

Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition Minutes – Monday, August 4, 2025

PLACE: St. Francesca's Resource Center, 117 Allen St., Chippewa Falls, WI

TIME: 5:00 pm

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

Guest Speaker: Erica – Domestic Violence Advocate – Family Support Center, C.F.

Subject: Family Support Center Services & New Rapid Housing Program

-- About Family Resource Center

* Focus on serving those who have been impacted by interpersonal violence including Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault & Human Trafficking. All Services are Free and Confidential. Services provided to Chippewa and Eau Claire Counties. Located at 403 N. High Street, Chippewa Falls, WI. Erica's contact info: dvadvocate@fscf.org ... Phone: 715-723-1138.

* Provide Parenting Services, Including ... Parent Education Classes ... Parent Coaching ... Home Visiting Services ... Children In-Between Classes ... River Source Family Center, age 5 & under.

* Provide Violence Prevention Education, Including ... Protective Behaviors Abuse Prevention Classes and Healthy Relationship Classes in high schools.

* Provide Counseling & Advocacy. They listen and explore solutions ... they also offer legal advocacy to help with court related issues. Although, they cannot provide legal advice.

* Provide Safety Planning as well as offering 24-hour Crisis Support.

* Provide Emergency Short-Term Shelter.

-- About Rapid Rehousing Program

* New Program offered through the Family Support Center. Received HUD grant two years ago to get it started.

* Rapid Rehousing is specifically designed to prevent homelessness, provide refuge and support for people fleeing domestic violence. Rent/Utility assistance is provided for up to 2 years.

* It is a "Housing First" model before addressing other issues.

* It provides practical, financial and emotional support to the survivors.

* One study revealed that 80% of women with children that are homeless have experienced domestic violence. Other issues they are dealing with include low credit rating, evictions, poor rental history, no support, no income, safety issues and living in rural areas.

* Three Requirements to be eligible for Rapid Rehousing ...

1. Actively Fleeing Violence
2. Located in Chippewa County
3. Household consists of 1 adult and at least one child.

Family Support Needs Include ... Monetary Donations ... Gas Cards ... Phone Cards ... Practical household donations, etc. There is also an opportunity to volunteer, as well as job openings. For more information, visit their website ... familysupport@fscf.org

Guest Speaker: Joan Miller – Christ In Action Midwest

Subject: Update From St. Louis Mission Trip – October Assisting Individuals In Crisis Training

-- About Christ In Action Midwest

* Christ In Action Midwest is a Faith-Based Disaster Response Organization that crosses denominational lines to work together to provide practical responses to people in crisis (Floods, Fires, Tornados, etc.) across multiple states. They have been around for 40 years, this local team started in 2018. Joan Miller contact info: midwest@christinaction.com

* Christ in Action receives no government funding. They are totally supported by Private Donations.

* In addition to cleaning up disaster sites, they also offer the Hope and Love of Christ to those people in crisis. Listening to the people is an important part of the services they provide. Caring contact is part of the healing process as much as cleaning up the debris.

* They recently went to St. Louis to clean up debris and clear downed trees due to a tornado disaster. Before starting work, they met with other onsite agencies to determine what needs to be done and how to coordinate everyone's efforts.

* No specific training is required, but it does help if you have a special skill for various needs, such as carpentry, roofing, plumbing, etc.

*** Faith Based First Responder Training – Oct. 24 – 25, 2025 – Hope Gospel Mission, 2650 Mercantile Drive, Eau Claire, WI**

This is a two-day course about Assisting Individuals In Crisis. The Instructor is Rev. Gary Evans. NOTE: There is a fee. If you're interested and/or would like more information about Christ In Action check out their website ... christinaction.com

*** Mission Update:** Hope Village/Tiny Houses (Mike Cohoon)
(Mike was unable to attend, so he submitted this report via email)

Resale Shop – The shop is doing well in its new location. They've made \$12,000 so far in 2025. We had an enclosed trailer come for them because they're currently unable to do estate sale pickups on Mondays when it rains. We also purchased a shipping container so they have more storage space, which will allow them to begin accepting more donations soon. We will be

closing the shop for a few weeks during the motel renovation so that a sprinkler system can be installed. We hope to do some other updates to that area at the same time. Once the renovation is finished, we will consider expanding our hours—if more volunteers can be found.

Tiny Houses – We currently have 10 of the 11 houses occupied, with 11 children at the village. We have about 20 households on our waiting list. We’re seeing more walk-ins since the CDC Outreach Office announced their restructuring. We expect stays may begin to lengthen because the Housing Authority is short on voucher funds and has closed its waiting list. At least three of our tiny house guests qualify for our affordable housing units, so we’ll have some vacancies between now and September.

Affordable Housing on Hope Village Way – We are leasing the apartments at this time and have leased 7 of the units so far. Two one-bedroom units and one three-bedroom unit are still available. Rents start at \$889 for a one-bedroom and go up to \$1,507 for a three-bedroom—though most of the time, the three-bedroom would rent for \$1,341. In September, we will begin the process to apply for a grant to finish the rest of the units in 2026.

Indianhead Project – Our bid packets are out, and bids are due on 8/14. We hope to award the contract to a contractor by 8/16, with work starting on 10/1. The project will include a kitchenette in each unit, new energy-efficient heating and cooling, a fire sprinkler system, new windows and doors, new wall surfaces, rewiring and replumbing, a new roof, and other improvements. Currently, the HUD rent for an efficiency apartment is set at \$831.

Siding Donation – Lyman Lumber donated over \$84,000 worth of siding to Hope Village. We’ll be using about 1/5 of it at the Indianhead. We plan to sell the remaining supply. The siding retails for \$160.00 per box; we plan to sell it for \$80 per box. Each box covers two squares (200 sq ft). We’d love to see some of it used by a local church on a project they may have planned.

Golf Scramble – The Golf Scramble went well. We had 29 teams show up. The weather was a bit warm, but there was no rain. We raised just over \$14,000. It was nice to see English Lutheran of Bateman join us as one of our sponsors.

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

Funding and volunteers are doing well. However, we do need one more volunteer for Tuesday, Sept. 16th from 6 – 8pm. This is a great opportunity for someone that hasn’t worked at LYL before, because you will be teamed with an experienced LYL volunteer. If interested, contact Gayle ... gayleklitzke@hotmail.com ... 715-723-5053.

*** Mission Update:** CFMC July Meal Services at Barnabas’ Table & Agnes’ Table (Tom Drehmel)

We served about 25 people at Barnabas Table and about 100 people at Agnes' Table. A number of our volunteers also were able to spend time visiting with some of the guests. We had talked about doing it again, possibly in November. Interested?? Let me know. tdrehmel@me.com ... 715-723-5626.

*** Other Business/Announcements:**

-- "Meet To Eat" Open Door Clinic Fundraiser, Thursday, Aug. 7th. Eat at one of the following restaurants and 25% of your purchase will support Open Door Clinic. (Harm's Way Bar & Grill, Bloomer ... Old Abe's Supper Club, Jim Falls ... Anderson's Chic-N-Fish, Chippewa Falls ... Sand Bar & Grill, Lake Wissota ... Xpeditions, Bloomer.)

-- Hope Village is having a Brat & Bake Sale Fundraiser on Friday, Aug. 8th at Hope Village, 1825 Kennedy Rd., Chippewa Falls, from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm.

-- Valley Vineyard Backpack/School Supply Giveaway, Sunday, Aug. 17th ... 12:30 – 2:00pm. If you would like to donate or volunteer contact Trish Houle no later than Aug. 14th, that's their packing date.

-- "Love Chippewa" Touched-Twice Free Clinic, Saturday, Sept. 27th at Chi-High, 12:30 – 2:00pm. We are still in need of Hair Stylists, Massage Therapists, Dentists and Photographers. We are also in need of Advocates to guide our guests to the various service areas. If you're interested sign up on the website ... <https://lifespring-fellowship-inc-487637.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1003652>

Questions: Contact Whitney Falkenberg ...

whitney.falkenberg@lifespringfellowship.org

-- St. Francesca's Resource Center will again be doing their winter coat collection/giveaway on Friday, October 17th. Start gathering up your coat donations. Stay tuned ... more details to follow.

-- Jan Drehmel will be doing another Bible Study on the video series of "The Chosen – Season 2" starting on Thursday, Sept. 18th at Central Lutheran Church ... 6:15 – 7:30 pm. All are Welcome!

-- Hope Village will again be having their "Household Clothing Fun Drive" from August 13 – 21. They are accepting clothing, cloth items (towels, curtains, sheets, blankets, etc.), shoes, boots and purses. Be sure to bag up your items in garbage bags. Drop items off at the trailer parked at Hope Village, 1825 Kennedy Rd, Chippewa Falls, from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Next Meeting – Monday, October 6, 2025 ... 5:00pm ... English Lutheran Church of Bateman, 20588 County Hwy. X, Chippewa Falls, WI -- 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