



Green County Leaders: Leadership, Community Nonprofits, and Community Involvement

Panel Session Notes

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Rick Gleason, Family Promise

- Family Promise – Providing assistance for families in homelessness or in danger of homelessness
- Adjusting and changing programs for the pandemic
- Busier this year than last
- They had 14 churches as host sites prior to covid for families to stay at overnight and then return to the Day Center to connect with resources
- The host church program and the shelter program were shut down mid-March. The two-bedroom apartment upstairs of the Day Center was turned into an emergency shelter (limited to 2 families).
- Also reaching out to provide resources for people staying with family and friends.
- The organization has struggled with a lack of fundraising opportunities and has been applying for grants.
- Appreciate the generosity of individuals and businesses that have kept them going.
- They are moving forward and looking forward to a normal rotation of families.
- An Open House for the Day Center will be planned in 2021.
- Volunteers are needed for data entry, also opportunities to be involved on committees such as fundraising and personnel.

Marcia Voss, Green Cares Food Pantry

- Green Cares Food Pantry is different than the Green County Food Pantry (although serves the same low-income families). Located west of Monticello on County C. They provide 7-10 days' worth of groceries one time per month by appointment – open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
- They get their food from Second Harvest Food Bank, USDA Surplus, Local groceries and bakeries, and food drives and donations
- They serve 240 families per month (800 individuals). This is down a bit since February 2020. This may be because: people received stimulus checks, extra unemployment, afraid of Covid, kids getting their meals from schools.
- They provide contactless delivery, items are boxed and bagged up and put in the car. You can then make an appointment for next month. The quantity of items depends on the family size.
- Some volunteers have stopped volunteering due to Covid. Volunteers are needed. Other ways for people to get involved:
 - Volunteer
 - Money donation and food drives
 - 4-H and Girl Scouts make Birthday Bags (cake mix, candles, small toy, frosting)
 - Sign outside falling off – someone designed a new sign and installed it
 - Hand sanitizer donated
 - Info on nutrition and recipes for boxes



Jeannie Blumer, Southwest Community Action Program (SWCAP)

- SWCAP – An anti-poverty organization that serves SW Wisconsin counties. The goal is to build resilience and self-sufficiency.
- Projects:
 - Creating farm worker housing – 32-unit project in Darlington to serve farm workers. Including services, ESL, head start, childcare.
 - Leader in mental health and AODA treatment and services. Created Mental Health Network for counties to work together. Behavioral Health Partnership – Bridget Mouchon Humphrey leads that work.
 - Providing Half-way houses for people recovering from substance abuse. Drug free environment, with work and counseling.
 - Allocated Wis Rental Assistance Program funds used to prevent evictions. More money likely coming, hoping to help with people with mortgages too.
- Volunteer needs:
 - LIFT transportation program – need volunteer drivers to take people to and from work and to medical appointments. You can learn more about LIFT through the SWCAP website, www.swcap.org. If you click on the LIFT link, it will take you to more information about the program. The contact person for LIFT is Lori Jacobson who can be reached at (608) 930-2191.
 - Assistance doing fundraisers for Black Hawk and Juda School Districts for weekend food programs for the students in those districts. Contact Jeannie Blumer at kjblumer@tds.net or (608) 558-1637 for more information and to assist.
 - Assistance in developing an online tool to measure the success of these school programs. Contact Jeannie Blumer at kjblumer@tds.net or (608) 558-1637 for more information and to assist.

Deb Douglas, Fowler Dental Clinic

- The Fowler Dental Clinic provides dental care for those in need (uninsured or unable to get services)
- History – opened 2009 with volunteers and one dental chair; for kids 3-12. Continued to grow – in 2014 – new 4 chair clinic in old Pleasant View Complex.
- Found a new home, in 2018 moved to new location on Monroe Clinic Campus
- Able to welcome a full-time dentist to staff
- Great News! With new facility and changes made – Now able to see ALL patients of ANY age in Green and Lafayette Counties (on forward health or Medicaid) for basic dental services. Call to schedule an appointment – check Facebook page. Stay tuned for additional expansions of service.

Green County Leaders provides equal opportunity in education and programming.