

Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition Meeting Minutes – Monday, Feb. 3, 2025

PLACE: Central Lutheran Church, 28 E. Columbia St., Chippewa Falls, WI

TIME: 5:00 p.m.

- * Introductions and Prayer Requests
- * Open Meeting With Prayer – Tom Drehmel

* **Guest Speaker:** Kris Malecha

Subject: CESA 11 Head Start Program

-- Head Start's Goal is to support and be a part of the community through their various programs which include ... Early Head Start, a home-based program serving pregnant women, infants, toddlers, Head Start Children and their families ... School Age Parent Program, a home-based/school-based program serving parenting and pregnant teens in Chippewa and Dunn Counties ... and Head Start, a center-based program serving children ages 3 to 5.

-- Depending on which program the parent or child is involved in various things are included, such as receive training that preps them for school ... Parents are considered first educators so they are helped to create rich learning environments at home through weekly visits ... Socialization is important so play groups are set up ... Prenatal development, child development, health, nutrition and parenting are also part of the curriculum ... Classrooms are staffed with Early Childhood degreed teachers with classes offered Monday thru Thursday ... All of this is coordinated with the school system to keep kids on task and up to speed.

-- They also offer programs to help teen parents graduate from high school, which is a high priority for Head Start. Currently Kris is working with six teenagers, of which five are homeless.

-- Head Start is just preparing to move to a new facility on Frenette Drive in Chippewa, near the Chippewa Herald Office.

-- We noted a number of services offered by Head Start are mirrored by St. Francesca Resource Center. We gave Kris the contact information for Tina Simmons at St. Francesca to see if there were some programs where they could help each other.

-- Kris also mentioned their Federal Funding is intact and they have a five-year grant in place to keep their program running.

* **Mission Update:** Hope Village/Tiny Houses (Mike Cohoon)

-- Mike is currently out of town, but the number one priority he want to emphasize to the group would be to attend the Public Hearing at the Chippewa City Council Chambers on Feb. 4th, 6:30 p.m. We would like to have as many people as possible in support of the purchase of the Indianhead Motel and it's conversion to affordable housing.

-- Hope Village Duplex/Six-Plex building project still on track for April 2025 opening.

-- Annual Fundraiser, Quarter Auction is fast approaching (March 1st). Go on the Hope Village website to get your tickets, they are going fast ... <https://www.hopevillagechippewafalls.org>

* **Mission Update:** Chippewa Co. Hunger and Homeless Council – Have you come in contact recently with any homeless people looking for help with food or shelter? If so contact Mike Cohoon ... director@hopevillagechippewafalls.org ... 715-210-5405.

* **Mission Update:** “Lighten Your Load” Family Laundry Mission. (Gayle Klitzke)
-- Currently we have filled all the volunteer slots through March 2025. However, if you are new and would like to give it a try, we can fit you in with two experienced volunteers most any date that would work for you. Just contact Gayle ... gayleklitzke@hotmail.com ... 715-723-5053.

* **“Lather With Love” Soap Mission – February 2025** (Tom Drehmel)

Our February “Lather With Love” soap mission is underway. It started on Feb. 1st and ends on Feb. 26th with all soap items delivered to Central Lutheran Church on Wednesday, Feb. 26th by 4:00 pm and picked up and/or distributed to area food pantries on Thursday, Feb. 27th between 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Participating Pantries include First Presbyterian, English Lutheran, Valley Vineyard, St. Francesca, Chippewa Valley High School, Agnes’ Table and LE Phillips CDC Chippewa Outreach.

(NOTE: If you want to bring your soap items earlier in the month, contact Central Lutheran Office ... 715-723-9336 ... to set up a delivery time.)

* **2025 Easter Community Meal** (Cathy Greenseth)

The St. Charles Pastoral Council has agreed to host the CFMC Easter Community Meal on Easter Sunday, April 20th from 2 to 4pm. Cathy will be meeting with Tiffany Wogahn and Mary Kaiser to work out the details for getting volunteers and the food together for the meal. They will check to see if the Rutledge Charities would want to provide the funds for the meal, as they did for our 2024 Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. Julia Jilek-Proue from Agnes’ Table offered to provide some of the food items, if funds weren’t available from the Rutledge Charities.

* **Other Business/Announcements**

-- On Palm Sunday, April 13th, at 2:00pm St. Charles will be offering a play entitled “The Last Word.” All are invited. Details and flyer to follow.

* **Next Meeting – March 3, 2025**

- **At Trinity United Methodist Church** ... 201 W. Central St., Chippewa Falls.
- **Guest Speaker:** Angela Maloney ... **Subject:** Mobile Meals

* **Close with Lord’s Prayer/Our Father**

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.”

WEBSITE: cfmissioncoalition.org -- **FACEBOOK:** facebook.com/cfmissioncoalition