

PEPartnership Alliance Meeting 5-21-2015

Welcome and Intro

- Carol Cass – Atwood PEP since start-up at Zion, PEP Board
- Lois Roth – Atwood PEP, since start-up at Zion – noted Sue Marks’ first 14 months coordination
- Nancy Baumgartner – Good Neighbors PEP co-coordinator with Robin Cherwinka
- Pete Luisi-Mills – Atwood PEP, volunteering since 2007, PEP Board
- Robin Cherwinka – Good Neighbors PEP co-coordinator
- Lorraine Brathwaite – Grace Food Pantry 3 years, added Grace PEP on 3/21/15. More homeless visit Grace Food Pantry in summer because of longer time until entry.
- Scott Goetz[sp?] – Grace PEP volunteer
- Mark Peterson – Watertown PEP started with \$1000 grant from ELCA (2 volunteers, Luis and mom), supported by 6 churches, Creative Homes, Chickens Unlimited, banks, etc. – once saw 20,000 misprinted toothbrushes donated
- Barb Peske[sp?] – open Thursdays at Immanuel Lutheran with other access via Mark
- Karen Andro – FUMC served 60,000 meals in 2014 (to-go Tue. and Thu., breakfasts), plus a modest weekly food pantry, used to have shower program for homeless, PEP Board
- Christine Thompson – Exec Dir of PEPartnership, Inc.; started volunteering with Zion PEP in 2006; first major funding proposal in 2007; consults with PEP coordinators; working on thesis
- John Egleston – PEP Board secretary, ombudsman

Mike Rolfsmeyer develops the PEPbase software and the website (now in Joomla except for Coordinator and Board pages).

Not represented: Stoughton PEP, Catholic Multicultural Center (CMC) and Buffalo NY. There was a pantry in Sun Prairie, inactive. New brochure includes Grace, drops Sun Prairie; Spanish still needs updated. Add a revision date and web address.

Announcement

Christine today received the state-wide Voice for Justice Award from Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice

Questions

Scott: Can we add inventory? No, but there is an “out of stock” flag. Inventory is on Mike’s wish list, but each pantry would need to be able to enter custom amounts.

Lorraine: How do I add a product? Grace serves about 25 households a week.

Robin will email Mike a wish list for consideration.

What statistical reports are available?

The volunteers’ intro to new guests needs to say you can come as often as possible but not eligible for everything every time. Suggest a frequency of guest visits depending on household size and ages – often 5 weeks works for adults. Post the list of days per product.

Expecting moms? Add “Baby” last name with today’s date and add a note with your initials, the pantry’s initials and the date. Done with the note? Delete the completed section of the note.

Coordinators can delete individuals as long as they’re not primary shopper for a household. Email coordinator@pepartnership.net to delete.

There’s a fully-functional public demo version of PEPbase on the website.

What about households that subdivide? The others in the household count. If others visit, they will share in the allotment. You can change the primary shopper on the fly.

Adding the date of birth is necessary to complete a record for reference next visit.

Misspellings can multiply duplicates. So does using “F.N.U.” or “FNU” when first name is unknown. Use advanced search to locate duplicates. The host position must be reliable on the keyboard. “Could you spell that out for me?”

If you accidentally save before the process is done, you may have to redo the entry. Correcting can be done with overrides. If someone has multiple shopping lists for a visit, ignore all but the latest. All records of all zeros is disregarded.

“We’re not here to meet every need. We’re here to assist. Sometimes we run out of something.” We have to teach responsibility, conservation, budgeting – with respect. Living in crisis mode is different from normal life. It’s hard to say no, but a Madison area pantry is open six days a week.

When Internet or the server is down, Robin has calculated that people generally ask for less than they’re eligible. Don’t show them the full list but ask what their greatest needs are.

When churches do products of the month, Robin sees more bulk product.

Lorraine is reinforcing with each shift that donate product goes into stock, only giving out hotel samples. Or bundle samples for full product stocks.

Discovering incontinence can be difficult. “Does anyone in your household need adult diapers?”

PEPartnership and Pantry relationships

We’re due to add a PEP Board member from Good Neighbors. Atwood PEP could use a volunteer for first and third Thursdays.

Coordinators often fill in when volunteers don’t show up.

Board meetings are open for voice without vote. Bylaws limit Board members to 8 but could be amended. Board members besides Christine weren’t able to make it to the Alliance meetings in 2013 and 2014.

Lorraine will work out Certco ordering with Lois.

Could we setup a Google Group (or closed Facebook group - Lois isn’t on it) to share surplus stock?

MOPS groups sometimes organize gifts in kind.

Stoughton is getting a phone.

Lois will compare and circulate lists.

Carol will review the Memorandum of Agreement for clarity on the Alliance relationships. There’s no direct governance requirements. GNPEP did a wine, cheese and jazz date night fundraiser.

Social media posts weekly?