

June 3rd Compassion Network meeting notes

Opening prayer and welcome of new volunteers

Review of who we are and what we are doing for 1st time attendees

Review of May 19th picnic at Bethel Methodist Church

- overall positive feedback
- helped engage new volunteers who attended
- next picnic??? need to have someone step up to host soon
- discussed starting weekly or biweekly community dinners hosted by local churches

Living Faith Baptist Church – an example of what compassion ministry outreach can look like, even in a small church in a community like our own. Total church involvement in redeeming their community one person at a time. Should be an encouragement us.

- free Friday lunches for local workers and the community
- disaster and urgent need response teams
- clothes washing service thru the church, for homeless, flood victims, etc.
- 8 station portable shower unit
- hosting and feeding team Rubicon for 2 weeks to help with disaster relief efforts
- constructing 3500 sq ft community center on their own property which will provide counseling services, addiction services, shelter, vehicle repair for elderly and single moms, a community room

Keep in mind, this is a church of about 110 people which has been in their church building for less than 3 years. An example of walking in faith and living out the 2 great commandments in ones community.

Housing demands – there have been 5 new cases of folks in need of a place to live in the past 2 weeks. Have only been able to provide a solution in one case. (Since the meeting on the 3rd, there have been 3 new cases, all are unresolved at this time)

On a good note, 2 new families have stepped up to open their doors to provide a place for a single person (or a mom with a small child to live0 single bedroom option. Just waiting for the right fit to come along. God already has someone who He will bring to us for each of these places, I am certain. Godly people hoping to be able to disciple strangers in need of refuge. Pure religion.

Transportation is becoming an ever-growing obstacle in being able to provide the types of help the people we house really need. We need a vehicle which can be at our disposal at any time that can carry multiple people and car seats for children. We also need a more organized team of folks willing to serve as transportation for the various needs of those we serve. If you can give time to drive folks to appointments or watch children while we take mom to job interviews, please let me know.

The opportunity to purchase a minivan

- We can purchase a used van at ½ book price immediately as a partial solution
- \$2500 would pay for the van, tax, title, license and insurance (probably 6 months)
- Discussed a hoagie sale as an initial fundraiser, passed out sale sheets

State Farm Grant – Submitting a grant application to State Farm for a \$25,000 grant which will be used to purchase a late model van to fill our transportation needs. This application was submitted on June 5th. On Aug 5th, State Farm will choose 200 finalists from the 2000 applicants. If we are a finalist, there will be a 10 day online voting period to determine the 40 grant winners. The top 40 vote-getters will receive a \$25,000 grant.

So, if we are a finalist, a social media voting campaign will determine if we are funded. Time to prepare for that possibility is now. The better organized we are on Aug 5th, the more effective our vote campaign will be. Start thinking about every single person you know who could help us with 10 days of clicking a link and voting for our cause. You can vote every day, 10 votes a day for our cause. **Compile a list of your voters** and we will organize a system to make the voting process seamless and easy for them.

I introduced the concept of Rapid Response Compassion Teams. Groups of believers who are ready to serve our neighbors in a rapid, loving way in times or urgent need, disasters, etc. I have included more info on that at the end of this email.

In way of new ideas, Rob Liotta and Matt Wehrle presented ideas on holding a Trash and Treasure sale as a source of funds and as a means of promoting the network in the community. Likewise, it could be a tool where we link with other service providers in a mutually beneficial manner. This will be a pretty involved effort which could and should any and all members of the faith community and our local churches. Rob has graciously offered to run point on this. There will be much more to come on this as plans are made.

OUR NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY JULY 1ST AT 6:30PM AT BURRELL COMMUNITY CHURCH.

If you haven't done so, go to compassion-network.com and click on the “give us your contact information” tab. Once done, you will receive an email asking you to verify your email address. YOU MUST respond to that email in order to become active in our system. Without that info, we have no way to contact you and to keep you up to date.

I closed the meeting with prayer and this request. Please prayerfully consider what role God has for you in these outreach efforts. Help us understand how we can best help you fulfill what He has planned for you. If you aren't sure, please step out in faith and the Lord will guide us together. There is much to do as God keeps bringing more and more people our way. It is all for His glory.

I will leave you with this closing thought: How much of your time, money, resources and talents are being spent on eternity, on the kingdom?