

PEPartnership Board Meeting Notes 1/10/15

Minutes distributed.

Financial reports indicate all are in stable funding and are doing well.

GNPEP suggests “less is more” because more duplicates are cropping up. Year-end

Product and households served totals dipped for the year.

Current bank balance of \$5400 due to two generous year-end donations. One of these is continuing.

Getting more regular contributors up from 5 via PayPal, and as many between in-kind and checks, and a continuing amount from Zion.

No huge surprises. Thursday saw about half of 20+ households new.

Mike has been converting the website as time is available. Developing with Joomla and will include a blog. After significant custom coding, it's becoming Facebook-like and accepts Facebook registration for comments. Anyone can submit an article and those with a publisher role (or above) can approve it. Demo will be available in the next week. John and Mike should collaborate on content strategy.

Grace Episcopal is joining the Alliance – one of the first organizations contacted in 2010 when we got the grant to expand. Christine spoke at their Dec. Board meeting. Some of the interesting questions was: Were you trying to solve a problem that didn't exist by developing the software? Could standard monthly boxes be assembled for every household? They plan to open in Feb. in parallel to their food pantry. Getting some press attention would be welcome, coordinated with Loraine at Grace, now that we've hit 10,000 households.

Mike's put a banner option to the website so that authorized users can post a “pantry closed” message with the click of a button. That will help with weather or medical emergencies.

Split up to work on technology, Facebook strategy and accounting.

Ginny's friend who's a former marketing director for several organizations (now in nursing school) didn't have good news for us about the prospects of raising funding without a dedicated fundraising person. Could a part- to full-time volunteer do it?

Mike wonders if a PEP Mobile van could visit a shelter with soap, deodorant, air freshener? The laptop with wireless access could operate from inside the van. Maybe a standard box would come in handy in that case. Putting it on the to-develop list.

Buffalo has been closed a few weeks. Mike noticed nothing has been entered in PEPbase since mid-Nov.

Brian Elvert, UW student at Plymouth, has been picking up product Tues. mornings.

Plymouth is inviting pantry guests for an upcoming annual meeting potluck.

Mike's email to the Bratfest contact went unanswered. A sign-up will be available soon on their website. Mike will call next.

Who else could we involve through Volunteer Your Time?

Mike: New site's homepage has three boxes: Donate, Start a Pantry, and something else. More videos are needed beyond what's already posted and linked. If there are guests willing to be interviewed, Pete and John could invite some coworkers to film and produce some simple videos. Christine's articles are available too.