



FAITH-BASED COFFEE

Thursday, June 25

Meeting Notes

Announcements

- **Kellie Gordon (Trinity)** – Trinity will be hosting Day Camp on 7/6-7/9 from 9am-3pm for grades 1-6pm and 9am-12pm for preschool and kindergarten ages. Cost is \$30/child or \$90/family. Scholarships are available. For more information contact Kellie at (360) 695-1221 x13 or children@trinityvancouver.org They will also be hosting their 3rd annual School Supply Drive (for Lincoln and Discovery) on 8/22 from 10am-1pm at Trinity.
- **Janet Stone (LDS)** – Clark County Connects Day of Service will be on Saturday, 9/12. Churches and Community Groups are invited to sponsor a service project at your PARTNER School. Send project details to Curt Stone at stonecj11@aol.com and they will post the project on their website and invite volunteers and community to participate. www.ClarkCountyConnects.org
- **Anne Johnston (Clark County Public Health)** – Vancouver Summer Adventure is happening again this year. Please pick up some brochures and help spread the message to families. Follow us on Facebook and visit our website at www.vancouversummeradventure.com
- **Jo'an Sterr (Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church)** – Exploratory Meeting for Establishing Safe Church Campsites on July 15 from 6:30-8:00pm at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church (12513 SE Mill Plain Blvd) Save the date: Workshop by Rev. Bill Kirlin-Hackett on 10/3 Questions: wjsterr@gmail.com
- **Sue Eastman (ReBoot Northwest at Worksource)** – New training program for tech and manufacturing jobs. Starting 7/9 – Information Sessions on Thursdays from 1-2:30pm at Worksource. More Information: 360-735-4956 or www.ReBootNW.org
- **Major W Harris, Jr. (JJRA)** – Their mentoring program now has a new name: Rehabilitation Administration Mentoring Program.
- **Gloria Dominguez (Volunteer at Large!!!)** – GO Ready event 8/19 – needs more volunteers. Contact Gabriela Rosas at gabriela.rosas@vansd.org for more information (she will check email through the summer).
- **Thea Weber (St. John Lutheran Church)** – 7/20-8/20 VSD Write from the Start Campaign for school supply donations.

- **Eileen Swanson (Memorial Lutheran Church)** – They serve a daily free lunch to those that need a hot meal from 10am-1pm at Memorial Lutheran. They are in need of volunteers to help serve the food. For more information, contact Jim Wulf at 360-334-0465.
- **Bob Swearer (Life Journey Lutheran Ministries)** – His church has decided that their gift is that of hospitality and they are working with Thrivent Financial to “Serve the Servants” in our community. They will prepare and serve a free BBQ dinner to any service agency group that would like to host a volunteer appreciation lunch/dinner for their volunteers – it is their way of saying “thank you”. For more information, contact Bob at 402-570-7725 or pbswearer@yahoo.com

Special Presentation: Serving to Create Empowerment vs. Dependence Opening Dialogue by Sue Hoeffner and Kellie Gordon

They have read the book called “Toxic Charity” by Robert D Lupton and it sparked some personal conversation that they thought might be of interest to all those connected with Faith-Based Coffee and helping families. There are some tenants from the book that struck a chord called the Oath of Compassionate Service

- Never do for the poor what they have (or could have) the capacity to do for themselves.
- Limit one-way giving to emergency situations.
- Strive to empower the poor through employment, lending, and investing, using grants sparingly to reinforce achievements.
- Subordinate self-interests to the needs of those being served.
- Listen closely to those you seek to help, especially to what is not being said – unspoken feelings may contain essential clues to effective service.
- Above all, do no harm.

We followed their presentation with a table discussion around Empowerment vs. Dependence using common examples: holiday toy drive, free clothing closets, Thanksgiving dinner baskets, parent support groups with free child care, or churches offering free meals.

Example: Evan Hull with Vancouver Methodist Foundation In Need Fund – Evan shared information about how he has been working with Carla at Washington Elementary and the families they serve together. For example, he has helped pay rent for a family but then asks the family in return to volunteer in the community to work it off (he figures \$15/volunteer hour).

Example: New City Initiative - New City Initiative began in 2010 as a project of JOIN, a Portland-area nonprofit that supports people in their efforts to end their homelessness. The aim of the project was to build partnerships within the faith community towards the goal of ending homelessness. New City Initiative grew out of JOIN's experience with CUSINA, a grassroots cooking class program for formerly homeless people that began as a partnership between JOIN and a local church. The rich potential of such partnerships became clearly apparent; participants in the class not only learned life skills, they also retained their housing at a higher-than-average rate.

In 2010, New City Initiative debuted its curriculum on homelessness, Building the New City, and invited congregations in the Portland area to experiment with new ways of building community with formerly homeless people. Congregations responded with a variety of creative community-building opportunities: glass art, music, hiking, yoga, even kickball! An analysis of these early programs strongly suggested that community engagement is one measurable indicator of housing success.

In 2011, drawing on the network of relationships within the restaurant industry developed through the CUSINA program, New City Initiative launched New City Kitchen, an innovative social enterprise program offering employment training and placement in the food service industry. In 2012, we launched our New City Kitchen catering business, which employs graduates of our training program to cater events.

In 2011, New City Initiative launched "Covenant of Hope," a project whereby congregations sponsored homeless families living in the emergency warming shelter, providing rent and utility support and community support to these families. Covenant of Hope grew out of a grassroots event sponsored and organized by New City Initiative, the annual Day of Homelessness Awareness. Congregations participating in the Day of Awareness responded to a call to action regarding severe overcrowding at the winter shelter. 22 congregations collaborated to sponsor 12 homeless families, raising over \$32,000 in rent support. Covenant of Hope won the "Collaboration of the Year" award from Portland's Coordinating Committee to End Homelessness in 2012, and became the predecessor to the Village Support Network

For more information: www.newcityinitiative.net

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, 7/23 from 9-11am at Trinity Lutheran Church (309 W 39th Street)

TOPIC: hOUR Impact Time Bank & Gate Keeper Training from SWEAP