**Fannin County Family Connection**

**Board Minutes**

**September 9, 2021**

In Attendance

Present: Cathy Cox-Brakefield, Jane Kimzey, Tom Niswander, Sherry Echelberger, Gordon Riddoch, Chris Martinez, Renee Lunney, Michael Kilpatrick, James Brumbelow, Candace Youngberg, Robert Gleadal, Theresa Dillard, Cindy Trimble,

Absent: Laura Thomas, Maureen Escott, Anna Speessen

Staff present: Sherry Morris, Kristi Lindstrom

Cathy Cox-Brakefield announced that Laura was resigning from the board. Her work commitments were no longer allowing her time to fulfill her obligations on the board. Gordon Riddoch gave the results of the United Methodist Spaghetti supper. It raised $6,000 for the pantry. There was applause all around. Cathy Cox-Brakefield thanked Jane Kimzey for filling in to give the Family Connections report at the Feed Fannin meeting. She will work to have other board members take turns giving this report.

Call to order and Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Robert Gleadal and seconded 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

Tom Niswander gave the financial report which is attached. He began by giving lots of credit to Sherry Morris for having the statistics ready in a month that allowed fewer days than usual to prepare. The financial committee continues to work on simplifying the monthly statements so that they are more readily readable.

Currently Feed Fannin is not reimbursing us for food bank purchases because FCFC is utilizing a grant to pay for food. Feed Fannin payments will resume after the grant is depleted.

The finance committee decided that a workshop on the investment policy was not needed. They will make a proposal and then the board can weigh in on what they have prepared.

Strategy Team Update: Anna Speessen

Jim Yacavone asked that Anna Speessen let us in on her secret to organizing such an effective committee in such a short time. Everyone agreed that the work she has done and continues to do with this Strategy Team is amazing.

The upcoming Mental Health Awareness Television Campaign is ongoing. Red Ribbon week and Watch Party activities are planned. In addition, there will be information prominently placed on a bill board.

Feed Fannin Report

Jane Kimzey gave the Feed Fannin report. The auction brought in over $11,000 which will go for food for the hungry. Feed Fannin will be harvesting our sweet potatoes soon and are making arrangements to provide some to Good Samaritans for their Community Thanksgiving meal. Feed Fannin has harvested 10, 92.67 pounds of produce from Ada Street.

Tour of Homes Fundraiser:

Renee Lunney reported that we now have the number of homes that we need. Michael Kilpatrick announced that Linda Kliros has agreed to use her home making the total 6 homes. We have a little time to decide if we will do the tour in person or virtually. We are ready either way. Sherry will have a letter ready for us to send out to the chamber list for sponsorship. The letter will be ready September 21 and board members are encouraged to come by to help send them out and to write personal notes on the ones that you know. You can also send the information out by e mail.

The committee will meet at 2:00 that day to continue planning. The committee needs to make a list of tasks to be completed including homeowner individual requests. Some may require masks and other may not require masks.

Directors Report:

Monthly statistics -As always Food Lion leads the way, donating the greatest number of retail pounds. Monthly reports are attached. October and November are traditionally the pantry’s busiest months.

Sherry Morris trained around 40 people at session in August at the Poverty 101 at Faith Presbyterian Church. She did not have many signups for the September training and will reschedule that class.

Kiwanis Blues Train for fund Ferst Readers is Saturday, September 18.

UNG Tomato Sandwich Supper is 5:30 at the UNG Blue Ridge Campus. Please RSVP.

Sherry will be on vacation the week of September 27.

Executive Session

We broke into executive session to discuss employee policies. No action was taken.

Adjournment

Cathy Cox-Brakefield adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Jane Kimzey

Next Collaborative meeting – Community Conference, Wednesday October 6, at 9am on ETC3 and YouTube

Next Board meeting – October 14, at 2 PM