 2 months with WAM.

Salvation Army: Bob reported that they gave Thanksgiving baskets to 211 families. They also distributed about 300 coats. They have 40 coats on hand in case they are needed. The Christmas Red Kettle Campaign amount in Wood County is not yet finalized. Bob hopes that they were able to make their goal. The money that is collected in Wood County during the campaign stays in Wood County.

Mid-American Food is a food co-op and not a subsidized program so there are no eligibility requirements. It is open to anyone who wishes to participate. There are no membership fees and no required minimum orders. They are able to provide food at low cost because they buy in large quantities and distribute through a volunteer network. Prices are generally half of normal store retail prices. You can view the menu on-line and order through the Salvation Army office. For further information or to view a menu, contact the Salvation Army at 352-5918 or stop in at the office at 1045 N. Main St, Suite 8, behind Marco's Pizza. .

First United Methodist Church: Erin reported that they give away food to about 70 families every month as part of the monthly food distribution.

Bowling Green Chapter of the King's Daughters Silver Cross Circle: Erin and Don reported that in December they met with members of this Religious/Civic/Spiritual Growth group to learn more about their organization and to tell them about WAM. They receive United Way support and have funds to respond to emergency needs of people.

WAM Office Training Manual: Was distributed to those present. If you have any questions about the Manual, please contact Jo Tutolo.

St. Aloysius Food Pantry Report: In 2010 food was given to 1,231 households which were composed of 2,289 people of which 880 were children.

Feed the 5000 Project: A lively discussion was held about the proposed Feed the 5000 Project. Everyone present was in full support of the project. The discussion was on the details of collection and distribution to the Bowling Green area food pantries. The conclusion of the discussion was that food would be collected at each participating church during lent in an attempt to collect 5,000 varied food items. At the end of Lent, each church would bring their collected food to First United

Methodist Church for a celebration of the culmination of the collection and a photo opportunity. After this event, representatives of each Bowling Green food pantry would be invited to come to the church to obtain food to fill their pantry shelves. Erin has composed a list of items needed and each participating churches would be asked to sign up for the 2 items that they would like to collect. Churches outside the WAM network will be welcomed to participate in the community wide food drive.