

OUTREACH CENTER COMMITTEE
Meeting Notes 09/14/2023
6-7pm via Zoom

Director's Update -

- A snapshot piece of COC stats as a handout for (Dining In For Outreach) DIFO event.
For example, August:
990 meals
533 people were assisted in Storehouse
129 showers
41 loads of laundry
80 bags of groceries
38 bikes repaired
20 haircuts
- Temple Beth El will provide the volunteers to serve Christmas Eve and Christmas Day meals.
- New Hires: A dishwasher has been hired to work between 6-8 hours/week, while another assistant will start next Wednesday working 15-20 hrs/week and will be present at all meals to start and will eventually add some storehouse duties.
- Volunteer staffing update: Generally well-staffed at the moment. DCC has consistent teams of regulars but could use more subs to cover for times when regulars are out. Storehouse has plenty of volunteers at the moment. They are receiving more donations of goods and clothing than can be processed some days.
- The DCC probably won't be adding additional days just yet. Still settling into the current schedule and operations. No plans for an evening meal yet. Serving approximately 70/day currently.
- DIFO proceeds will primarily fund COC programs as opposed to off-campus ministries (offCMs).

Volunteer Orientation Sessions held:

9/20 Wednesday evening
9/23 Saturday morning

Gandhi Institute Training:

- Will be either on Tues.10/24 or Thurs.10/26. Will run about 2 hours 6-8 pm. Training is to give attendees an understanding of and skills needed when working with individuals in crisis. Event will include a presentation followed by interactive role-playing.
- Director is participating in a "minister's training" during a 12-week program sponsored by the Kairos Center, a national organization committed to building a movement to end poverty.

DIFO Update (Erica):

- After just one Sunday info table presentation in the Gathering Center, signups include 3 hosts and 12 guests. News of DIFO will be printed in weekly bulletins; pre-service slides on monitors will include info on DIFO; and the DIFO info table will be in the Gathering Center every Sunday until the event.
- Other notes on DIFO: Many people tend to wait to sign up. Lists have been created of business sponsors that will help fund/supply the appetizer portion of the evening to be held at the DCC.

Other News:

- Asbury Community Garden was recently honored at City Hall and was featured on Channel 13 News as a “Bright Spot” program in the community.

Notes from Pat Dupont regarding Outreach update:

Last week was a busy one in the life of the Community Outreach Center! In addition to the regular hustle and bustle of our ministries:

- On Wednesday morning (11/1) All Saints Day was observed in the Dining & Caring Center. It was a powerful moment of communal remembrance of many so often forgotten.
- On Saturday morning (November 11/4) an Asbury First team participated in the East Avenue Grocery Run and raised over \$3100 for our food programs.
- On Saturday evening, over 200 people gathered in the Gathering Center, the Dining & Caring Center, and homes all over Rochester for our Dining In For Outreach fundraiser. Thank you to all who participated and hosted! We will share and celebrate the amount of support raised once the last donations have been received and counted.

Looking forward to the end of this month:

- The Thanksgiving In-Gathering is quickly approaching! This is a worship celebration and our biggest donation drive of the year. Attached to this email you will find a list of needed items for our outreach ministries. As always, please share this opportunity to support our work in the community with your broader networks outside of our congregation. Many people love to be asked to give, particularly to causes that are important to people who are important to them! Perhaps this is an opportunity to bring someone new into our Center and church. While in response to the pandemic we had a donation drop-off window on Saturday, this year we are returning to collecting only on Sunday, November 19. That said, if Sunday doesn't work for you, donations can always be dropped off during the week when the Community Outreach Center is open.
- November 28 is the United Way's Roc the Day fundraising effort. It is a one day only online opportunity to give financially to support our Community Outreach Center. Have you already given this month through the Grocery Run or Dining In For Outreach? Again, consider sharing the Roc The Day website with your network beyond the church. Part of our faith and our ministry is sharing our story beyond ourselves. Personal connections and testimonies are powerful ways to invite people into our shared mission. A fundraising link will be shared ahead of the 28th.