

# *St. Johns CARES, Inc.*

## MINUTES FOR 123rd PLANNING MEETING March 20, 2018

### **Attendees:**

Howard Gomer – River Oaks

Oliver Brown – Woodbridge

Linda Gomolka – Southwood

Jill DAmato – Nocatee

Keri Kowalchuk – Flora Parke

Kathy7 Tufano – Plantation Cove

Debbie Gomer – River Oaks

Mary Ann Kriniske – Worthington Pkwy

Cliff Honiker – Edgewater

Harry Crowell – Julington Creek

Meg Balke

1. **Call to order**– 7:00 p.m.
2. **New Member & Guest Welcome**- Erin Baily and daughter, Avery
3. **Approval of Minutes** – Mary Ann approved and Linda G 2nd
4. **Financial Report – Howard Gomer** - As of 2/28/18, we had \$8292.00. We started with \$6805.00 at the beginning of February. We had \$2186.00 in deposits. We received \$960.00 from Berkshire Hathaway. There was a \$709.00 VISA payment and \$400.00 in general liability.
5. **Guest Speaker – no guest speaker**
6. **Meeting Updates**
  - a. St. Johns Continuum of Care (CoC) – Linda G attended – CoC works to eliminate homelessness in St. Johns County
    - i. Point in time initiative will be finalized 4/13/18.
    - ii. 600 units of affordable housing are beginning the process of being built
    - iii. St. Francis House is remodeling but doing case management.
  - b. Integrated Service Team –services that help homeless - no update
  - c. Unaccompanied Youth – no update
  - d. Let Meg know if interested in attending any of these meetings
7. **2018 Initiative Chairs**
  - a. Children’s Committee – Jill DAmato
    - i. Jill is stepping down from her position
    - ii. Jill suggests 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. Halo Keepers Yarn Drive is in March and Vystars are collection sites.
    - iv. Kids Farmers Market will take place at the Primrose in Nocatee. The event has been organized and planning can be handed over to co-chairs. There is 1 co-chair. A 2<sup>nd</sup> co-chair is needed for the event.
  - b. DDA – cancelled for 2018 but being planned for 2019
    - i. Linda G will start contacting vendors and sponsors in late summer.
  - 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
      - 1.) The information on Donasity can be shared from the site to social media sites.
      - 2.) We will not commit to a number of suitcases. We will provide what we can with the donations we receive.
      - 3.) The Amazon wish list is up.
      - 4.) Mary Ann volunteered her home as a drop off for deliveries and a storage site.
      - 5.) A group from Nocatee has volunteered to assemble the suitcases.
    - ii. We will donated books for summer reading.

- 1.) Primrose collected books for Early Learning Coalition.
  - 2.) Books that weren't appropriate were pulled for older students.
  - 3.) We need new books.
  - 4.) Used books will go to Boys and Girls Clubs
  - iii. Marine Science Camp scholarship(s) payment is made directly to the camp.
  - iv. We will give 1 scholarship to an ASSIST student attending college. Payment goes directly to the college.
  - d. Food Drive – collected approximately \$30,000.00
  - e. Giving Tree – Meg Balke and Mary Ann K
    - i. Meg is giving jobs out to volunteers. Students are needed.
    - ii. Adults will sort tags at end of October. Jill has a group who will sign up.
- 8. Old Business**
- a. Publix Race Track Road donations
    - i. January – received \$1600.00 in donations. 8 boxes of food received and 4 boxes went to the Homeless Coalition.
    - ii. \$273.00 worth of donations received at the end of January. We received boxes of golf balls that were donated to Betty Griffith.
    - iii. \$430.00 worth of donations in March. 1 box to Wildflower Clinic. 2 boxes to Homeless Coalition. 4 boxes of food.
  - b. Update on partnerships with other agencies in county
    - i. Armstrong dinners and Hastings dinners – There are a few open months. St. Johns CARES will continue to manage the calendar but will not push to fill open spots. About 50 meals are needed for each site.
    - ii. Meg is talking with Hugs Across the County to develop a relationship.
    - iii. Meg spoke with the interim director of Feeding NE Florida Food Bank. He wants help connecting with places that need food.
- 9. New Business** – Kim McNickle has been involved with the homeless and is currently in the process of looking for employment. She understands the mission of St. Johns CARES and has agreed to serve as co-President with Lindsay Navin, who has time to work from home.

*Adjourned 7:43 p.m.*  
*Next meeting – April 17, 2018*  
*Bartram Academy-164 Everest Lane, Ste. 1*