

## Outreach Committee Minutes September 2008

Present: Bill Teale, Chuck Jundt, Tom Gee, Linda McGee, Esther Gay, Pam Maloof, Patty Kipps, Lauren McDonald. Gary Harvey, chair, was working in Houston to assist persons affected by the recent hurricane.

Chuck opened with a prayer.

Guests Rik Rikkola and Rob Topping from Grove Christian Outreach Center, accompanied by Karen Dutro from HNC, spoke and presented a new DVD regarding their ministry. They are planning 2 new buildings which will give them over 5000 square feet of space. Land and design work have both been donated, and they are now proceeding to fundraising for materials. They are hoping to get donated labor; donated plumbing work has already been promised. Presently, most programs are held outdoors, due to lack of space in their double wide trailer and few storage sheds. They need financial help and prayer. Their annual budget is around \$520,000 with about \$480,000 of that donated items and volunteer hours. So their operating budget is around \$35,000, most of that going for rent, utilities, etc. All workers, including director, are volunteer. Administrative costs are 4% (very low).

Guests Rita Smith and Eric Shaver from Faith in Action (FIA), spoke and presented a video of their services. They have a very talented and active Board. Primary services offered are transportation, but also visiting, telephoning, housekeeping, respite care, and other assistance. FIA already has 12 or 13 volunteers from HNC. Most referrals come to them from Social Services. They are seeking financial assistance (including reimbursement funds for volunteer drivers who take clients to distant places), and more volunteers. We also discussed with them that HNC members, many of whom are becoming elderly, could use their services. Since client names are confidential, we would not necessarily know if our members utilize this assistance. Some clients prefer anonymity, and do not want to be aided by members of their own church. Clients also like that volunteers drive their own cars, and therefore with no writing on the outside of the vehicle, which also preserves anonymity. Volunteers get 3 hours training, and a thorough background check. They are not advice-givers, but listeners.

Lauren noted that the local pilot project for homeless persons is due to start in January, and we need to keep that in mind for possible donation and volunteers in 2009.

Lauren recently met with the pastor of Stonehouse Presbyterian Church, and they discussed a possible joint meeting of our outreach committees, with an idea of possibly working together on some things. We will consider doing this after the first of the year.

Lauren offered to create an Outreach brochure and will bring a draft to the next meeting. Group approved this. Chuck noted that we should recognize volunteer work by HNC members which is not done under the HNC banner.

Discussion of schedule of the Outreach Committee meetings. We recently changed to 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, with approval of most of committee members. But quite a few did not attend this meeting, citing conflicts on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday evenings. We will discuss this at next meeting.

Chuck closed with a prayer.

Next meeting is October 28 (the feast of Sts. Simon and Jude).

Submitted by Patty Kipps