

SHARE MEETING MINUTES
November 9, 2023

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Kellen Leister, Carol and Steve Mournighan, Kathy Allen, Michelle Shaw, Radhika Samant, Ron Kelley, Randy Glantz, Soheyla Mahmoudi, Mimi Granados, Nancy Najarian, Robin Senior, Paula Kashtan, Christiane Shipley, Susan Garrahan, Barbara Wilkins

Steve Mourningham called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Treasurer's Report: Kellen walked us through the budget. September is looking extra good as one donor gave earlier than the usual time in December. Still early to know how the year is looking. Holiday Gift Cards are ready to be given.

Furniture Program: Randy reported that the program is really on track now with a great team, and they have enough helpers to run one truck every weekend. They are still recruiting drivers. There is still a lot of need, and they are getting enough supplies. Carlos Rogers, a long-time volunteer who had stepped away from the program for a while, became the inventory manager. The program began renting a storage facility a month ago, an additional cost. But it is helping quite a bit. Noted the comment in the survey, that the volunteers are nice. It is really important that we are treating our clients with respect and care. We spend our time and energy on our clients to make sure we are meeting their needs. We emphasize this, as we get new people volunteering in the program. The program is on budget as well.

Food and Clothing: Robin reported on Nicki's behalf. Client numbers have increased for Wed. and Sat. openings. Average attendance is 44 families per opening. Highest was 62, lowest 30's. Mid 50's pretty regularly. This uptick is typical for this time of year. For Seniors, we are

getting about 45 clients. Pantry supplies are a bit lower this year versus the same time last, but Scouting for Food is this week. Paula and Nicki working with Church of The Latter Day Saints, and they are sending in about 3 pallets of donations that are needed. Items like dishwashing soap, detergent, etc. Helps ensure clients get these needs taken care of every month. Paula is also working on getting eggs too, which clients rely on weekly. New ideas they are thinking about..."Adopt a shelf"...keeping a shelf stocked. In the planning stages. (more below).

Holiday gift cards distribution Nov. 15-Dec. 16, about 150 Seniors and 250 Families are approved. New this year is that everyone will get a blanket.

Also, we are spreading the gift cards out more across the year.

One new idea is to register families by sending them a registration form to their homes. We will send it January 1, 2024, so that the bulk of the clients of 2023 will be able to get registered that first month. Still working out the details.

Winter coats distribution is going on now. Have already given out most of them, so are out looking for more coats donations. Particularly need adult coats.

McLean Baptist Church, *Feeding 500* program - making breakfast lunch and dinner and distributing them across Fairfax County. They did this for the first time since Covid. (Used to do 1000). Great operation. And Share clients were part of this. Clients received 30 breakfasts and 50 lunches (breakfasts eaten while waiting in line and lunches were grab and go.)

Client Survey: of note, most had heard about Share from friends and through the Senior Center. Veggies, personal products, shampoo, meat, oil, detergent and eggs top needs/wants.

Shout out to Radhika and Susan for upping the social media presence for Share. Really shining on donations, etc. Please send them if you have anything to publicize.

Community Outreach: Radhika reported lots of calls from corporations that want to donate, like food drives. We are asking them to diversify a bit, like coat drives, power packs. Doing some gift bags for seniors. Updated the website for some ideas for groups that want to donate. Added a frequently asked questions section on the website. Other groups are asking what they can do on a regular basis, that is where the adopt a shelf idea came from. We are trying to start defining a repeatable type of activity, once a year, a couple of times a year, weekly, etc. Trying to put articles on Facebook and Instagram, to keep people coming back to the site. Give attention to the inner workings of what we do within Share.

Back to School: Robyn reported that right after back to school is done at Share, a lot of people start thinking about it. But we have already distributed items. Through social media, and website, folks found us and now we are well stocked for next year. A good example how social media and the website are helpful.

Family Assistance: Michelle reported that we have seen an uptake in family assistance since we posted the information on the bulletin board at Share. We are on budget.

Computer Refurbishing: Soheyla reported that we are very low in stock of laptops. McLean Bible Church visited, and a team came, and they were impressed with the group and room. The church said that if they have excess laptops, they will donate them. Also, they will teach the volunteers ways to clean the laptops faster. 2 new volunteers added to the 3 had from last year.

Mission and Vision Statements: Mimi reported that a small group met after the retreat in September, and crafted the vision and mission

statement suggestions, and shared that with the Board, Committee leads and Committees. And they are now on the website.

Our vision is to positively impact the lives of our neighbors in need.

Mission: Share of McLean is an all-volunteer, community-based nonprofit that teams with individual donors and partner organizations to assist our neighbors who face food insecurity, economic hardships or related challenges.

All on Zoom call approved the statements.

There was discussion around when we could get together to talk about using the substantial monetary gift. An in-person meeting was proposed prior to the January meeting, which is the mid-year budget review.

Date to meet TBD, will try to find a Thursday in December.

A weekday, 7-9 p.m. or a Saturday 2-4. Mimi to send out a poll with options.

The meeting ended at 8:40 pm.

Nancy L. Najarian
Secretary