

Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition Minutes – June 5, 2023 (Monday)

PLACE: Valley Vineyard Church, 910 Bridgewater Ave., Chippewa Falls, WI

TIME: 5:00 p.m.

- * Introductions and Prayer Requests
- * Opened Meeting With Prayer

* **GUEST SPEAKER:** Kristen Karnes-Fredrickson, Program Director for Big Brothers Big Sisters. **Contact Information:** Email: kristin.karnes-frederickson@bbbsnw.org
Phone: 715-835-0161 ext. 102

SUBJECT: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin ... Who we are, What we do, How you can be a part of it.

Big Brothers Big Sisters has been around for about 50 years under various names, one being Kinship. It does both “Community-Based” Mentoring and “Site-Based” Mentoring.

“Community-Based” Mentoring is where the child and adult meet for an average of one-hour per week doing activities in the community such as going for a picnic, going to a ball game, doing a craft, fishing, going to a movie, etc.

“Site-Based” Mentoring is more structured with the child and adult meeting at a set day or time at school or a specific site. All activities are done at the site. This is currently not offered in Chippewa County due to the fact it is already being offered through the Mentor Chippewa program.

BBBS has an impressive record for making a difference in a child’s life vs. a child that is not part of BBBS. BBBS kids are 47% less likely to begin using illegal drugs ... 54% less likely to skip school.

Currently BBBS is serving 188 kids/families in the five county area of Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, Buffalo and St. Croix.

They have about 40 kids in those five counties waiting for a match ... 10 of those kids are in Chippewa County ... 20 are in Eau Claire County. Ages range from 7 to 14.

All volunteers go through an extensive screening system to assure the safety of the children. Volunteers are asked for a one-year commitment.

If you are interested in volunteering you can contact Kristen at the email/phone number listed above. Kristen is also available to make presentation at your church or non-profit.

You can go online to learn more about BBBS at ... <https://www.bbbsnw.org>
There is also a link to make a donation on their website ... or you can mail a check to BBBS, 424 Galloway St., Eau Claire, WI 54703.

Again, this is an opportunity for each of us to not “Just Go To Church,” but actually to “Be The Church!”

*** Mission Update: CFMC May “Lather With Love” Soap Mission (Tom Drehmel)**
The number of soap/health items gathered this year were down a bit from previous years, partly due to the fact we moved “LWL” from February to May because of the “Help For The Homeless” Hygiene drive being held in February. We did this so we weren’t competing for the same items at the same time.

The good news is when we look at both missions, they combined to collect a lot more soap/health than if we had just done one gathering. So we can consider that a big win for those in need of those soap/health care items. “Yay God!”

In any case, “Lather With Love” gathered 1,328 soap/health care items that were evenly distributed to the following local food pantries ... First Presbyterian, English Lutheran of Bateman, Valley Vineyard, St. Francesca, Legacy Center and L.E. Phillips CDC Outreach Center in Chippewa Falls. That’s another “Yay God!”

*** Mission Update: Hope Village. (Mike Cohoon)**
Progress has slowed a bit on our Hope Village Capital Campaign. We are currently at \$2.2 million with about \$500,000 to go. Donations continue to come in, but we could use a boost to get us to our goal. These funds are needed for the next stage of Hope Village where we start construction on the affordable housing units. In addition to donations, prayers are also welcomed.

Currently 9 of the 10 Tiny Houses are occupied at Hope Village, as well as the one Tiny House at Chippewa Valley Bible Church.

Bike racks for Hope Village have been provided by the Chippewa Leadership group through the Chippewa Falls Chamber of Commerce. Bikes have also been donated; more could be used.

We are still looking for volunteers to be in the Community Building so our Tiny House guests have access to the building. You can sign up for one or two hour shifts. You can watch TV, work on the computer, read, bring your bible study or card group, bring your child with you, etc. Mike is usually there from 10 to 4. So, if you are available earlier or later than that, let Mike know ... director@hopevillagechippewafalls.org ... 715-210-5405.

As far as needs for Hope Village, paper towels continue to be at the top of the list.

We'd love a chance to present Hope Village to churches and other organizations. Again, contact Mike Cohoon and he can make that happen.

Mission Update: "Lighten Your Load" Family Laundry Mission. (Gayle Klitzke)

The new "LYL" volunteer list for the months of July – August – September will be coming out in a few weeks. If you would like to be added to the "LYL" volunteer list, contact Gayle ... gayleklitzke@hotmail.com ... 715-723-5053.

Also, to let you know, Lawrence Ford passed away a few weeks ago. Lawrence is the husband of Carolyn Ford, one of our regulars at "LYL." Please continue to keep Carolyn and her family in your prayers.

*** Mission Update: CFMC Website. (Mark Birrittella)**

Mark continues to work on the CFMC website. Again, if your church/non-profit has not responded to Mark to allow your logo/photo on the CFMC website, please do so. Exterior photos needed of each church would be really nice. Landscape/horizontal images preferred and do much better than portrait/vertical images.

Here is a link to the CFMC website to see if your church/non-profit is on our scrolling intro page ... <https://cfmc73.wixsite.com/cf-mission-coalition> You'll also find our new CFMC logo on that home page.

Send photos/logos to: Mark Birrittella ... msbirr@yahoo.com Thank You!

*** Other Business/Announcements:**

What mission projects/community events are happening at your church/non-profit?

-- **Soles 4 Souls** –Ken and Shirley said we will again be doing a Soles4Souls shoe collection this year. The date to make delivery of the shoes is still being decided on depending on when the delivery truck will be available. We are looking at the end of

August, first of September as the delivery date. Collection dates will be three or four weeks prior to the delivery date.

We are also looking at ways we can coordinate the shoe collection with “Love Chippewa” on Sept. 16th and Valley Vineyard’s “School Backpack Giveaway on Aug. 13th. Stay Tuned!

If you have any questions in the meantime, you can contact Ken ... 715-577-5423 or Shirley ... 715-225-9591. Email: froelich1355@gmail.com

Touched Twice “Love Chippewa” Free Clinic event -- Sept. 16th “Love Chippewa will be returning again. This year it will be held at the Chippewa Falls High School on Sept. 16th from 9:00 a.m. – Noon. We hope to be providing medical/dental/vision check-ups ... haircuts ... chiropractic care ... clothing/shoes ... food pantry ... car care ... massage ... and mental health support. We will need volunteers to guide the guests around the various services. More information will be coming.

-- Fierce Freedom “Eau Freedom” Fun Run & Fest – July 19th. All money collected at this event will go toward providing education about Human Trafficking. More information will be coming about registering to run/walk as well as more info about volunteering. Here is the website with current information ...
<https://fiercefreesdom.org/eau-freedom-fun-run-fest/>

You can make donations on that website or you can send a check to Fierce Freedom Fun Run, P.O. Box 246, Altoona, WI 54720.

If you have questions, you can contact Jessie Podolak ... rpodolak@prodigy.net

-- Valley Vineyard – “School Backpack Give-Away” -- Aug. 13th ... 1–3pm. If you have questions, or would like to make a donation, contact Trish Houle ...
trisha@cfvalleyvineyard.org ... 715-861-3523.

-- CFMC Visioning Meeting to discuss direction of the CFMC – July 11th – We will be meeting at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church on Tuesday, July 11th, 5:00pm. This will be replacing our normal “First Monday” CFMC meeting. We will have a simple meal of hot dogs and chips before the meeting, bring your own beverage. I will again be sending a list of some of the things we will be discussing.

-- Barnabas Table Temporary Closing – Due to health issues for Randy Walker, Barnabas Table could be closed for up to 6 or 7 weeks. This means people that normally

count on those Monday and Wednesday evening meals, as well as the light meal on Saturday will not be served during the closing. Angela Maloney from Agnes' Table/Legacy Center and Tina Turndal from Feed My People will be reaching out to the Barnabas Table Board of Directors to see how they can help during this period of closure of Barnabas Table. Stay Tuned for ways the CFMC can help as well.

-- Valley Vineyard – Building Program for Lilly's Place – Mike Houle made an announcement about the plans for constructing a 7,800 sq ft. building on land next to Valley Vineyard. The building will be called “Lilly's Place” in honor of the memory of Lilly Peters who was tragically killed a year ago this past April. He showed us the plans for this building and donors/supporters are already being contacted.

Lilly's Place will be an LLC, similar to Hope Village. It will be separate from Valley Vineyard Church. Its purpose will be to provide a safe haven for children at risk, as well as working with their parents. It will provide information, counselors and support to hopefully prevent future tragedies like Lilly's.

For more information, you can go to their website ... www.lilysplacefoc.org or contact Mike Houle ... michael@cfvalleyvineyard.org ... 715-861-3523.

*** Next Meeting, TUESDAY June 11, 2023 – VISIONING MEETING -- Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 1300 Mansfield St., Chippewa Falls, WI**

* Closed with Lord's Prayer/Our Father.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Drehmel
tdrehmel@me.com
715-723-5626 (Land Line)
715-309-8705 (Cell)

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.”