



Everyone needs help sometimes.

Erin's Angels ensures that children who rely on subsidized lunches continue to receive food vital to their growth and development through our Backpack Program and Food Pantry.

Erin's Angels mobilizes the community, individuals, and resources to provide food on the weekends for elementary school children in the Phoenix Central School District who might otherwise go hungry.

Board Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2020 8:00pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendance: Sheila Dion, Alissa Tubbs, Michelle Newvine, Connie Deshaies, Jim Graham, Linda Bulgrien, Barb Stone, Maria Jackson

Call to Order by Connie at 8:22pm and Jen 2nd the meeting

Approval of Minutes from last Board Meeting – Jim made a motion to approve Feb minutes by and Barb 2nd

Treasurer's Report (see attached) - Sheila Dion presented report Balance of \$73,976.20 and the following:

Deposits:

Bloomerang- Thank you to board for approving the Bloomerang program. It shares donor's info & captures. Program encourages to call donors with their 1st time donation & Sheila reports she makes phone calls to personally thank donors. Some donors have made recurring donation – captures & engages. The first donation arrived on Feb 14, 2020. Currently there are 311 contacts working towards 500 contacts to be eligible for a program upgrade.

EA Received Upstate Shredding Grant in the amount of \$2,000.00

Dr. Purnima made a \$2,000.00 check donation for anyone who needs help

Deductions:

\$51.71 paid for Go Daddy for an EA email address – Discussed when we used the older EA mail chimp email address, stats show most free type email goes into spam mailboxes, so a registered email gives EA legitimacy with increased percentage of emails actually opened.

\$2180.00 paid for EA attorney, sponsored donation, so this expense is a wash

\$374.40 paid to buy 1000 envelopes for EA mailings

\$34.01 paid for the mail chimp email account

\$122.00 paid for PO Box Rent

\$55.00 paid to purchase stamps for Donor Thank You Letters

\$187.00 spent to buy Stamps for Annual Appeal Mailing

\$741.16 paid to the Food bank CNY for Bulk Food Orders by Linda for EA distribution

Jim Graham made a motion to approve Treasurer's Report, and 2nd by Barb

Old Business

Nominations – Sheila Dion nominated Maria Jackson for Secretary, Connie 2nd, board approved

Sheila nominated Barb Stone for Treasurer Jenn 2nd, board approved

Sheila nominated Alissa Tubbs for President, 2nd Connie, board all approved

Sheila expressed thank you to Michelle for her service with EA.

Liability Insurance: Sheila expressed the urgency of obtaining liability insurance and EA received 2nd quote for \$949.00 from Philadelphia Insurance Company providing same liability terms and conditions as listed as 1st quote from One Group for \$1390.00 – IE. events, board coverage, volunteers during fundraising events, etc. as noted in February minutes.

Connie made a motion to approve/buy the insurance from Philadelphia Insurance Company, Jen 2nd, voted- all board approved

Packing Update: Connie, Robin, Bill Carl, & Sarah with Linda's guidance, have a month's worth of bags packed. The bags are scheduled for delivery to go home on April 17, 2020 via the bus drivers.

Sheila expressed she is "wicked proud" that the previous food bags went home the same weeks that school was closed. "Kudos to program & to Linda & Connie for organizing". Sheila gave thanks to Phoenix School District for delivering food to kids every other day during week. Sheila gave thanks to Jim, and asked him to convey gratitude to the Phoenix School Board and Jim accepted, and said he would relay the message. Sheila added, after April 17, 2020 food bag delivery, it's likely kids will still be at home. Schools are preparing for online learning. Sheila asked Linda & Connie to please advise what crew they want/need to help pack bags for the rest of school year.

Linda asked: How/When can EA volunteers/members access the building and place all the food there? Reported that we have to work with the Food Bank to order food to secure/replenish for the end of the year. It's likely there's enough food in April through May 1st, for 2 +/- weeks then will need more food.

Sheila reported the Food bank is overwhelmed. Sheila checked with Food Bank to see about boxes. Senior Citizens are volunteers at food pantries, staying home, no way to get food. Can't web order food either. Suggested we coordinate request phone call on Mon March 30th with Linda to see about food quantity on hand to plan for future deliveries/demand.

Jim volunteered to contact Chris to see about EA volunteers to get into the school building pertaining to policies and procedures during the COVID19 current operations. Jim conveyed the district needs a heads up to comply/plan cleaning up procedures when people are in bldg. Information shared to possibly enter building in one door to minimize people throughout the building. Jim will contact Chris at school about the need to pack bags/store food/procedures for moving forward and will report back to the group. Looking at potentially entering the building after April 17th. They like the food bags ready by Wed to get to the bus drivers, so probably the 21st to enter the school to setup/pack bags.

Fundraisers: Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was cancelled on March 26 due to Coronavirus

RFH is available and penciled in for May or perhaps the fall. Sheila ordered T-shirts for all the volunteers via Chad who owns Pack Rat Storage. Chad gave \$1,000.00 donation to buy T-shirts. Sheila added, the dinner is a way to thank volunteers and sponsors. For the March date there were 83 RSVP's confirmed. Sheila conveyed there was almost \$2,000.00 from sponsorship and Sheila received permission from the sponsors to have the donations convert to EA donation if dinner is not held this year.

Brooklyn Pickle – Discussed take-out orders are still a possibility and Sheila recommend still doing it and it will also help a local business. Other board members agreed, and suggested an all-day fundraiser event be held via

the Brooklyn Pickle located at 7175 Buckley Road, Liverpool, NY. Sheila will ask Brooklyn Pickle for a Fundraiser Event on April 2nd day with the possibility of doing another one again later in the year.

New Business:

- Adirondack Beverage gave \$500.00 as a sponsor for the Volunteer Dinner. Jenn is in the process of getting a new check written to Erin's Angels, as the other check was written incorrectly.
- Jenn conveyed that Dennis, from Mohegan Manor's girlfriend recommended Sheila to setup EA meeting with Rotary Club to arrange for \$3000.00 donation from Baldwinsville Rotary Program. Sheila shared she recently sent Rotary a fund request and has expressed meeting with them in the past. Sheila would like to talk with them.
- Music for the Mission has mini grant through CNY Community Foundation (Easy Emergency Grant) for \$1,000.00 specifically asking for funding for Grant Middle School, due to a request for help from Brad a 6th grade teacher at the school ranked with 98% poverty. Statistics at Grant Jr. High School in Syracuse City School District shows many refugees. The grant is requesting money for 25 families to buy food as they are having difficulty with crisis waiting in line at food banks and being told the pantries are out of food. Sheila relayed many counties are having trouble getting food sorted, available/delivered due to lack of volunteers due to covid19 situation. She added EA/Phoenix is set. Sheila recommended EA to provide food for Brad's 6th Grade Class at Grant Jr. High through EA approval for \$500 mini grant if CNY Community Foundation funds are not approved. Jim Graham made a motion to approve and Connie 2nd, all board approved. Jennifer suggested \$1,000.00 if grant does not go through and Sheila suggested we wait & see and review at a later date if needed.
- There was a discussion regarding in the news-govt/schools reported providing lunches being served during Covid19. Members reported knowledge of school district lunchrooms are preparing/serving food 2-3 times per week with food provisions for the entire week, so students have meals.
- Alissa reported that the SNAP benefits/government decision has been pushed to Dec 31st so families won't lose those benefits as of right now.
- Sheila reported 245 letters were mailed for Annual Appeal & Sheila will track responses. At a later date, Sheila would like EA to mail a postcard to entire zip codes located in 13609, 13135 & 13132. _Sheila added for the program to be sustainable, EA needs to keep fundraising. Recognizing it's perhaps the best & worst time to ask for donations. EA will mail out and wait and see what comes back.
- Sheila shared a NYC donation request with sensitivity arrived similar with Erin's situation, that wanted to make a donation in the person's name. At the website, Sheila created an in-memoriam section added with a place for person's/child's pic/name to acknowledge donations. Sheila also created a Phoenix, Alumni donation page on the EA website.
- Due to the success of Bloomerang donations, Sheila would like to create a club, such as a smile club, for reoccurring donors and would like to roll it out soon.
- A donation from Bob Schug was given of \$100.00 for candy to be added to kids food delivery bags in April. Sarah Roberts at school approved 84 little chocolate bunnies to go to the children. Sheila will deliver the chocolate bunnies to the bus station to have delivered to 84 kids with their food bags. Bob Schug said to keep him in mind for future donations.
- Lock 1 Distillery is making hand sanitizer and donating a case of sanitizer for the Phoenix School District bus drivers. Sheila picked it up today to drop off to the bus drivers for their use to keep them safe. Jen added, Adirondack bottle company had donated all the bottles to Lock 1 Distillery. Volunteers were observed packaging and prepping the sanitizer.

- A donation of \$25.00 was received from Candy Burtch, a member from Little Utica United Methodist Group, as part of a private donation plus from the fund drive from the sale of EA tote bags
- Cicero American Legion gave a donation for \$250.00 and shared they voted in favor of being an ongoing support for EA in the future.
- Alissa advised Sheila to let her know regarding food bank issues/deliveries to help connect for food supply/replenishment. Alissa added, the Ben Snow Foundation possibility has funded smaller programs in the past.
- Sheila suggested Barb call her to make arrangements to meet her at Pathfinder Bank in Clay to get together to sign and to get a key.

Set Next Meeting: April 23, 2020 at 6:30p via Zoom, Jim moved to approve meeting, the motion was 2nd and approved

Adjournment: at 9:23pm, Alissa motioned the meeting to adjourn and Jennifer 2nd

Attachments: Treasury Report

Submitted by: Maria R. Jackson

Our vision is that children in our community will be food secure and healthy and that hunger never gets in the way of their education.

