

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION TEAM MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2022

Attending in Person: John Durbin, Terry Starr, Nancy Nonini, Larry Cornelius, Max Klinkenborg and Linda Hofmann

Attending on Bridges: Beth Moore

Guests: Cindy Humes and her daughter Tricia with Deep Within with host Laurie Cathey

John opened the meeting with prayer emphasizing the importance of solidarity with those we hope to help and being peacekeepers.

Cindy and Tricia spoke about the men who live at Deep Within. Men 18 and over are eligible to live at Deep Within. These men (20-22 at present) are transitioning from homelessness and addiction to become productive members in society as they learn to stand up for themselves. They volunteer at food banks and receive food in exchange and also volunteer at the HART Pantry. A large portion of support comes from working the concessions at Cardinals Stadium where they receive a percentage of the sales. They also often get left-over food from the concession areas. After a successful six-month stay they have the opportunity to get a job and may continue to live there without charge or rent so they can save to return to the community. They are also available for hire for gleaning trees and other miscellaneous tasks within the church and community. They can provide their own transportation.

John also informed Cindy that a \$1,000 donation was coming to Deep Within from the church via Mission and Outreach.

Othering and Belonging: John reported in the absence of Rev. David Klingensmith that the next meeting of this group will be Monday, September 19th at 10:00.

Creation Justice: Terry said the next Creation Justice meeting will be September 20th at 9:00.

Homelessness:

I-HELP - John reported that three women will be taking over the responsibility for meals for our guests beginning in October. They are Victoria McWilliams, Donna Shalzi, and Sandy Weis. During the weekend of October 21-22 we will have guests here due to Lakeview Methodist Church being unable to house them because of their garage sale. Max reported that three people found housing in August. The number of guests now is between 6-10.

FEET N MORE - The shower trailer was part of Project Connect in downtown Phoenix where showers and haircuts were given and it was a great success. A Catholic Church in El Mirage may return to use the shower trailer. It was discontinued earlier due to lack of use. The trailer was also at The Grove in Chandler and the number of showers given is 999. Two new volunteers (Bertie Fitch and Jerry Lovell) are now helping. Sharleen Kakalewska, who is not a church member, is providing haircuts to those who want them. Max would like to see her recognized for her contribution by a plaque or barber tools, as suggested by Terry.

Criminal Justice: Nancy introduced the idea of presenting a video about RTS (Right to Speak) to this group in October so we can learn how to use it to contact legislators. Also, on October 12th will be an opportunity to attend the Mental Health Court in Glendale. From 1:30 to 3:00 a team meets to share progress reports of the participants. From 3:00-4:30 the participants in the program meet with the judge. These meetings are held at 5711 W. Glendale Avenue in Glendale, AZ and are held every Wednesday. John suggested talking with Phil Ladd to coordinate this with the church's Congregation for Mental Wellness program. The Martha Wright Act has been proposed in Congress to regulate costs to prisoners federally rather than state by state so that those incarcerated are not being overcharged for concessions and phone calls, etc., by for-profit prisons or certain states.

Neighbors in Need: Linda reported Dysart Community Center expressed gratitude to Terry Starr for being willing to assist high school students as they explore college or career options.

Palestinian Human Rights: Beth reported that October 27th is the date set for the re-registration of Daoud's farm. The hope is that European and US Embassy personnel will be present (perhaps outside the courtroom) to support Daoud and his attorney in this effort. The grape harvest is in progress with volunteer help. The crop is diminished due to the destruction of some of the vineyards. The olive harvest will begin in October. Pressure is being applied by many in the US after the killing of an American journalist.

Immigration/Refugee: Larry said there has been an uptick in refugees from Cuba due to the shortages of food and medicine in that country. A report determined that it was the policy of the Trump administration to separate children from their parents and that over 700 have still not been reunited. Unfortunately, the Justice Department is defending the US against lawsuits over this policy. The Biden administration has strengthened the Dreamers program for those already in the program.

October Palm Leaf Articles: Nancy Nonini will do articles on voting information and the Mental Health Court. Linda Hofmann will contribute a Dysart update and Beth Moore will add brief Palestinian information followed by a longer article in the November Palm Leaf.

Other Information: John emphasized the desire to have all church members involved in service of some kind and that non-church members are welcome to add to the outreach of the church.

The next meeting will be October 14th at 1:00 PM.

Linda Hofmann, Recorder