

Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition Minutes – Monday, October 6, 2025

PLACE: English Lutheran Church of Bateman, 20588 Cty. Hwy. X, Chippewa Falls, WI

TIME: 5:00 pm

- * Introduction and Prayer Requests
- * Opened meeting with prayer

Guest Speakers: Rachel Sonsalla, FSET Program Support Specialist & Maddie Eber, FSET Case Manager

Subject: Food Share Employment and Training (FSET) Program

-- About FSET

* **What is FSET?** The FSET program is a free (no cost) state-funded program, along with various grants, that helps FoodShare members build their job skills and find jobs, identifying their individual strengths and needs. They have just recently opened an office in Chippewa Falls, located at 405 Island Street.

* **Who Can Take Part in FSET?** FoodShare members ages 16 or older. FSET will help members figure out the number of hours and requirements needed to remain in the FoodShare program.

* **How Can FSET help?** You will be assigned a Case Manager to work with you to develop an employment plan, which may include ...

- Establishing Employment Goals
- Increasing Job Skills/Education
- Developing a Resume
- Earning a General Education Development (GED) Certificate
- Getting Job Leads
- Getting Help with Support Services
- Getting Referrals to Community Support

* **What Other Services are Offered by FSET?** All these services are available for any approved activity in the FSET Program ...

- Transportation Costs (gas cards, bus or taxi passes, etc.)
- Work-Related Costs (work clothes, shoes, etc.)
- Education Costs (certification courses and materials, etc.)
- GED/HSED tests
- Child Care

* **Where is more info available about participating in FSET?**

- You can visit the FSET office in Chippewa Falls at 405 Island St.
- You can call the FSET Chippewa Office at 715-491-9809
- You can email Rachel at Klink@changewithin.net ... or Maddie at eber@changewithin.net
- You can also visit the FSET website ... www.MyFSET.net

*** Mission Update: CFMC Serving Meals at Barnabas Table, Nov. 5th and Agnes' Table, Nov. 25th.** (Tom Drehmel)

Due to the fact we won't be meeting in November, it was decided to once again do meal services at Barnabas Table and Agnes' Table. A sign-up sheet was passed around for both meal services. We still have openings available for both meal services. If you are able to help at one or both meal services, contact Tom ... tdrehmel@me.com

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

-- **Indianhead Motel, Affordable Housing Progress** - We have contracted with Rocket Construction to do the renovation. They were scheduled to begin on Oct 1, but we have a hold up with meeting the grant requirements. The Grant has a "Buy America - Build America" requirement - every individual item, down to the nails, has to be proven to be built in America. This is a laborious process and might delay things by up to 90 days. The funding is secured, and our bids came in under budget - that might change because some Buy America products are more expensive than those made elsewhere. We still hope to have the units out for lease by June of 2026. They will rent for \$830, including all utilities. (Rent is subject to change if HUD lowers the amounts in 2026.)

-- **Hope Village Affordable Housing Units Currently Filled** -- Nine of our units are currently leased. We have one 3rd-floor 3-bedroom unit that is still available. It has to be leased to a person on the Coordinated Entry System who is experiencing homelessness. That family cannot pay more than 30 percent of their own rent, so they would need a subsidy to cover the other 70% of the rent. Subsidies are very hard to find at this time. The CCHA has closed its wait list because of a lack of funding.

-- **Number of Tiny Houses Currently Filled** - As of today, we have Two of our 11 units open and one that we will fill yet this week. We have a wait list of about 50 households. The one unit that will still be open at the time of the meeting is our house at Chippewa Valley Bible Church. There is some discussion about building more tiny houses to place at our partner churches to meet the demands of the waiting list. We would need to seek new special-use permits at the churches to make this happen, find funding for the house builds, and find volunteers to build. It would also mean we would need more mentors and more hours for our Navigator.

-- **Next Fund Raiser?** -- We have a few benefit fundraisers coming up - banks and organizations doing drives, etc. Citizens Community Federal just dropped off a check for an employee fundraiser they recently did for \$1300 plus dollars

Our next big fundraiser is in February and would be the Quarter Auction - tables went on sale on 10/1/25. Here's a link for more information ...

<https://gochippewacounty.com/event/hope-village-quarter-auction/>

We have a few other ideas for fundraisers if anyone is interested in organizing one ...

1) Jack Dawson Days - Titanic Movie Character that says he lived in Chippewa. This could be a large community event.

- 2) Garden Stroll - we would need about 12 gardens around the area that people would get to tour for a fee. The fee would go to support HV
- 3) Historic Home Tour - we would need a dozen or so historic homes that would allow people to tour them for a fee. The fee would go to support HV.

*** Mission Update:** “Lighten Your Load” Family Laundry Mission (Gayle Klitzke)

-- All volunteer slots are filled October thru December 2025. However, if you haven’t volunteered for LYL before, you can contact Gayle and she will put you with two experienced volunteers. If interested, contact Gayle ... gayleklitzke@hotmail.com ... 715-723-5053.

-- **October 2025 marks our Tenth Year of doing “Lighten Your Load” as an outreach mission for those in need in our community. “Yay God!”**

*** Mission Update:** “Love Chippewa” Free Clinic/Touched-Twice event, Saturday, Sept. 27th. (Whitney Falkenberg.)

-- We served 51 families, so approximately 85-90 people.

-- We had 12 professionals providing services and 52 volunteers from various churches and non-profits to provide guidance and prayers as requested.

-- The following services were provided to the number of guests listed ...

- Massage – 13
- Haircuts – 33
- Medical Health Check-Ups – 4
- Vision Check-Ups – 12
- Chiropractic – 23

-- A breakfast meal was provided for all our guests in attendance, as well as our volunteers.

-- Numerous Non-Profits had information booths set up for guests as well.

-- We also did 19 Free Oil Changes on Sunday, Sept. 28th, as well as providing hot dogs and burgers for those that came for the oil change.

-- We weren’t able to provide dental care nor family photos this year. Hopefully those services can return for next year.

*** Mission Update:** Valley Vineyard “Backpack/School Supply Giveaway,” Aug. 17th (Trish & Mike Houle)

-- 1,300 Backpacks with school supplies were distributed. Thank you to all that volunteered, donated and/or provided prayers for Valley Vineyard’s community outreach mission.

*** Other Business/Announcements:**

-- St. Francesca’s Resource Center will again be doing their warm winter wear/coat collection/giveaway on Friday, October 17th from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Notre Dame School Building, 22 South Prairie St., Chippewa Falls. Watch for signs. If you have donations you can drop them off at the same location on Thursday, October 16th from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. Questions: Contact Tina Simmons ... st.francesca.rc@gmail.com

-- “Safe Families For Children” – Launch Event, Oct. 14th, 4-7pm. at Eau Claire Country Club. (Flyer was sent to CFMC 9-23-25) For more information, contact Josh Kilde ... josh.kilde@lifespringfellowship.org

-- October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Family Support Center has a number of events & activities planned to support survivors of domestic violence. Visit their website for more info ... <https://www.familysupportcentercf.org> (Flyer & Info sent to CFMC 10-1-25)

-- "Love Big" Fund Raising Campaign Kick-Off, Oct. 27th – Lutheran Social Services reopening former Libertas Center (Flyer Sent 10-7-25)

-- Salvation Army of the Chippewa Valley needs Bell Ringers from November 14th thru December 24th. You can register online: <https://www.registertoring.com> or call 715-834-1224 for more information.

Next Meeting – Monday, Dec. 1, 2025 ... 5:00pm ... Christ Episcopal Church, 624 Bay St., Chippewa Falls. NOTE: We are currently meeting every other month (even months)
* Closed meeting 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](https://www.facebook.com/cfmissioncoalition)