

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 document 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 4 th	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

Service Committee

October 23, 2024

Minutes

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

Blessing Box Packaged Meal Trial

- Wendy shared possibilities of packaged meals for our consideration. After discussing pros and cons, it was agreed that we would order products and package two different meal options for the trial run:
 - Spaghetti with Marinara Sauce (15)
 - Spaghetti with Alfredo Sauce. (5)
 - Additionally, smaller options such as green beans and mushroom soup; pizza fixings, etc. will be packaged and placed in Box.
- Jim and Wendy will order the products. We will meet on Monday the 4th at 10:00 a.m. to put the meal packages together. The box will be monitored for the week.
- The Carrs are to submit receipts to treasury for repayment.
- Narda will give Wanda a heads up on this Service Committee purchase so that it is charged to our 24-25 budget.

Other notes of interest:

- Food Bank does put together Thanksgiving meals that includes gift cards and/or money for the turkey. We can consider packaging side dish offerings or dessert, but the cash or gift card concept will not be viable in an “open for anyone to take” set up.
- Wendy’s research identified many meal ideas for packaging as well as themed holiday ideas.
- Wendy had also created a list of food options for membership to contribute if we decide to go the packaged meal route.
- Jill Cutshaw adds food to the Blessing Box on Wednesdays. Wendy and Naomi have talked with Jill and she is very open to coordinating with Blessing Box in meeting food needs.
- Including holiday paper napkins, plates, etc. in the Blessing Box would be a nice contribution as well.

Naomi gave an update on the Christmas Giving including a timeline of all gifts purchased and turned in by Dec. 3rd. Nancy M. from Explorer Elementary – who puts together the family lists – will have the names to Naomi by November 1st.

- Narda will ask Earl to save agenda time on the 12th (after student awards) and also on the 19th and 26th. The agenda time is necessary as not only has the timeline been changed this year, but the process we will use to identify purchases matched with family member will be new. WUMC uses a process with many more members than we would have. It works beautifully and should eliminate our last minute struggles with cross checking and last minute ‘Band aids’.
- Members will be encouraged to bring gifts to the meetings.
- A positive with the timeline being earlier is the opportunity to take advantage of Friday after T’giving sales and Cyber Monday sales.

Questions that popped into my brain AFTER the meeting:

(Naomi – Will you be able to share the handout you have in electronic format so it can be sent out to all?

Should there be a list of gifts in case people are not at meetings but we can sign them up and deliver the tags? Those thoughts popped in my head after the meeting. Was just trying to figure out how to reach those who are members but rarely attend meetings.

Also, are you planning on working with Marv or Keith/Laska or ??? about making sure Satellite is pulled in? Should they have one person who can be a drop off point for their gifts???)

Next committee meeting is December 10th. 9:00 a.m. Place TBD. Church? Biggby?