

# *St. Johns CARES, Inc.*

## MINUTES FOR 122nd PLANNING MEETING February 20, 2018

### **Attendees:**

Dr. Roma Singh – St. Johns  
Mary Ann Kriniske—Worthington Park  
Linda Gomolka—Southwood  
Howard Gomer—River Oaks Plantation  
Pam Belcher - JCP  
Debbie Gomer—River Oaks Plantation

1. *Call to order*– 7:07 p.m.
2. *New Member & Guest Welcome*
  - a. Pam Belcher – Berkshire Hathaway Realtor
    - i. Berkshire Hathaway partnered with Pine Castle to sell luminary kits. The proceeds were split between Berkshire Hathaway and Pine Castle (an organization that helps disabled adults who want to work)
    - ii. Berkshire Hathaway chose 2 organizations to donate to: Ponte Vedra Education Fund and St. Johns CARES
    - iii. St. Johns CARES is receiving a check in the amount of \$960.00
  - b. Roma Singh – volunteers with her daughter’s dance team at Creekside H.S. and would like to get involved with St. Johns CARES
3. *Approval of Minutes* – Linda G approved minutes and Howard G 2<sup>nd</sup>.
4. *Financial Report* – As of 12/31/17, we had \$8391.00. We received \$2000.00 We had a \$2400.00 Visa bill for Giving Tree. As of 1/31/18, we have \$6805.00.
5. *Guest Speaker*
  - a. Mary Ann K and Debbie G suggested putting a hold on quarterly speakers to focus on reorganization.
  - b. Harry (Vystar) was not present but had suggested to Mary Ann K to consider having Best Buddies speak. They pair high school students with handicapped children.
6. *Meeting Updates*
  - a. St. Johns Continuum of Care (CoC) – no update
  - b. Integrated Service Team no update
  - c. Unaccompanied Youth – no update
7. *2018 Initiative Chairs*
  - a. Children’s Committee –
    - i. Jill is stepping down from her position
    - ii. Jill sent an email suggesting the committee have an annual meeting which would determine the monthly events and the event leads. The event leads could then report back to the St. Johns CARES Board at the general meetings.
    - iii. In her email, Jill mentioned needing a community event coordinator for Nocatee.
    - iv. Halo Keepers Yarn Drive is in March and Vystars are collection sites. They will accept yarn or gift cards.
    - v. Beach Clean UP was 1/27/18.
    - vi. 150 Valentine’s Day cards were given to the Veterans Nursing Home
    - vii. Kids Farmers Market will take place in April at the Primrose in Nocatee
  - b. DDA – cancelled
    - i. Linda G obtained a new quote for bite coverage for the 4-hour event. The quote was \$450.
    - ii. We don’t have enough time to coordinate the event this year.

- c. Homeless Student (ASSIST) – Meg will oversee this initiative
    - i. Meg plans to raise money for Suitcases for Seniors through a social media fundraiser through Donasity
    - ii. We will donated books for summer reading.
    - iii. Meg will also set up a donation page for Suitcases for Seniors on Amazon.
    - iv. Questions were asked as to how we will publicize this.
    - v. Debbie G suggested choosing 1-2 items to be collected rather than trying to obtain suitcases and all the items to fill them.
    - vi. Roma suggested collecting practical items rather than items that these students would never have had. Suggestions included toiletries, flash drives, and back packs.
    - vii. Howard G mentioned the Marine Science Camp scholarships is a large expense that benefits only a few children. These children may not have the money to afford the supplies needed to attend the camp.
    - viii. Roma suggested partnering with a school club so they take on one of the projects and make it their project year after year.
  - d. Food Drive – no update
  - e. Giving Tree – Meg Balke and Mary Ann K will develop a timeline of activities leading up to the event.
    - i. Students can begin making wish tags over Spring Break
- 8. Other Activity update/reports**
- i. Publicity Committee – High school students are needed to take pictures at events and help with publicity
  - ii. We currently have articles in the St. Augustine Record and Creekline
  - iii. Mary Ann K will follow up with Meg regarding our St. Johns CARES documentary
  - iv. Roma mentioned the digital media academy at Creekside H.S. has students that could benefit from the opportunity to intern for St. Johns CARES
- 9. Old Business**
- a. Publix Race Track Road donations – no update
  - b. Update on partnerships with other agencies in county
    - i. Armstrong dinners and Hastings dinners – Meg met with Kim McNichol to discuss whether we should continue the dinners
      - 1.) Cheryl has been informed of poor attendance since May, 2017.
      - 2.) Deb G suggested Cheryl speak with Meg about whether Hastings dinners will/should continue. Farm workers are no longer being brought to the dinners.
    - ii. Primrose Nocatee is doing a book drive on 3/2/18, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Primrose JCP will do one too. Early Learning Coalition will be the beneficiary. Linda G and Mary Ann K volunteered to pick up the books and deliver them.
- 10. New Business - none**

*Adjourned 8:07 p.m.*  
*Next meeting – February 20, 2018*  
*Bartram Academy-164 Everest Lane, Ste. 1*