

Partners for an Enriched Community (P.E.C.)
Minutes - January 13, 2010

In attendance: Benton Township: Jan Suthard, Boys and Girls Club of Lake County: Mike McCauley, CareNet Family Resource Center: Brenda Benegas, Childserv: Samantha Freeman, Compass Christian Counseling: Kelsie Newbrough, Kay Swatkowski, CREW, Inc.: Dan Juliana, Maggie Maxwell, LOVE INC: Marlene Compton, Jacqui Franclemont, Salvation Army: Captain Bill Holman, SER/Fair Housing Center of Lake County: Megan Harrington, Rosa Reyes-Prosen, Teen MOPS: Jean Studebaker, YWCA: Elizabeth Rosiles, Zion-Benton Public Library: Susan Clark, Zion-Benton Township High School: Jenny Hoy, Zion Park District: Karen McElyea, Zion Township: Eunice Bridges, Cheri Ditzig, Adriana Ortiz

Maggie Maxwell, Facilitator, called the meeting to order at 11:35 AM and welcomed guests.

November Minutes: Motion from Jan Suthard to approve the minutes from November 4, 2009. Dan Juliana seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote of members present.

Introductions: This month we had four guests attend PEC: Megan Harrington, SER/Fair Housing Center of Lake County, Mike McCauley, Boys & Girls Club of Lake County, Elizabeth Rosiles, YWCA Lake County and Kay Swatkowski, Compass Christian Counseling.

PEC Success-Where are we going with PEC: Maggie explained that for the past few months we have been using the *Measuring PEC Success* spreadsheets to track our individual and group progress through PEC. As we start the New Year, we would like to take PEC to the next level by devising ways to work smarter together, not harder. The group discussed the following questions:

- What takes up most of your time in your position?
- What can we do through PEC to help one another work smarter, not harder?

It was agreed that the emergency resource sheet created by Zion Township will be distributed to all PEC members. In addition a contact list for PEC members will be created with direct numbers to reach one another to save time. Additional organization information will be added to the PEC page on CREW's website so members are able to quickly access details regarding agency services and whom to contact directly to better serve clients. Lastly, it was suggested that PEC members visit collaborating agencies to better familiarize themselves with the locations and services provided.

Book of the Month Club: In November, we decided to read *Whale Done!* for January's meeting. The group agreed to table discussion of the book until February to give more members the opportunity to finish reading.

Announcements:

The Salvation Army: The Salvation Army had a very successful Christmas Campaign. The Christmas kettles alone raised over \$437,000. They were able to assist 400 families with

Christmas. The facility is in the process of starting a building project which will include a community center, an education center and a food pantry.

Zion Park District: Zion Park District helped 466 children through Toys-for-Tots this year. They recently received a grant to do more programming for seniors. Watch for more senior meal programs in the near future.

LOVE, INC: LOVE, INC is having a fundraiser on Saturday, February 20 at Rink Side Sports in Gurnee. The event will run all day. Contact Marlene at marlenec@loveinclakecty.net for more information and to receive a form for the event. Their Christmas program was very successful in assisting families from Catholic Charities. At the last minute, a number of organizations donated for families who had not yet received items for Christmas.

ZBTHS: Jenny reported that the students are in final exams this week. Many of the high school kids collected food and money to assist families for Christmas. Through these donations, Jenny's department was able to adopt three families.

Zion Benton Public Library: The Library is a drop-off site for Jean Studebaker's Socks for the Soul program through January 30. They have already received a number of donations. There will be several celebrations for Black History Month in February. Community members are encouraged to use the free computers. The Library will be purchasing three new computers for the Library very soon. ZB Library recently received a Geek grant which is a pilot grant to help make people aware of what libraries have to offer. Susan reported that this project has been going very well.

Benton Township: Jan announced May 8th will be Mama's Run which is spearheaded by Coalition for Healthy Communities' (CHC) Healthy Youth. Proceeds will go to CHC and CREW to fund programs. In addition, CHC is sponsoring a run on June 6th to benefit Assistance in Healthcare. The event and its proceeds will serve as a thank you to Cancer Treatment Centers of America for their service and commitment to the ZB community.

CareNet Family Resource Center: CareNet's Walk For Life will be May 15th. Details to follow closer to May. Brenda reported that they have had many new clients since the New Year.

Compass Christian Counseling: Kay offered Compass Christian Counseling's services to PEC members and stated that it is also important to take care of the caregiver. If you would like book recommendations or would like to speak to someone, please call 847.746.5524. Kelsie will be spending March 17 - April 11 in Thailand doing a ministry program for women who are victims to prostitution.

Boys and Girls Club of Lake County: The Boys and Girls Club has had 40-45 members attending daily. They currently have 75 registered. During their Christmas give-away, they

received a large donation from the Vernon Hills Police Department. They recently had a coat drive and have a few extra coats. If you know of someone in need, please contact Mike McCauley at mmccauley@bgcl.com. Boys and Girls Club will be having a benefit on February 13th at Illinois Beach Resort. Tickets are \$50.

SER/Fair Housing Lake County: SER's ESL classes will be starting again soon. They are currently registering students for both day and evening classes. Please contact Reni Mitkova or Rosa Reyes-Prosen for more information at 847-336-1125.

TeenMOPS: TeenMOPS will start meeting the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at the ZB Library at 6:30 p.m. Childcare is provided. Currently, the group is in need of transportation assistance. If you know someone who can help, please contact Jean Studebaker at gramastu@comcast.net.

Zion Township: Zion Township served over 300 families through its Christmas Co-op program. As of February 1, the Summer Work Program hotline will be taking calls for youth ages 14-15 who live in Zion or Benton Township and would like to participate in the program this summer. Those interested can call 847-377-3443. **Please encourage people to call February 1 as there are only 40 spaces available.**

CREW: Dan reported that CREW has been very busy the past few months. CREW provides DUI, outpatient services and anger management counseling. Those referred from Probation and Parole are encouraged to call to complete their counseling hours through CREW. There is no waiting list. Martha Palmer has started a Women's AA group in the evenings. Please contact her at martyp2559@yahoo.com for more information.

ChildServ: Samantha reported that Childserv's Parent Empowerment Program offers services to mothers of all ages. For more information, contact Samantha at sfreeman@childserv.org.

YWCA: Elizabeth announced that the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program lost funding to perform free mammograms. The YWCA is now the only agency offering these workshops. For more information, call 847-662-4247.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.