

Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition Minutes – April 3, 2023 (Monday)

PLACE: St. Francesca Pantry, 117 Allen St., Chippewa Falls, WI

TIME: 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

- * Introductions and Prayer Requests
- * Opened Meeting With Prayer (Mike Cohoon)

* **GUEST SPEAKER:** Roger Elliot, HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital Community Garden, Chippewa Falls – Growing food for those in need. Gardeners/Growers plant, care for and harvest the produce. Harvested produce is delivered (typically within 24 hours) to local food pantries. In addition to gardening plots, an apple orchard was planted.

The gardens are irrigated and fenced; well-composted horse manure is available to restore the soil; two beehives provide help in pollination, and there is a garden shed with tools for use by Gardeners/ Growers.

At the beginning 6 plots yielded 102 pounds; 2022 was 24 plots with 3873 pounds harvested and donated to local food pantries. A STEADY SUPPLY OF NEW GARDENERS is greatest need. Flyers and forms will be made available by email to CFMC participants for distribution.

* **Mission Reminder:** “Lather With Love” Soap Mission **May 2023** (Tom Drehmel)
A digital flyer accompanies these minutes; CFMC organizations can use the flyer or create their own. Please have your collected items delivered to Central Lutheran no later than Monday, May 29th. Call Tom Drehmel (715) 723-5626 or email him ... tdrehmel@me.com to confirm best time for delivering collected laundry detergent, etc. to Central Lutheran. The Food Pantries will be contacted and pick up their items on May 30th or 31st.

* **Mission Update:** “Hope Village” (Mike Cohoon).
Nearly \$500,000 remains to be pledged/funded in Capital Campaign; some grants anticipated. Pledges still coming in. Stay tuned! We have faith we will reach our goal.

The remaining two Tiny Houses currently off-site will be added to Hope Village within the next couple of months. With the wet ground this spring, mud has become an issue; wooden boardwalks were constructed.

A group is raising funds in the downtown businesses for purchase of bicycle racks for the Tiny House kids. Currently several children are in Tiny Houses with their parents.

Openings for volunteers to staff the Community Building are available, especially evenings from 5pm to 10pm (these are 1 hours shifts of being in the building; no duties other than being present). Volunteer signup is available on the Hope Village website; if not computer savvy, call 715 210-5405 and Mike Cohoon will work with the person to fill out the form over the phone.

* **Mission Update: “Lighten Your Load”** Family Laundry Mission. (Gayle Klitzke) April thru June volunteer staffing is filled/scheduled. Thank You to all our volunteers that stepped forward to fill those slots. A few new volunteers have been added as well. The online option is working well, though there is a learning curve with the new-to-us technology. Any questions, contact Gayle... gayleklitzke@hotmail.com ...715-723-5053.

***Help for the Homeless** (Kari Pitsavas) Last year 7 sites for collection of \$3,062 in value, this year 12 sites estimated \$11,552 in value. Dates for next year Feb 11 – Mar 3, 2024. Products are available at the CDC Office here in Chippewa Falls, so please refer people there as needed.

* **Other Business/Announcements.**

We are creating a CFMC website; Some things we will emphasize is the fact that various church denominations can get along and work together; sharing what God is doing with this unity in our community; adding youth representatives. Additional ideas include descriptions of projects that are already going on or planned in each congregation or non-profit. Also, reaching out to churches who are not currently sending representatives. We are planning of setting aside one of our future CFMC meetings just to discuss visioning for the CFMC. **What is your vision for the Mission Coalition?**

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

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES (All are Welcome)

* Apr 8th Easter Egg Hunt, 10am Saturday at Valley Vineyard, 910 Bridgewater.

* Apr 9th Agnes' Table, 24 W Grand, needs clean-up volunteers 3:30pm to 5pm Easter Sunday (following Easter Dinner).

* Apr 23rd Blue Hills Chorale Concert 2pm at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

* Apr 26th Ham Loaf Dinner, First Presbyterian, 130 W Central St, 4:30pm to 6pm. Serving ham loaf, scalloped potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, roll, dessert and beverage. Take-outs available.

* Apr 27 Madison Action Day coordinated by JONAH. Bus leaves Eau Claire at 5am. cvjonahaorganizer@gmail.com for more information.

* May 18 Feed My People Empty Bowls event 11am to 7pm. Food trucks onsite at Feed My People, silent auction, tours, locally crafted ceramic and wooden bowls to take home. \$25 for 2 entrees; \$10 empty bowl. *If you or your food pantry volunteers have needs, wants, desires (like clearer photos on the FMP website) Sandy Winrich has offered to relay these to the FMP Board, so please let her know your thoughts.*

* Next Meeting is **Second** Monday of the month, **May 8th** ... English Lutheran Church of Bateman, 20588 County Hwy X, Chippewa Falls. Please plan for 1 hour 15 minutes as we extend our time for sharing upcoming events, blessings, and visions, both within our individual organizations and this Mission Coalition.

* Closed with Lord's Prayer/Our Father.

Respectfully submitted 4/3/2023

Renee J. Wurzer

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."