

Interfaith Community Social Services July 2020 Volunteer Newsletter

Director's Report

Well, June was yet another unusual and wacky month! Hot, cold; busy, slow; vandalism, no vandalism; Salvation Army tractor/trailer here today, gone this afternoon; too many volunteers, not enough volunteers; but with it all, we've done it..... a lot by the seat of pants as things seem to change daily! And our volunteers who have been able to be here, new and long time, have been doing a wonderful job!

1. **July** looks like a few changes coming down the pipe. As we must continue to adjust to the Health Dept, and the upsurge in Co-Vid 19 cases in the county, we are pondering a system of "drive by pick-ups and deliveries". We are talking about different ways this could work, the logistics of this, and volunteers who might be able to deliver.

2. A **couple of new volunteers** – in-training....., **Sharon Anderson, Sandy Peterson, Dustin Silberman. Wonderful folks!**

3. Last month I **neglected to thank** those who continue to pick up the bakery, dairy and miscellaneous products at Safeway

every day... Dan Imfeld/Tuesdays, Colleen Steele/Wednesdays, Dearl McCullough/Thursdays, and Jim Turner/Fridays. In addition the Pantry folks have taken on all the deliveries of groceries for daily incoming orders. Please thank them all!!!

4. **Operations:** Showers, Childcare, and clothing are **not** open; all utility assistance, Legal Services (Fri); Toiletries and Household when volunteers are available are **open. George with Salvation Army (trailer) is back!** Bus passes not needed, buses are free til end of December, Dial-A-Ride only.

5. **Our clients** are so very grateful for the food twice a month; not happy about showers and clothing closed indefinitely; donations continue to pour in; calls and inquiries for housing, gasoline, and auto repairs.

6. **Damage and Vandalism** has subsided somewhat. The bins are left standing open, some folks continue to deposit items into the open bins. Those items are often scattered in the mornings, but not the volume that was before. And

finally, the dumpsters are now the main attraction...for thieves. The door lock to the main big walk-in has been damaged again! And it is costly to have it repaired. We are waiting for the 6th camera being placed onto the Quonset Hut and will be aimed at the dumpsters, and the backside of the walk-in. It's easy to hide there and do the damage!! As most of you know by now, I am not a happy camper first thing, when I drive in a see all that mess made by thieves!!! Silent alarms are still going to be placed on the inside of the door of the bins to detect door tampering or movement....yes, it will be on a timer!

7. **We continue to buy our food from Save Mart.** They give us a 15% discount each time. The Manager, Kelly, has even delivered the items to us when we've had a large order. *If you happen to shop at upper Save Mart*, please be sure to thank them (Bret/Meats; Bret/Produce, and Kelly, Manager, for their help and extra work. We appreciate them, and will continue to shop there, obtain quality food items, and how nice they are in it all.

7. **Finally...** boy what a surprise we had in the pantry one morning! We were sort of busy, I went back for a cup of coffee, looked down and saw something on the floor at

the end of the counter under a chair. I reached for it...IT MOVED!!! A 4 ½ ft gopher snake had found its way into the building, and had become stuck on one of the mouse trap pads with a glue pad on it. What to do??? There was screeching, yelling, backing away, mean to kind suggestions.... Finally Toni Butler, Panty Supervisor, and I caught it, placed into a paper bag, and took it out side at the front door. After calling the Animal Control and Pest Control...their advice was to drizzle oil along the skin where it was stuck to the pad, and gently pull the skin away. Animal Control came, held the snake, I drizzled, and snipped along the stuck part to release it, the Pest Control fellow stood 10ft back, and we eventually were able to let it go. WHEW!! Later I learned the cleaning service people had seen it in the Legal Services area about 4 days prior, but caught it and put it outside. Hmmmm. I wonder if there were realty two snakes>???? We think it/they came in some fruit boxes we'd picked up from the valley

Anyway....take care, check on neighbors and friends, and let us know when/if you are able to return. We miss you!!

Cathie Peacock, Director