Hunger Free Lenawee!

Minutes from August 6, 2019


St Vincent de Paul: They are open Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 1-2:30. Clients can come in once a month. They do an initial interview and put them in their electronic data base. They ask about need but do not turn anyone away. They have set items that they keep on stock. The clients pretty much know what they have and will let them know they cannot use something. They service about 23 or 24 clients per day. JoAnne pointed out that they can do what they do because they have the support of the St Joseph Church; the church gives them free office space, pays the utilities and some clerical support. St. Vincent de Paul has their own 501C3. St Mary Church has recently started collaborating with St. Vincent de Paul to support the pantry. After the discussion it was decided that one-page list of online resources could benefit the pantries. This will be available at the next meeting. How do we encourage collaboration/communication/support between the local churches and the pantries? Is there still a ministerial association in Lenawee County? We could send out a survey to all the churches. We could invite them to join us. We need to continue with this discussion and create a plan of action. Terrina Liogghio will connect with Love Inc in Jackson. They have a great collaboration and they may be able to explain how they got started, how their vision became a reality, lessons learned, etc…. Terrina will let us know the answers at our next meeting.

Voices For Food Event – Vickie Pfeifer attended a training on to “train” the pantries on best practices to better serve. MSUE has a tool kit available to assist the pantries. They talk about how to best organize, educate staff and volunteers to ensure efficiency. How to talk to Staff/Volunteers about how to best serve the vulnerable public and how to get a better understanding where they come from.

WLEN Hometown Hope Award – It went well. The live remote brought in people that did not know it was happening. The commercials went well. It brought attention to what we are doing and to services that are available in the community. We will apply again next year. Again, we will request October. Trunk or Treat would be a great place for a live remote.

Trunk or Treat – Will be on October 24th. We will bring our updated pantry and soup kitchen lists. How can we increase the donations? How do we encourage Pantries to attend? How do we show case the pantries? Nancy will notify APD, The Sheriff’s Department and the Fire Department about the date.
**WIC and Senior Project Fresh Coupons** – Virginia Tillotson of Tillotson Farms attended the meeting and let us know that the coupons are accepted at their stands; by the Mall and by the Cinema North of Adrian. She shared stories of how it is clear that patrons appreciate them and try to make sure they use the entire coupon. They cannot get change back. Also, there are times when patrons state they do not know how to prepare certain fresh food. Tillotson Farms always works hard to ensure their produce is as fresh as possible.

**Agency Announcements –**

**2-1-1**

**MSUE**

Is offering a FREE Food Safety Workshop for Food Pantries. This is a 4-hour class where attendees can learn about food safety, illness prevention, receiving and storing of donated food, distribution of fresh food, and repackaging of bulk food. Contact Vickie Pfeifer at MSUE for more information.

The Lenawee County Fair livestock donation was a success. 1 Cow and 8 pigs were purchased/donated and will be available thru the Food Bank. **Knapp Motors, Bell Chevrolet, Leo’s Metal and Wood Pallets and Hickory Lodge Farms** purchased the livestock and paid for processing.

**Veterans Affairs**

They always have funds to assist veterans that served during war time. Recently they received a grant to assist all Veterans that had a honorable discharge with emergency needs. If you know of a Veteran that needs assistance refer them to Veterans Affairs.

**Next meeting**

**Tuesday, September 3, 2019**

**Location TBD**