**Fannin County Family Connection**

**Board Minutes**

**August 12, 2021**

In Attendance

Present: Cathy Cox-Brakefield, Jane Kimzey, Tom Niswander, Sherry Echelberger, Anna Speessen, Gordon Riddoch, Chris Martinez, Renee Lunney, Michael Kilpatrick, James Brumbelow, Candace Youngberg, Robert Gleadall

Absent: Laura Thomas, Maureen Escott, Jim Yacavone, Cindy Trimble, Theresa Dillard

Staff present: Sherry Morris

Call to order and Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Tom Niswander and seconded by Chris Martinez to approve the minutes. All were in favor of approval.

The meeting was called to order by Cathy Cox-Brakefield.

Finance Committee Report: Tom Niswander

FY 21 Recap: Tom Niswander gave the treasurer’s report which is attached. He gave the FY 2021 recap and asked that we all make ourselves available for a workshop to discuss how to manage our cash assets, investments for funds outside of our operational budget.

He discussed the new in-kind donation update. We have $22,000 in clothing, $360,000 in volunteer hours provided.

Cathy Cox Brakefield thanked all for the fabulous afterhours event. She thanked Sherry especially for all the work that went into the event and we all agreed it was the best after hours we have attended.

In Kind Donation update: The financial report for the year shows in kind donations totaling $720,425.00. Due to the diligent efforts of board members, volunteers and staff, clothing and furnishings are now included in this number.

Tour of Homes: At the moment we still plan to have an in person viewing of the homes. We have 4 homes and need 2 additional homes to compete the set for the tour. We need items for an auction or raffle at Family Connection when people come to pick up their tickets. We also need to look at other ideas for fund raising. Please send out personal e mails to your contact list or businesses that you frequent to ask them for a sponsorship. Volunteers for helping with the tour of homes are : Sherry, Michael Kilpatrick, Anna Speessen, Jane Kimzey, Renee Lunney, Cathy Cox-Brakefield, Chris Martinez.

Strategy Team Update: Anna Speessen

Anna Speessen explained that the Strategy Team meets every other Tuesday and will meet next Tuesday at 1:00 via Zoom and at Family Connection. The focus at the moment is Mental Health.

We received a flyer which advertised the Talk Series beginning August 19. It is scheduled on the third Thursday of August, September, October, November and December. In addition, there are “Watch parties” scheduled around the community with Q and A sessions afterwards.

Feed Fannin Report:

Jane gave the Feed Fannin report. The Feed Fannin online auction is coming up soon. It is a fund raiser to purchase food. It will be held August 20-29 with pickup Friday and Saturday of Labor weekend. The live preview will not be held due to COVID concerns.

July Feed Fannin purchased 644 pounds of produce and YTD 5,955 pounds. The Ada Street and garden partners produced 1897 pounds in July. YTD produce purchase and garden 10,334 pounds. This does not include canned goods, milk and eggs.

Feed Fannin donations are as follows:

Jane and Sherry discussed the poster that has the Feed Fannin donations listed as 17,000. Jane noted that that does not give the fullest picture of Feed Fannin’s donations to the pantry. Sherry agreed and will work to revise the poster. Several board members made suggestions to how to do that.

Directors Report:

Monthly statistics - As always Food Lion leads the way, donating the greatest number of pounds. Monthly reports are attached. End of year numbers should be ready shortly. Client visits are at an all-time high with seniors growing at the fastest rate.

Poverty 101 Crash Course training is scheduled for Sept 10. Sherry agreed to extend it to two days and will work out the details for that.

Youth Mental Health First Aid is Wednesday September 15th. From 8-5 at FCFC. Steven Miracle will present on how to eliminate the stigma that often accompanies mental health.

Kiwanis is supporting a conference on Human Trafficking October 6, at the Kiwanis Fairgrounds from 9-1.

The Kiwanis Blues Train to fund Ferst Readers is Saturday September 18th.

UNG is having their Tomato Sandwich Supper at 5:30 Sept 23rd. If you are brining a group of people, please RSVP. [Melanie.Cantrell@ung.edu](mailto:Melanie.Cantrell@ung.edu).

Lions club is sponsoring eye exams 5-7 on Sept 8, with glasses. It is by appointment only.

Sherry will be on vacation Thursday and Friday August 27-28 and the week of September 27.

Adjournment

Cathy Cox-Brakefield adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Jane Kimzey

Next Collaborative meeting – Wednesday September 1, at 8:30

Next Board meeting - September 16, at 2 PM

Poverty 101 Class - Wednesdays 1-3PM throughout August at Faith Presbyterian Church

Poverty 101 Class - Friday, September 10, 9-1PM (additional day to be added)