

**Notes/Minutes of the Faith Subcommittee - Ventura Social Services Task Force**  
**Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016; 3 to 4:30 pm; Ventura Church of Christ**

Present: Judy Alexandre, Sue Brinkmeyer, Lynn Geller, John Sanders Jones, Pam Marshall, Ruth Owens, Dave Schulze

New People (Welcome!): Glena Bailey, Bruce Gilbert, Robin Lerner, Al Myers, Renee Rueda

1. **"Push for Ponchos"** update: have ordered 220 and will be ordering more. All previous orders have been received and distributed, paid by donations received. Project will continue as needed.

2. **Winter Warming Shelter:** still in need of volunteers, mostly for the early morning shifts. Breakfast supplies also needed. Steve Karnazes is manager and contact. There have been no problems with those using the shelter. 19% have been from Ventura; there would probably be more, but no transportation offered from Ventura to Oxnard location.

3. **Family Promise:** meeting will be held on 1/28 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Ventura at 6:30 pm, 3290 Loma Vista Rd. Focused on women and families, to provide a safe place to go when homeless. At least twelve houses of faith would be needed: families would move from location to location. Families would sleep there and have meals and showers. There would be case management with a goal to finding permanent housing. Participating houses of faith can act as mentors, provide food and transportation, a place to sleep/shower (on a rotational basis?), contribute to budget for costs, etc. Meeting will discuss possibilities and learn how Family Promise works. They also have a website: [www.familypromise.org](http://www.familypromise.org) .

4. **Partners For Change - "A Roof For All" Event follow-up:** attendance was 90+ and all participated in small groups and large group effort. We have facilitators' notes from each table, Action Commitment forms - 38 + 4 added at this meeting for a total of 42. Nearly all were committed to going to the upcoming Homeless Workshop to be hosted by City of Ventura. Nearly all also pledged to 'spread the word'. We have gained new members of this subcommittee, and many have shown interest in attending City Council and County Supervisors meetings, writing letters and donating to a Crisis Housing site.

Looking over the action plans/ideas submitted during the event, we can see that the Faith Community is ready for action, tired of just talking about it, wants to partner, wants results.

Question to Committee members: ***What do you want to accomplish?***

Answers:

- Would like more information for involvement of houses of faith
- Interested in finding best methods, get more information and be of service
- Would like clear understanding of what our group does and our purpose
- We need someone who is a "move and a shaker" behind us to rattle City Hall, perhaps more than one person.

Ideas and responses:

- Mission Statement and talking points are available on the Ventura Social Services Task Force website (VSSTF). There is a brochure that can be printed out and distributed as well.
- Begin listing our goals and include accomplishments as we move forward.
- City Council first meeting of each month allows for Public Comment. John Sanders Jones has been going every month and speaking. Idea: for pastors//faith leaders to come and speak each month, on a rotating basis with supporting members of their congregations and this committee. This would be a strong message to the City from the Faith Community.

**To - Do List:**

1. Pam will compose a letter to the Ventura Inter-Faith Ministerial Association (VIMA) and also to the small evangelical group that Dave is part of. We will be asking for the leaders to agree to take turns speaking during the Public Comment section of the first Council meeting of each month, and give a copy of the schedule to this committee.
2. Ruth will be handling the list of attendees who submitted the Action Commitment Forms and will be noting those that agreed to come to meetings, advising them of upcoming dates/times, etc. Also: anyone can sign up on the City of Ventura's website to be advised by e-mail of upcoming Council meetings/agendas.
3. Editorial/Letter writing coordinator needed.
4. Lynn will be reminding those who signed-up to attend our Committee meetings of upcoming meeting, also Spread-the-Word Coordinator (Talking

Points/White Paper).

5. Dave will put together the facilitators' notes from the event with bullet points and the main focus.
6. Send out a summary of commitments - numerical, with no names or personal information.
7. Sue and Judy to compile a 3-year history of the handling of homelessness, point-by-point.

**Other Ideas/Needs:**

Resources : Fair Housing Law Experts (Pro-Bono!), possibly Camilla Ramirez, Nick Starkey.

Involvement of Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs

We need a list of the costs to the City of homelessness compared to the costs of Crisis Housing. Our job is to help the Council put out criteria for full Crisis/Shelter. The Council will want an agency with management and grants experience.

We could create a DVD with success stories to give to Faith Community to share.

**Upcoming Events:**

- City Workshop on Homelessness will likely be in April. More information to follow.
- March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016: Judy: VSSTF is having a Business Community Event (like the Roof For All Event) with a goal to having the Business Community join the Faith Community in finding solutions and strategic partnerships to end homelessness in Ventura.

Next Meeting: February 24, 2016

Submitted by Pam Marshall