

DRAFT: Outreach Committee Minutes May 19, 2008

Present: Gary Harvey, Sandy Harvey, Chuck Jundt, Rick Garfield, Fred Boelt, Pat Mezaros, Harry Brown, Linda McGee, Gay Forloine, Coleman Ragsdale, Patty Kipps, John Greenman, the Rev. Michael Delk.

Gary opened with a prayer and gave an overview of the history of Vibrant Life Ministries (VLM). The 4 houses belonging to them are now in foreclosure and will be auctioned on May 28.

Our guest, Capt. Debbie Bowers from the Salvation Army (SA), spoke about her conversations with Dennis Grannen of VLM, and with local government representatives, about how the SA might assist in filling the gap that will be left when the houses close. SA has already submitted request for funding their current program for next year, and SA will try to be allowed to request approval for more funding for 5 additional apartments. The cost of this would be \$100,000 per year: \$60,000 for program expenses, and \$40,000 for a staff person. Besides county approval for additional SA "beds", the National office of SA must approve, and ability to fund must be secured to receive this approval.

SA's program is referred to as transitional housing and includes a plan for each person to help them save money, pay for part of the program, be employed, establish credit, pay off debts, manage money, and make progress in general, to include substance abuse treatment, if this is relevant to the individual.

All funding for SA programs is local except for funds which come from Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD). Donations can be earmarked for this particular program. Volunteer mentors would be needed.

The committee voted to approve this transition from VLM to SA for Hickory Neck's assistance in housing for homeless persons.

Rick reviewed current information on Angels of Mercy (AOM). They now no longer accept Medicaid reimbursement or any insurance, and therefore can officially be called a Free Clinic. Their budget for next year is \$230,000, up almost \$100,000 from last year. They have hired a new staff person and plan to be open 5 days a week (up from 2 days/week this year). They are looking for grants and for sustaining donors: 1000 persons or organizations who would pledge \$100 per year. They have a new chair of the Board. They need a volunteer who can upgrade their web page. They serve persons from upper James City, Charles City, New Kent counties. They specialize in diabetes care, but serve other medical needs also, for adults.

Pat asked committee to consider splitting our FISH donations with Grove Christian Outreach, whose pantry is bare. Gary will look into an upper county food bank which has been mentioned in the local paper, and we will consider this at next meeting.

Gary closed with a prayer.

Submitted by Patty Kipps