

Partners for an Enriched Community (P.E.C.)
Minutes - November 4, 2009

In attendance: BENNU Legal Services: Berenice Uribe, Benton Township: Jan Suthard, CREW, Inc.: Maggie Maxwell, John Rivers, Kids Hope United: Francine Jones-Brantley, LOVE INC: Jacqui Franclemont, Memorial United Methodist Church: Nancy Kuhlman Ntim, Salvation Army: Rebecca Friede, Captain Bill Holman, Teen MOPS: Jean Studebaker, YouthBuild Lake County: Holly Brown, YWCA: Lori Deere, Zion Benton Children's Services: Gaby Gallegos, Zion-Benton Public Library: Susan Clark, Nann Hilyard, Zion District #6: Grace Robinson, 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.

October Minutes: Motion from Jan Suthard to approve the minutes from October 14, 2009. Susan Clark seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote of members present.

Introductions: This month we had three guests attend PEC: Berenice Uribe, BENNU Legal Services, John Rivers, CREW, Inc. and Nancy Kuhlman Ntim, Memorial United Methodist Church. Members were asked to introduce one another and explain the impact that person has on the Zion-Benton community and as a member of PEC.

Measuring PEC Success: A copy of the "Measuring PEC Success" spreadsheet outcomes was shared from October's meeting.

Lake County Community Foundation Bus Tour Update: Maggie reported that the Foundation bus tour went very well. Donors and private foundation members learned about the collaborative efforts taking place within the ZB community through Pearce Community Resource Center, PEC and CCI. The Northern Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Food Pantry was also present on October 22. Volunteers from the Foundation tour group as well as New Tech High School assisted Food Bank staff in distributing food to 200 families in need. Maggie stated that the event received coverage in the Lake County News Sun and that she would e-mail PEC members a copy of the article with the November minutes. Copies of the Pearce booklet that was given to each bus tour attendee were also shared.

Book of the Month Club: The following titles were recommended by PEC members for our next book: *Recognizing Richard Rabbit* by Peter Weddle, *Fish! A Remarkable Way to Boost Morale and Improve Results* by Stephen C. Lundin, *Whale Done!* by Ken Blanchard, *Who Moved My Cheese?* by Ken Blanchard and *If Life is A Bowl of Cherries, What Am I Doing in the Pits?* by Erma Bombeck. The group voted and determined we will be reading *Whale Done!* which will be discussed at the January PEC meeting. Nann recommended that anyone interested in borrowing *Whale Done!* from the library should put a hold on the book to receive an available copy as soon as possible.

Sharing the Difference We Make: Each PEC member was given three blue ribbons. Maggie shared a PowerPoint presentation with the group that explained the purpose of the ribbons which symbolize “Who I am makes a difference.” PEC members were encouraged to share the story and two additional ribbons with others who have impacted their lives. A copy of the presentation will be distributed to PEC members along with the November minutes.

Announcements:

CREW: Maggie announced that there will not be a December PEC meeting.

Jan invited everyone to attend the 4th Annual Corporate Community Spelling Bee which will be held November 12th at 7:00 PM at North Point Church. CREW is sponsoring a 50/50 raffle with tickets selling for \$10 each. Those who enter the raffle have a chance to win \$1500. All proceeds will go toward Community Resources for Education and Wellness (CREW), Inc. For more information, contact Jan Suthard at 847-746-2100.

Benton Township: Jan announced that on November 5th between 1:00 - 4:00 pm Cash for Dash will be at Benton Township. In addition, anyone who has gently used coats is encouraged to donate them to Alyssa’s Angels from now through February. For more information, contact Jan Suthard at 847-746-2100.

YWCA: Lori announced that the Annual Women’s Health and Cancer Awareness Expo was Saturday, October 24th from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Belvidere Mall in Waukegan. They had a large turnout with a number of new organizations who participated for the first time, including BENNU Legal Services.

The SISTA Intervention Program will begin in January. This is a five-week series designed to reduce the spread of HIV and STDs to African American women by promoting healthy behaviors in a safe, intimate environment. The program is designed to help African American women stay HIV negative. For more information call Shaunta McGee at 847-662-4247 ext. 127 or visit www.ywcalakecounty.org.

Zion Park District: Karen stated that the latest issue of Happenings has a coupon for anyone interested in using the new sports arena and fitness studio. The Park District’s Toys for Tots program is set up at Shiloh Center. For more information, e-mail Karen at kmcelyea@zionparkdistrict.org.

Services for Seniors: The Park District is offering buses for seniors who are Zion residents. They are also having a Thanksgiving meal on November 18th. For more information call 847-746-5500.

Salvation Army: Rebecca announced that the Salvation Army has exhausted over \$100,000 in funds until January. They are in need of volunteers to organize toys and ring kettles. For details, visit www.sawaukegan.org.

Rebecca has copies of the sign up list for Christmas gifts for kids. She is happy to share this information and can be reached at rebecca_friede@usc.salvationarmy.org. Starting the first week in November until the end of March coat vouchers will be available for anyone in need. If you are interested in giving vouchers to your agency's clients, contact Rebecca.

Applications for bell ringers are now being taken. Bell ringers can work up to 60 hours per week and will earn \$8 an hour. Applications are available at their office location on Greenbay Road in Waukegan. People can work 4, 6 or 8 hour shifts. You must be 14 or older for this job. Visit www.sawaukegan.org for more information.

Zion-Benton Public Library: Nann shared that the Illinois Beach Sunrise Rotary Club is having its annual citrus sale. All proceeds help community projects in our community. There will be a quilt show this month at the Round Lake Beach Cultural and Civic Center. Call Nann for details, 847-872-4680 ext. 110.

Susan passed out flyers about the Library's 5th annual craft show on November 21 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. For more information visit the Library's website at: www.zblibrary.org.

Zion Township: Cheri encouraged people to call their commissioners and ask them if they are supporting the efforts A Safe Place is making to expand housing for its clients within the Zion community. She also mentioned that the Lake County Homeless Coalition is working in partnership with Catholic Charities to implement a Homelessness Prevention Program. Catholic Charities is the gateway for this funding. The program is set up to help renters who have fallen behind, those in danger of becoming homeless or those whose income is not enough right now to make ends meet. For details, call Catholic Charities at 847-782-4212 or 847-782-4266.

Eunice stated this year for the Christmas Co-op, Zion Township is coordinating a one-list process to minimize duplication. Please refer families in need to their school's social workers. They can schedule an appointment to complete an application to participate. Eunice and Adriana distributed the Township's Senior Program brochures, Emergency Services brochures, Rebuilding Together flyer and the Township newsletter. For additional information about any of these services or programs, please call the Township at 847-872-2811.

Adriana announced that thanks to Rebecca Friede's announcement about the bell ringer opportunities two of her clients were able to obtain jobs.

Memorial United Methodist Church: Nancy encouraged members to visit and attend services on Sundays at 9:30 or 11:00 am. The church is located at 2935 Sheridan Road.

Teen MOPS: Teen MOPS had its first meeting October 14th. Six moms attended. They were excited about the turnout and hope attendance continues to go up. They will discuss issues of safety at their next meeting.

YouthBuild: Holly announced that YouthBuild has started implementing the employment grant for minorities to get into unions. The grant requires that minorities be between the ages of 18-26 and have a G.E.D. or high school diploma. For more information, call Holly at 847.473.3483.

Kids Hope United: Francine reported that the Foster Grandparent program will officially end December 31. This will most likely be her last PEC meeting.

BENNU Legal Services: Berenice announced that BENNU will be having its second Know Your Rights workshop on December 5th at 2:30 at Zion-Benton Public Library. Topics to be addressed include: raids at workplaces, searches and seizures, what to say if you are pulled over while driving and other immigration issues. Space is limited. For more information and to RSVP call Berenice at 847-821-2786.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM.