

SUMMARY OF “CAPTURE OF BLESSING BOX”

SOURCE – MEMBERSHIP AT THE OCT. 1, 2024 MEETING

Note – In collating the responses, I “bundled” the first question that you posed under - Purpose; Effects; Questions; Issues; . The second question responses are just a running list of ideas. (A few were placed with first question responses.)

Next Tuesday – the 8th, the committee is meeting at: 800 at Biggby’s. (Bob and Laska will be off on adventures.) Our agenda will focus on reviewing the collated responses and reflecting on **“what did we hear” from membership? Where do we go from here?**

(Laska and Bob – if you have a chance to read through and send your thoughts to committee prior to Tuesday, it will be like you are there.) Jim and Wendy – are you able to make it on Tuesday? If not, would you send your thoughts as well? If yes, see you then.

PURPOSE – Current understanding of the Blessing Box purpose by membership is.....,

- ❖ **Supplement to Food Bank**
- ❖ **Place to pick up food and other necessities that are needed**
- ❖ **An easy place for people in the community to share with others**
- ❖ **Instant access to food**
- ❖ **A place to get food and be assured of anonymity**
- ❖ **24/7 food source**
- ❖ **Located in a central spot for easy access**

EFFECT. Membership understanding of the effect of the Blessing Box for community

- **Has potential to cause resentment by others who meet food scarcity needs**
- **Serves as an awareness to community of food scarcity needs**
- **Serves as an awareness to Rotarians of food scarcity needs.**
- **Has potential to be a “dumping ground” for items not wanted by others**
- **Is easily available to all**
- **Is seen in a positive light by the community**
- **Has good intentions.**

QUESTIONS: Membership raised the following questions:

- ✓ Who uses it?
- ✓ Is it a liability?
- ✓ Is it meeting the needs of those who need it?
- ✓ Is it also serving “greedy” people who don’t need it?
- ✓ Should there be a second location at the Food Bank?
- ✓ Should there be Rotary funding to provide for purchase of items when donations are low?

ISSUES: The following were mentioned as issues/problems to address:

- Uncontrollable stocking
- Dumping box
- Some take everything from box
- No signage
- Community is not aware of the Box
- Need a better drop off
- Signage to inform those who drop off what should be In Box.

Question 2: What should we do?

- Keep a SAFE source of emergency food to alleviate food needs, act as a stop gap to the Food Bank
- Provide information in the Box
- Continue to have it a quick and accessible source of food
- Promote Rotary more
- Raise Community Awareness to food needs
- Make it a consistent offering of quality food
- Have more food available
- Provide a list to community of items suitable to donate
- Make sure the food is nutritious
- Have organized, predictable involvement of Rotarians
- Have organized, predictable involvement of others in the community
- Put only appropriate shelf-life, stable food items
- Include toiletry items
- Include school supplies
- Partner deeper with the Church
- Partner deeper with Community

- **Partner deeper with the Food Bank**
- **Focus on anonymity/confidentiality**
- **Supply packaged foods**
- **Provide a spot for people to leave input (paper, pencil, locked suggestion box, etc.)**
- **Seek partners**

The conversations in each of your groups were lively and all were participating. (A few drifted here and or there but very few.) I hated to cut off with the TIME shout There wasn't time to update on eliminating the group summary plan. It was a last minute decision in view of the time and the need to have updates on Chainsaw in the Park and Taste of Williamston.