

Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition Meeting Minutes – Monday, April 7, 2025

PLACE: Christ Episcopal Church, 624 Bay St., Chippewa Falls, WI

TIME: 5:00 p.m.

- * Introductions and Prayer Requests
- * Open Meeting With Prayer – Deacon Rose Ruthy
- * Prayer Requests – for Ruth: fell and broke her hip ... for Sue: Chemo treatments for breast cancer ... for Our Country ... for Mary Lou who just had a fall ... and for all the people involved with “The Last Word” performance on Palm Sunday. (Please add all to your prayer lists as well.)

* **Guest Speaker:** Brenda Clausen – Community Engagement Specialist for The Salvation Army of Chippewa Valley

Subject: Pathway of Hope program

-- **What is it?** Pathway of Hope is an approach to provide targeted case management services to families with a desire to take action and increase their sufficiency.

-- **Who is eligible?** Families with at least one child under the age of 18, or expecting their first child, AND have the desire to work collaboratively with the Salvation Army to better their circumstances.

-- **What is expected?** Participation is voluntary, but participants must be willing to commit to regular contact with a trained care manager in order to ...

- * Assess the holistic needs of the family and identify barriers to stabilize.
- * Identify strengths in the family and connect with community and The Salvation Army resources.
- * Partner with The Salvation Army team to help establish an action plan and track progress. (Clients participate in setting the goals.)
- * Celebrate successes and receive encouragement and support as the family works toward their goals.
- * Provide connections to pastoral care and spiritual, as desired. (This program is based on God’s Love, but there are no faith requirements to be part of this program. But they have found that people with a faith community are more likely to succeed.)

-- **Potential Family Outcomes and CURRENT IMPACT – Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division** – As part of Pathway of Hope, participating families will be assessed to identify progress toward ...

- * **Increased Stability:** 82% of actively engage households report an increase in stability.
- * **Reduction in Barriers to Sufficiency:** 77% of households experience barrier reduction
- * **Increased Hope:** 67% of actively engaged households report an increase in hope.
- * **Reduced need for emergency or supportive services:** General downward trend.

-- Right now, Brenda is a “Team of One” that provides this service in our area. If you would like to make a donation you can send a check to “The Salvation Army of the Chippewa Valley, Bread of Life Assistance Center, 2211 S. Hastings Way, Eau Claire, WI 54701 ... put “Pathway of Hope” on the memo line ... or you can donate on their website ...

<https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/chippewavalley/>

-- It was noted the Pathway to Hope program has some elements that are similar to the Hope Village program, as well as St. Francesca's "Earn While You Learn" program. It was suggested that Brenda might want to connect with those programs and see if they can help each other.

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

-- Final Tally for the Hope Village March 1st Annual "Quarter Auction" Fundraiser was \$26,500, just shy of last year's total of \$28,000. The fund raising team is now turning its attention to the July 28th Golf Scramble Fund Raiser at Whispering Pines in Cadott. Stay Tuned for more details!

-- The Indianhead Motel project is still moving forward to provide affordable housing for singles and couples in the Chippewa area. Purchase was completed on March 31st. Now working on Block Grants, Federal Funding and a Bank Loan from Northwestern Bank. We are well on our way to fund this project with more than half of the \$2.6M raised already. Our Hope Village Wholesale/Retail Team is moving their operation temporarily to the Indianhead property. (NOTE: The Indianhead sign will remain on property.)

-- Two of the Hope Village Duplexes are complete and the Six-Plex is in the final stages of completion. Hope to have gas and power up and running by May 19th. An Open House is being planned for June 21st. Taking bids for landscaping. Security cameras to be installed. Looking for Property Management company to oversee these properties. Almost ready for Renters. Stay Tuned for more details!

-- Currently six of the 10 Tiny houses are occupied, with two under renovation. We are continuing to review new applicants at this time.

* **Mission Update:** Chippewa Co. Hunger and Homeless Council – Have you or your church 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)
LYL Volunteer slots filled for April through June 2025. If you would like to see what it's like to volunteer at LYL, just contact Gayle and she can team you up with an experienced LYL volunteer... gayleklitzke@hotmail.com ... 715-723-5053 for volunteer details. Gayle also mentioned we are currently okay with funds and laundry detergent, but we could use dryer sheets.

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

The St. Charles Catholic Church is hosting the CFMC Easter Community Meal on Easter Sunday, April 20th from 2 to 4pm. Rutledge Charities has covered most of the food costs, Hy-Vee has donated the hams. Most volunteer slots are filled, but she could still use a few "cheerful" Greeters to welcome our guests and make them feel comfortable. If you are available to be a "cheerful" greeter contact Cathy ... centraloffice@stcharles-cf.com

* **Other Business/Announcements**

-- On Palm Sunday, April 13th at 2:00pm, St. Charles Church will be offering a play entitled "The Last Word." It's based on the last people to witness Christ's crucifixion and what they saw and felt. All are invited.

-- Also, on Palm Sunday, April 13th at 2:00pm, Trinity United Methodist Church will be hosting the Chippewa Valley Community Chorus and it's annual concert: Voices in Harmony: A Global Choral Journey. Adults \$15, Seniors & Veterans \$12, Under 18 (with a paid adult/senior) FREE!

-- Rose Ruthy is looking for a venue for the showing of the movie ... Americans With No Address. Cost to rent is \$99. Just need a host with screens and equipment to show the movie.

-- Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is making "Baby Care Kits" for Lutheran World Relief. If you would like to put together a "Baby Care Kit" or donate items for the kits, contact Our Saviour's for more information ... office@oslccf.net ... 715-723-6048.

-- Our Saviour's Lutheran Church also shared an idea about an Easter Tree they are doing, similar to the "Spirit of Christmas Tree" with tags on the tree with items listed for those in need.

-- Julia Jilek-Proue with Agnes' Table, reported that due to increased numbers being served at Agnes' Table, they are in need of funds to cover meal costs. If you would like to donate to Agnes' Table meals you can send a check to Feed My People, 2610 Alpine Rd., Eau Claire, WI 54703 and indicate on the Memo Line it is for Agnes' Table.

*** Next Meeting – May 5, 2025**

- **First Presbyterian Church, 130 West Central St., C.F.**
- **Guest Speaker:** Lay Pastor Ed William ... **Subject:** Mission Trip To North Carolina

*** 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."

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