



NORTHWEST DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Matt Medina, President of the Northwest District.

OPENING PRAYER was led by Lynda Atchison (ICD), Vice President of NW District

PRESENTATION BY JOACHIM AND ANN CARE SERVICE

Miriam Mahan, Executive Director of Joachim and Ann Care Service, introduced Board President, Mark Riordin, and Program Director, Pam Struckoff. Ms. Mahan gave a history of the founding of Joachim and Ann Care Service beginning in the 1980's, serving St. Charles, Lincoln, and Warren counties. J&A works with all denominations, and contracts with state, local, and the federal government using grants for some of their services. Ms. Mahan stated that J&A would like to work together with SVdP. Program Director, Pam Struckoff stated that J&A is initiating a Street Outreach program, identifying the homeless offering water, food, blankets, and building a rapport with the homeless. At first there will be 2 people on the streets a few days a week, gradually working up to more people and more hours per week. A short-term goal would be to have no homeless veterans by the end of 2016.

Matt asked about how we can help each other, stating the SVdP by-laws cannot give money to other agencies. Pam stated we can help each other by using a team approach for the homeless problems in the 3 counties. Ms. Mahan thanked the members for the time to present the current services of Joachim and Ann.

Note: J&A requests for donations: There were concerns from members that requests from J&A asking for donations through monthly envelopes may take away from donations to SVdP. Matt suggested that the President's discuss this issue with their conferences and pastors.

HOST CONFERENCE NEEDED FOR THE WALK FOR THE POOR

Matt asked for a conference to volunteer for the 2016 Walk for the Poor. Theresa Waddington explained that the conference provides snacks and assists the captain. Chris Smith is captain of the Walk and has secured Quail Ridge Park for the walk. Amy Kortkamp, President of ICD Conference, graciously accepted hosting the walk.

CO-CAPTAIN NEEDED FOR OZANAM TRAINING

Matt stated that Carol Fogle will work with a person to be co-captain for the Ozanam training. Otherwise, the NW District may not have an Ozanam training session after spring this year if there are no volunteers for the Co-Captain. Ozanam Training is scheduled for March 12, 2016 at St. Cletus.

FEEDBACK ON FLOOD DISASTER ACTIVITIES

The following information was provided on the flood disaster help: West Alton families-20 families impacted by the flood; 16 had insurance, 4 were helped by the Red Cross & FEMA. One client had a \$2500 copay. Red Cross and the community helped get them back into their house.

St. Robert's President & husband went to help with flood victims in Fenton.

St. Joseph's helped with credits at the thrift store, bedding and funds.

The St. Louis District has \$10,000 plus \$60,000 from reserve funds transferred to the disaster fund. In addition \$32,000 from donations. For families who need flood relief help, contact the downtown office.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CONFERENCE PRESIDENT'S FOR 2015

Judy Meiser: St Robert

In Judy's absence, Matt reported that St. Robert Conference has 8 new members.

Paul Cook: St. Joseph's, Cottleville

St. Joseph's host a Walk for the Poor near their church.

New backpack program not as successful as they planned, but they are working on it.

Food collection for Thanksgiving.

Christmas-helped 262 individuals with gifts and also helped Mary Queen of Angels and St. Charles Borromeo with gifts.

Made contributions to the Thrift Store.

Gained a few new members and lost a few.

Also have a crisis line, food pantry and task force. Make care packages for nursing homes

Susan Kallash-Bailey: Sacred Heart Troy

Susan is also director of IT-transportation for seniors and disabled. She said funds are available.

1100 people came in for visits on Saturdays; 3800 people served in 2015

No home visits, except for clients available for the Bridge's Program

A highlight was a new well for a client.

Food pantry has about 45 active volunteers

Work with J&A for 20-30 active families

Adopt a family program at Christmas.

Joyce Cain: St. Charles Borromeo

Joyce introduced Vice President Sandy Van Mill. Sandy designed a 3 phase training program for current and new members of the conference. Training sessions were well attended.

70 families served at Thanksgiving

Christmas Giving Tree- 97 families helped with 403 individual gifts

Membership stayed about the same with 25 active members

Large Hispanic community

A annual SVDP report is placed in the church bulletin for all activities of the conference and Mini-Vinnies. This highlights all the help provided by SVDP as a result of the donations received at St. Charles Borromeo.

Kathy Wade: All Saints

Activities for 2015 included: Reporting about conference activities in the bulletin increased donations.

5 new members

Donations taken to Thrift Store after Church picnic

Donations of supplies to schools, police mission, gifts to Our Lady's Inn,

Donations to Lion's Club and Mason's

Work with Flood victims

Jane Gerth: St. Cletus

New this year: Records are computerized

Conference has booth at Parish picnic-sell Ted Drewes ice cream-a big fundraiser

Monthly donation to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and John the Baptist parish

Have Thanksgiving and Holy Thursday envelopes for donations

30 members

Fundraiser-annual Quilt Social

Amy Kortkamp: ICD Dardenne

SVdP activities announced in bulletin

Helped 3800 households and 16,000 individuals with food pantry. They partner with St. Louis area food bank
\$200,000 assists this year

Channel 5 news did news report on their pantry activities the Wed before Thanksgiving

No Hunger Holiday- 90 families helped

Christmas-134 families helped; 20 families shopped at Hope Center for toys;

Adults fed at Christmas-20

Helped St. Patrick's Center

500 backpacks filled

5 new people inquired about SVdP

Dale Kluesner-St. Barnabas

14 full-time members; 8 associate members

Participated in No Hunger Holiday with 17 families helped

19 families helped with Giving Tree

Bulletin announcements 2 times/year

Noticing more and more homeless

Theresa Waddington: Immaculate Heart of Mary, New Melle

Backpack program at School

Helped 19 families with Giving Tree at Christmas

Exchange food with Our Ladies Inn

Home Visits- beginning to take their deacon with them on home visits to help with difficult cases

Present SVdP DVD at Church

Helped a client with a car this year

Gerrie Adams: St. Theodore

12 full-time members; 4 associate members

Helped 40 families this year; 12 families helped with Giving Tree

Poor Box collection: \$1000.

2nd Sunday Collection of food items to St. Patrick's in Wentzville; 30-50 helped each month

Four fund-raisers: Raffles 2 times a year, Walk for the Poor, Mini Vinnie Walk for the Poor

Fall Thanksgiving cards are sent to parishioners who are alone or need to know someone is thinking of them

Christmas time-Stockings of Grace are hand delivered to individuals

Raffle: Vincentians collect gift cards throughout the year and raffle them for a fund-raiser

Joyce Holloway-Holy Rosary

Conference has 5 active members; 11 helpers in the food pantry

A retired nurse will help with a family

Fund-raiser: Shred truck had shredder and took donations

Budget of \$100,000. Helped 2000 people between the pantry and the store.

Robert Grillion: St. Gianna, Wentzville

Lost a few members; one new family

During this year of Mercy-goal to visit nursing homes

Two or three members do home visits

Fund-raiser-Rummage sale

Collect food two times a month to ICD pantry

Suzann Crowder: Assumption, O'Fallon

Set a goal of increased PR in the Parish
Notices in bulletins, donation truck on parking lot (truck filled 2 times)
Clothing box made \$1000.
SVdP Sunday was very successful: spoke at Masses, booth after Masses,
Presented video about SVdP at two different meeting (10-15 people at each viewing)
Increased the number of home visits and training
Invited guest speakers to meetings
Helped at Christmas, Thanksgiving and the homeless
Food pantry-started a community garden to help supplement the pantry items
Need help developing a database

Butch Henke: Immaculate Conception, Old Monroe
Helped 200 families with utilities (638 people)
1190 families visits to pantry ((3324 people)
44 home visits -one time per month
Collection every quarter
Members go out into the community to ask for donations
Pastor is very helpful
30-40 volunteers work in the pantry, 3-4 each Saturday from 8:30-11:30
Christmas-School kids help by filling brown bags which have menus attached. 200 bags passed out Dec 19th;
voucher included for meat in the bags.
Collection of food for Thanksgiving help.
Hotline has 5 helpers to assist with utilities

HOMELESS PROGRAM UPDATE-LYNDA ATCHISON

Lynda asked for conferences to add the homeless project to prayer lists.
Several areas are being addressed with the homeless: emergency housing (no housing); those who need a couple of weeks bridging (those who have a job); and longer term help which takes a process of follow-up for weeks or months.
After sending a Homeless PowerPoint presentation to St Louis Council provided by the Mini Vinnie's from this year's "Freezn for a Reason Activity" in November 2015 , the St. Louis Council is considering donating some money to help with the NW District Homeless project.

HEAT UP ST. LOUIS-Matt announced that Heat Up St. Louis is scheduled for February 12, 2016.
Conferences are encouraged to participate. Utility money is distributed based on participation by the Districts.
Last year the NW District was awarded the second largest amount of money because of our participation.

OPEN TOPICS:

Memorials: Matt suggested that memorials for SVdP made through funeral homes should be marked to go to individual conferences. Otherwise they may go to the downtown office.
Video Training: Matt is working with the St. Louis Council on the online video training for "Bridges out of Poverty."

OZANAM TRAINING: The next Ozanam training is scheduled for March 12, 2016.

The Northwest District meeting will be held on April 20, 2016 hosted by St. Charles Borromeo Conference

Thank you to ICD for hosting the meeting.

Closing prayer was led by Lynda Atchison.

NOTE: 13 Conference president's or substitutes were in attendance. Four conferences absent: St. Robert Bellarmine (St. Charles) St. Francis (Portage des Sioux), St. Patrick (Wentzville), St. Peter (St. Charles).

Judy Doucette, NW District Secretary