**NOTES/MINUTES of the Faith Subcommittee of the Ventura Social Services Task Force: Wednesday, July 27, 2016 at 3 pm at the Ventura Church of Christ**

Present: Judy Alexandre, Bruce Gilbert, Robin Lerner, Pam Marshall, Al Myers, Dave Schulze

Guest: Harold Cartlidge of Unitarian Universalist Church

Welcome and opened in prayer: Al Myers

1. Family Promise – Robin: Ventura group recently visited Family Promise in Santa Clarita. They have a Day House + churches where families sleep, have been in operation for 5 years with no problems; managed to raise $50,000 in one year. Ventura group is having some difficulty getting houses of faith to allow presentations. Working to overcome barriers and have come up with a recruitment form; shared information with Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Association.

2. Riverhaven – Pam for Lynn (from e-mail): raised $750 over the goal set for the refrigerator + one-year supply of Propane. Turning Point was sent $1320; 3 large shade coverings were purchased before their July 4th barbeque. Solar project = working with STEM from Buena High School, proposal for solar motion detector lights mounted 15’ to prevent theft. Poles and lights to be donated, labor to be provided by the residents, so amount of funds needed will only be about $4,000. This will include decent size solar flashlights for each resident. More updates to follow in August.

3. Bicycle Project – Judy: The Income Sustainability subcommittee of the Continuum of Care Alliance has taken on the idea of working with VC Cool to help homeless people learn repair and care of bicycles. They hope to have a Pilot Program in Ventura, and possibly expand to Simi Valley and Oxnard. Persons can earn points towards getting a bicycle or learn to repair their own bicycle. They will be working with the Police Department as screening and collections for distribution. Persons can earn a certificate in bicycle repair, earn money, learn cooperation and some job skills, do volunteer work. This is in the planning stages at this point.

4. Showers of Blessing: Harold Cartlidge: after viewing demonstration and information on July 6th VSSTF meeting, Harold, Pam Marshall, and John Sanders Jones agreed to do some research into the feasibility of starting this type of program in Ventura. The group, along with Pastor Jonathan Hall of First Christian Church, attended a session at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Santa Barbara. Initial costs would be around $50,000 for the custom-built trailer; would need to have insurance and figure logistics. Some contacts have been made with local churches who have shown interest. Will be presenting at VIMA meeting; also will be reporting at August VSSTF meeting.

5. Announcement: There will be a Community Workshop in Oxnard on August 2nd to discuss possible alternatives to the Winter Warming Shelter. Also, flyer passed out for new Rapid Re-Housing Funds available for Permanent Housing through the Society of St. Vincent De Paul.

6. Ventura Social Services Task Force Report: Judy: The City Council Meeting on July 11th: The Council (after about 30 years of requests) voted 7 to 0 to direct staff to come up with a plan on March 2017 giving direction (Council agreed to a specific geographic area for Shelter with Services with a Conditional Use Permit) to develop an action plan as follows:

* Implement a housing element in Ventura for affordable housing
* Acknowledged there is a gap in services – need for public and private funding for Crisis Housing
* Agreed to cooperate with the County of Ventura, pending Memorandum of Understanding; agreed to full participation in “Pathways to Home” coordinated entry program of Continuum of Care Alliance of VC
* Plan must be in agreement with city’s Safe and Clean Plan.
* Staff to return with plan for possible subsidization of Conditional Use Permit fees.
* Staff to work on forming a committee to include Faith groups, Business community, City and County staff, Police, and Agencies. (This has been said to be unlikely and will probably be more like consulting with these entities)
* This will probably not be the last year of having a Winter Warming Shelter, as it is unlikely to have completion in time for 2017-2018 season.
* Agreed to continue the effort made for property now belonging to the City – to act on a plan for Veterans.

Suggested for persons to contact Peter Brown and/or Jeff Lambert every 45 days or so to ask how things are going with “the Plan”?

Faith Subcommittee to write letter to Business Community – Ventura Chamber of Commerce, Kevin Clerici and Ventura Police Departments thanking them for their support in this matter during the Council Meeting. Pam will work on a letter.

Meeting adjourned and closed in prayer by Al Myers.

Next Meeting: August 24th, 2016

Submitted by Pam Marshall