

Social Action Outreach Committee, Meeting, Sunday, MAY 7, 11:45

Present: Sue Beckham, Paula Lugar, Betsy Terlinden, Martha Termaat (Dick Beckham had a prior meeting; Steve Dodge was in the same meeting; Sarah Singer missed the message, but all would approve of how the meeting turned out.

***See report on the actual meeting and donations at the end.**

'Twas a fine meeting if a little small and a little harried. Many things were decided; many more were considered -usually positively.

Spring Valley Seniors Staying Put (Paula Lugar presenting): Spring Valley has outstripped River Falls on this one. This organization “coordinates volunteers to help seniors and adults with disabilities to maintain their independence in our community. “ Seniors in River Falls and their caregivers, aware of this effort, have asked if such an organization can be created in River Falls. Our committee thinks it can; now we need people, particularly UUSRF people to organize the effort and recruit volunteers in the rest of River Falls. The effort needs a couple of volunteers to get the ball rolling.

The effort includes the following;

- Staying Put continues the rural tradition of neighbors helping neighbors
- Our services are provided by volunteers in the community
- We do not charge for services
- We accept donations so that we can help others
- We are not associated with any one church or religions (I would add “spiritual organization”
- We help make Spring Valley (River Falls) a better place to age.

Our volunteers provide

- Rides for local events, appointments, church, etc.
- Rides for local medical appointments
- Socialization opportunities
- Visits to provide companionship
- Reading to someone
- Light housekeeping or food preparation [from Beckham - may help with the proposed discontinuation of Meals and Wheels]

- Breaks for people who take care of loved ones.

Contact Spring Valley Seniors Staying Put, Inc. 5312 McKay Ave.; PO Box 193; Spring Valley WI 54767

Social Action/Outreach Budget distribution: The Committee decided on the following distribution of our \$1200 budget (we may be \$100 short but the other worthy recipient will surface before June 30!!) (Note: the list has been sent to Brad so that he can distribute the rest of the funds before the end of the fiscal year.)

- **Area Resource Center (\$100):** Small charitable organization with a big heart – capital consists of a telephone and a group of volunteers (of whom Cathy Cliffe is a primary mover. Volunteers take phone calls usually from people in verifiable need, answer questions (about the Free Clinic, food sources, overnight accommodations, etc), provide directions and distribute money for such necessities as food, places to sleep,
- **BACK PACK PROGRAM (Our Neighbor’s Place subsidiary) (\$100):** Packs and sends home with kids for the weekend, food and other necessities the family needs.
- **Ecumenical Assylum Committee (\$100):** brought refugee family of 5 –adult female and 4 children; they are now residents, she has legal visa –and may, now have a job. All are learning English (Children, of course faster than parent)
- **Free Medical Clinic OF RIVER FALLS (\$200):** Working out of the River Falls Medical Clinic ---provides health services for those with few means.
- **Free Mental Health Clinic (none):** organization is still organizing –not yet ready to help those in need of counseling, etc.
- **Grow to Share (\$100):** River Falls Chamber of Commerce sponsored project to grow food to share with those in need. (Those in need also volunteer to help grow)
- **Local PFLAG:** Committee agreed some years back sponsor the rainbow organization when they need funds for postage, None have been needed
- **Our Neighbor's Place (\$100)** (We usually give \$100 -- a couple of years ago, we were supposed to be the "go to place" if they needed "pull-ups" -- we haven't had a request for some time) --- But now, they have asked for PULL UPS – Therefore, Mother’s Day is to be “Pull up Sunday” == All are asked to bring some Pull Ups –which the committee take to Our Neighbor’s Place.
- **Pierce County Food Pantry** – Have given very rarely in recent years because we’re doing the best we can do to see that local people in need have nourishing food.
- **River Falls Community Arts Base (CAB) (\$100 paid)** – because the soul as well as the belly needs nourishment
- **River Falls Community Food Pantry (\$100 paid)**

- **St. Croix Valley Restorative Justice (\$100)** 215 N Second St, River Falls; 715-425-1100; center@scvrestorativejustice.org: **Our Mission:** *Utilizing the principles and practices of restorative justice, St. Croix Valley Restorative Justice works with victims, offenders and communities to respond to the effects of crime and conflict. Our evidenced-based curriculum both educates and builds accountability, decreasing recidivism rates and increasing the health and safety within our community.*
- **Turning Point (\$100 paid)** Local Women's Shelter

Pull up Sunday sounds great -- Mother's Day - announce through Vicki and /or Lynn

Pull Up Sunday, Mother's Day, May 14!!