

Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition

October 2, 2023

14 people attending

Mike Cohoon opened the meeting with all attending introducing themselves. Mike offered a prayer.

Gayle Klitzke reviewed the CFMC strengths and weaknesses identified and brainstorming of possible projects from the July 2023 meeting. The following ideas were added to the list of possible projects:

- Establish micro-loans/financing and an emergency fund
- Substance misuse
- Financial help/budgeting

Each person identified their top 3 concerns. The following are the results of the vote:

1. Housing – 11 votes
 2. Mental health – 9 votes
 3. Transportation – 6 votes
 4. Childcare – 4 votes
 5. Micro-loans – 3 votes
 6. Vulnerable adults- 2 votes
- 1 vote each for winter coat collection, financial help and school assistance/appreciation

There was much discussion on the identified areas of need.

- Michelle Pride stated that Eau Claire Tenant Landlord Resource Center may have helpful information for people in the Chippewa Falls area who are searching for affordable housing. One of the Resource Center's efforts is to ask the city planners/council to rezone large lots into two lots. She encouraged CFMC to take similar action in Chippewa Falls. The Tenant Landlord Resource Center helps people with eviction prevention, lease education and other topics. To get more information check the website at ectlrc.org
- Mike Cohoon stated that 2000 people in Chippewa Falls are looking for a place to live.
- Advancing Hope gives microloans
- A group of churches in the Twin Cities worked together to offer no interest loans and none were deferred.
- Should we do grants rather than loans?
- Car repair is a huge need. Finding a repair shop and funding is an on-going problem
- Housing needs to include emergency shelter
- October 20 is a coat give-away at St. Francesca's (Notre Dame)
- CFMC make a collection calendar to make sure all projects are carried out

A sign-up sheet was sent around the table asking for volunteers to work on the following projects:

- Housing
- Mental Health
- Transportation & Car Repair
- Childcare
- Micro-loans
- Socks drive

It was decided that Tom would send the list to the CFMC email list asking people to sign up for the group they are most passionate about. When the group meets they would identify who else is working on the concern and how could we partner with them to help alleviate the problem. It was also suggested that group members may invite

others not involved in the coalition to work on the committee. Each group will follow the SMART goal process (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-Bound). Additional discussion and direction will take place at CFMC meetings in the next few months.

Chris Stein from the English Lutheran Church at Bateman informed us of several programs their church is working on through a North Western Synod of Wisconsin grant. Conscious Discipline Parent Education is a 4 week workshop that is being offered in October. Childcare and a meal are provided. In 2024 they plan to offer 2 sessions. Another program is "Y on the FLY". It is a mobile YMCA unit that offers free programs aimed to help youth of ages 5-18 stay active and engaged during the summer. Activities began at 4:30 and take-home meals were provided by Feed My People at 5:30. The third initiative is a one day a week reading program for 1st-3rd graders during the school year. Chris distributed flyers for all 3 programs. Any of these programs can be replicated to meet your church and neighborhood needs.

The next meeting will be November 6 at 5:00 p.m. at Trinity Methodist.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Notes taken by Kari Allen and report written by Gayle Klitzke

CFMC Mission Statement: "Faithful people joining hearts and hands to be God's Love in action for our neighbors near and far."

CFMC Bible Verse: Psalm 60:12 – "With God's Help We Will Do Mighty Things."