

# **St. Johns CARES, Inc.**

## **MINUTES FOR 111th PLANNING MEETING February 21st, 2017**

### **Attendees:**

Debbie Gomer – River Oaks Plantation  
Mary Ann Kriniski – Worthington Pkwy  
Doug Nunnery – Julington Lakes  
Keri Kowalchuk – Flora Parke  
Aubrey & Madison O'Reilly – Ponte Vedra Beach  
Jill DAMato – Nocatee  
Katrine Strickland – Nocatee  
Diane Battle – Deer Run  
Shirley Carpenter – Johns Creek

Lori Barden (Halos Keepers - JCP  
Marzieh Torabian -Eastgate  
Tony Bernados – St. Augustine Record  
Cliff Honiker – Edgewater  
Harry Crowell – Vystar Julington  
Kim McNickle – SJCSO/Durbin Crossing  
Charlotte Neudigate – Pine Crossing  
Frank Cirillo – Durbin Crossing

1. **Approval of Minutes from last meeting** – Approved as corrected by Mary Ann K. 1<sup>st</sup> and Cliff H 2nd.
  2. **Treasurer's Report** – As of 1/31/17 - \$7622.37 in the bank.
  3. **New Member Introduction**
    - a. Lori Barden –JCP- Halo Keepers.
  4. **Guest - Tony Bernados – President and Publisher St. Augustine Record –**
    - i. Empty Stocking Fund
      - 1.) 501c3
      - 2.) Provides money to families in need during the holidays.
      - 3.) 100% volunteers and 100% of donations go to families.
      - 4.) To be eligible:
        - a. Must reside in St. Johns County.
        - b. Must complete an application and demonstrate need.
        - c. Must be approved by Board of Directors.
      - 5.) Northern St. Johns County needs to be made aware of the Empty Stocking Fund and would like to host an event in the area.
    - ii. “St. Johns Gives” – When a business purchases an ad in the St. Augustine Record, they can donate an ad of the same size to a St. Johns non-profit.
  - b. Harry Crowell – Supervisor VyStar Julington Creek
  - c. Frank Cirillo – Durbin Crossing
5. **Meeting Updates**
  - a. St. Johns Continuum of Care (CoC) – Cliff/Meg –Wednesday 1/12/17, Meg & Cliff attended – no updates
  - b. Integrated Service Team – No updates.
  - c. Unaccompanied Youth – Kim McNickle Homeless Student Liaison – Current challenge is to try and find homeless youth places to stay. She is working with churches and families. Also trying to find jobs for these youth. Hugs Across the County is taking up collections for ASSIST.
6. **2016 Initiative Chair**
  - a. Children's Committee – Jill DAMato
    - i. Halo Keepers will be March project–Lori Barden – This organization makes hats for children facing cancer. They need yarn donations and volunteers to crochet.
    - ii. June 3, 2017 – Kids Farmers Market

- 1.) Tables will be available to rent and proceeds will go to St. Johns CARES.
- 2.) Kids will sell their wares and keep the profit.
- 3.) Alex's Lemonade Stand will be there.
- iii. St. Johns CARES Kids t-shirts have been donated by Promotional Presence.
- iv. We need to get more families involved.
- v. Meetings are held at 6pm prior to the St. Johns CARES Planning meetings.
- b. Dog Day – DDA is on hold until liability insurance is taken care of to cover us for dog bites.
- c. Homeless Student (ASSIST) Summer Initiative(s) – Charlotte Neudigate & Meg Balke
  - i. Chip in for Youth
    - 1.) We have ads on Facebook and we have posters.
    - 2.) We get \$25 for every ticket sold on the website.
    - 3.) The funds will provide funds to sponsor kids to go to Marine Science Camp. The funds will also be used for Suitcase for Seniors program.
  - ii. Suitcases for Seniors would provide new suitcases, toiletries, sheets, and desk items for seniors who have been accepted into college.
    - 1.) We need groups to donate items.
    - 2.) Friends can chip in together and provide new lamps, dorm sheets, suitcases, toiletries.
    - 3.) We are receiving donations in cash and in-kind.
- d. Food Drive 11/12/16 – Cliff Honiker & Meg Balke will begin working on this later in the year.
- e. Giving Tree 12/7/16 – We do not need a single chair. Instead, we will have committees and people can volunteer for a committee. We will need members/volunteers for September.

## **7. Other Activity update/reports**

- a. Publicity Committee – Dianne B.
  - i. Primrose School is collecting books to donate to Early Learning Coalition, pictures taken.
  - ii. If the Children's Committee needs publicity, let Dianne B know.
- b. Natalie MacDougall is the new social media intern from Creekside High School.

## **8. Old Business**

- a. Publix Donations – Charlotte Neudigate
  - i. 2/3/17 – We received 12 boxes that were delivered to Celebration Lutheran Church food bank.
  - ii. 2/15/17 – We received 8 boxes of food, delivered to the food bank.
  - iii. Meg met with the manager of Publix Plantation Plaza and he will participate in donating goods to St. Johns Cares.
- b. Update on partnerships other agencies in county
  - i. Halo Keepers knits and crochets theme wigs for kids with cancer. You can LIKE them on Facebook. They will teach any interested volunteer how to knit/crochet. They accept donations of gift cards to Joanne's Fabrics or Michaels.

## **9. Grants – Wells Fargo grant opportunity exists. We need a Wells Fargo member to make ask who the contact would be to discuss grants.**

- a. Cliff Honiker volunteered.
- b. Harry Crowell will talk with his contacts at VyStar.

## **10. New Business**

- a. Member Social – Since we are not having a Dog Day Afternoon, we would like to revisit a member social.
  - i. A picnic was suggested.
  - ii. April was suggested as a good month.
  - iii. There was discussion as to whether it should be kid-friendly or adult-only.
  - iv. This is out 10 Year anniversary.
  - v. Treaty Park, JCP Park, and Aberdeen were suggested as potential sites for a picnic.

- vi. An adult-only party was suggested as an opportunity to bring a friend and potential new members. We could discuss what we do.
- b. Treasurer position – Howard Gomer, Debbie Gomer’s husband, has volunteered.
  - i. Meg approved, Charlotte 1<sup>st</sup>. Doug N 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - ii. The decision was unanimous.

*Adjourned 8:10 p.m.*

*Next meeting – March 21, 2017  
Bartram Academy  
164 Everest Lane, Ste. 1  
St. Johns, FL 32259*