

YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS ACTION GROUP

4/27/2020

Our group, consisting of Kate Brady, Greg Lehman, Jackie Thureson, Craig Wiester, Wayne and Kathy Urbaniak, met during the all church retreat on Saturday, June 1, 2019.

We were given a worksheet of possible ideas for how to approach this endeavor. Our group did some brainstorming and came up with ideas. Then each group member agreed to investigate a specific idea the group came up with to help youth experiencing homelessness.

We decided that we wanted to continue our relationship with YouthLink. In July, YouthLink's Jelena Song gave Craig, Kate, Wayne, and Kathy a tour, explaining how YouthLink operates. It was helpful, and impressive.

Wayne contacted TRUST to find out what other churches were doing about youth homelessness. Ann Dunnigan, the Parish Nurse, sent out an email to the TRUST Churches. Pastor Karen Bruins (Mac and Sandy Chatfield's daughter), responded, along with a few others. Karen said Lake Harriet Methodist and Richfield UMC were involved with supporting the new 66 West facility near Southdale.

Craig Wiester contacted some other agencies. Greg talked to Dawn who knew of a group helping youth experiencing homelessness. On August 20th, Jackie convened a meeting of our action group and the Mission Committee to learn about other opportunities available to help youth experiencing homelessness.

Our group met again September 5th. We decided we wanted Jelena Song to come and speak at an Adult Education session. Jelena gave a great presentation on Sunday, October 6th. She gave specific ideas of how the Judson community could volunteer and help YouthLink.

On Tuesday, October 15th, Greg, Wayne and Kathy served breakfast at YouthLink. Kathy purchased items, and we made and served scrambled eggs, turkey bacon, hash browns, English muffins, and apple juice. We were able to meet and visit with some of the staff and youth.

On October 29th, Leslie Rapp, Jackie Thureson, Rich Olson, Wayne and Kathy served lunch at YouthLink. We made and served spaghetti and meatballs, french bread, lettuce salad, carrots, applesauce, cookies, and Halloween candy. Again, we were able to sit down and eat with some of the staff and the youth.

In December we asked the Judson community to donate items for Christmas presents for the youth at YouthLink and for their families. Wayne and Kathy took appliances, sheets, toys, and clothing items to YouthLink for the youth.

Also, in December, Marlys Wiens brought hats, mittens, placemats, table runners, and many homemade items to Judson on a Sunday that Ladybug Quilters made. The proceeds from those sales went to YouthLink. And, Judson people could purchase items (especially hats and mittens) and donate them to YouthLink. Craig brought these items to YouthLink later in December. A check was sent to YouthLink for \$

On December 1, Barbara and Char sponsored a Sing-And-Play Along at Judson Church. Our group made and donated cookies to be sold at the concert. All money collected at this concert was given to YouthLink. A check was sent to YouthLink for \$

Christine S. the director, sent a special thank you and expressed their gratitude for these donations.

On Sunday, March 8th, our Action Group for Youth Experiencing Homelessness, gave a presentation during the adult education session. Greg Lehman and Rich Olson talked about their experience serving the lunch at YouthLink in October. A Duluth video and a YouthLink video were shown. Questions and discussion followed.