Minutes Service Committee Oct. 8, 2024

Present: Wanda Bloomquist, Naomi Miller, Jim Carr, Wendy Carr, Narda Murphy

First discussion centered on sharing impressions from groups sharing at membership meeting on the 1st. Summary as follows:

* Seems to be a behavior of “take what you need. Leave what you can”
* Many comments and questions about connection and/ or support of the Food Bank.
* We don’t have clear data on what the food needs are
* Question of whether the need so obvious during COVID is still motivation for Box
* Should we even continue the Box?
* Amount of work in maintaining will depend on what the purpose is
* Did not hear a common understanding of what the Blessing Box is all about.
* Strong input from the group on partnering with others (Food Bank, Churches,, other non-profits, community as a whole.
* Membership is ready for clarity
* Do we need to identify the all the systems in the community that provide food. Who are the groups that meet food scarcity needs?
* Many Rotarians have little understanding of the “how it works” concerning the Food Bank
* Actions to be taken:
* Wanda will contact Jill Cutshaw, Director of the Food Bank, about the possibility of presenting at a Rotary meeting. She will coordinate with Sharon on an agreeable time.
  + Meeting at the Food Bank with a walk through plus explanation of how supplying food works was suggested.
    - One of the misnomers is that the Food Bank is only available one weekend a month. Wanda explained that emergency needs are meant often.
* Committee will put together a list of food insecurity resources in Community:
  + Open Table (WUMC)
  + Food Bank
  + Other?
* Committee will brainstorm and explore the possibilities of potential organizations to collaborate with if that is a direction to take.
* Develop notices for the Blessing Box that include visuals and colorful print to make more visible.
* One source of data on need is the number of families who are enrolled in F/R lunch at the schools.
  + Narda will contact Adam for these percentages
  + Jim Carr presented three options for committee and membership to consider as it relates to the Blessing Box purpose. He will “flesh” these out and bring back to next meeting.

**Operational –** Full Service Food-Bank-like-system

Comparable to a little grocery store.

Managing would require knowing

What to stock

How much

When to restock

* **Light Touch**

Non-perishables only

Monitor for compliance and safety only

Minimal stocking

Whole community encouraged to give to Box

* **Free-Flow**

Meal Box

Focus on planned, packaged meals

Packets available are planned in advance

Need a team to assemble

What?

Time available

Weekly?

Bi-weekly?

Quantity stocked

Committee needs to balance the individual giving versus community-wide giving

PLAN OF ACTION FOR PACKAGED MEAL TEST TRIAL

OCTOBER 8TH Rotary meeting Wendy and Jim will update membership

Week of 10/21 Planned meal menu completed (Wendy)

Purchasing of materials (Committee members)\*\*

Week of 10/28 Rotarians meet to package meals

November 4th Meals placed in box

Specifics Discussed – Aim for 20 packets this first time around

Will need to package for individual and for family sizes?

Notice that will be included in the package? What? How?

Monitoring?

Other discussion focused on balancing Rotarian service projects. How many service projects are community – wide and how many service projects need an individual person/family need? Narda will analyze Annual Projects as listed in the Catalogue of Service Projects and bring back to committee. We agreed that there needs to be a balance.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15