

# Activities to Date

*Updated June 12, 2023*

The Outreach Task Force is close to finalizing its recommendations, including those regarding structure for outreach activities and goals, for presentation to the Governance Board.

## Community Outreach Center Update:

- DCC is going well so far and neighbors are appreciative of services. Bike repair has started and showers and laundry services will begin soon. Hair care services have also begun. Averaging 30-35 meals/day for breakfast (W,Th,F) and 40-50 for Sunday lunch. Days could be added in the future as needed if resources are available.
- Storehouse is busy and has a good roster of volunteers at the moment. Greeter system and door lock/key fob issues need some fine-tuning.
- UR Well Clinic is operating smoothly and Robin is available to meet with patients and assist with SW needs. Dental services still to come.
- Grocery Bag Ministry met for the first time in the new COC space and had positive reviews of the space and how their ministry will operate out of it.
- Community Garden has been getting the garden beds prepped and ready for planting. The bee hives are located on the roof of the education wing and are 1 box deep. The bee keeper will need to check on the hives approximately 2X/week and will take/sell half of the honey and we will keep the other half.
- Overall Pat Dupont reports that the opening of the COC has gone extremely well and there seems to be increased collaboration between the various ministries and Robin is facilitating this positive interaction. An ad hoc Volunteer Coordination task force has been casually meeting to think through issues around volunteer engagement, scheduling and tracking volunteer participation and hours.

Status of Grants: This year's goal for grants is \$180,000, which is felt to be a very realistic number. So far, \$63,000 has been received YTD. A number of applications are outstanding, many of which are targeted for capital improvements. The need for more grant applications in support of operational expenses is noted and additional foundations and funding sources are out there. Our applications are being written by a number of people including Carolyn, Lynn Peck, Jackie Nelson. Tours for foundations providing funding, especially those offering potential recurring grants, are suggested.

The Committee will investigate whether an East Avenue association of churches exists? If so, can we connect with this group for collaboration on any number of issues relevant to all of us e.g. support of COC as a neighborhood resource, supporting all community services among neighbors and these churches, issues of DEI, social justice conversations and initiatives. Should we more intentionally offer tours of COC for neighbors and neighborhood orgs?

Upcoming/To Do:

- 1) Volunteer orientation session in fall 2023. Repeat program to include those unable to attend during the first round of orientations. Tim will find a date maybe late September including again a Wednesday evening and a Saturday morning.
- 2) Possible quick survey soon to assess volunteer experience so far in the new COC?
- 3) Trauma-based care training. Gandhi Center training does virtual or in-person training. May want to consider two dates for this training. Will also need to find a lead to set up and coordinate this training.
- 4) Pentecost/Outreach Sunday was held May 28th. Each ministry showcases display boards and set up tables in the Gathering Center after worship.
- 5) Suggestion for a new idea for COC fundraising such as a Christmas Cookie event in the COC.
- 6) The anti-racist curriculum developed by Shane Wiegand that is now on video. Suggestion to facilitate a connection with our volunteers to easily view and better understand the video. This could also be something that we could do in partnership with the other East Avenue churches as a call to action toward a summit with racial justice as the central theme. Coordination with the Racial Equity Team is important.
- 7) Dining In For Outreach (DIFO) will be late October/early November. Suggestion to do an appetizer gathering in the DCC before guests split up and go to homes for the meal. This prelude to the meal could include neighbors from the community and possibly even communion. Volunteers will be needed for the planning and organizing of this event.
- 8) East Avenue churches are participating in an Urban Gardens project and that we should support programs run by people of color.