
TUCSON PIMA COLLABORATION TO END HOMELESSNESS

Emergency Services Committee

July 5, 2011 Minutes

Conveners: Jill Rich/Sylvia Cuestas

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 10, 2011, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Sullivan Jackson Employment Center, 400 E. 26 th St.
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Report to General Council

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| ■ Project Summer Sun continues, attendance high. |
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TOPICS DISCUSSED

- 1. Minutes.** Sylvia Cuestas moved and Bro. David Buer seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as presented.
- 2. Summer Sun.** Don Blascak reported that Summer Sun donations to date include 124 cases of water have been donated (most already distributed) plus “many hats, sunscreens, socks, etc. Three cases of water and a box of hats are available for members to pick up from him today.
Brother David Buer noted that the Franciscans’ shelter has been open for open 7 days with an average of 55 guests per day, including 15 women, and 79 guests maximum. He said that there is a higher percentage of women at the summer shelter than at winter shelter. He said that some of the volunteer women from winter shelter plan to have a separate craft area on Tuesdays and Saturdays to continue the relationships that they built during the winter shelter with some of the guests. Because their host church has an out-of-town group visiting during those dates, their respite services may be offered in Santa Rita Park for 4.5 hours daily July 9-15th. The Van of Hope has been stopping by the cooling center weekly.
Wendy Heiden noted that RAPP is a month into their Summer Sun effort. They are picking up and distributing sack lunches (as are the Franciscans). They reached 80 guests one day, which was their highest ever total.
- 3. Winter Shelter.** Don reported. Bed nights pledge to date are 1,242 for Project Hospitality, 440 for One Step Beyond; and 1,682 total. Of available nights, 14 are completely filled, three have no beds pledged; and 23 have more than 20 beds pledged. A total of 13 congregations that usually participate have not yet scheduled bed nights. He has visited those congregations and provided them with the “nights needed” chart. He will soon contact two additional churches that previously expressed an interest in possibly participating in the congregational winter shelter programs.
- 4. Blankets.** Don reported that he verified that there are only 64 boxes of blankets in storage at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul warehouse. He noted that there are many additional blankets stored at agencies around the city. By phone, Yoli Hasler of the Salvation Army reported that she emailed last week to the scheduler who previously said that the FEMA blanket order would gal arrive in Tucson at end of June, but has not yet had a reply. She will call again today and will email a response to Jill Rich.

- 5. Old Business/Independent continuous winter shelter.** Brother David Buer reported on the group seeking to establish continuous winter shelter for three months. One of the group contacted Ann Vargas of the City of Tucson about using the Allen Center. She said that it would be a good idea to have a continuous shelter open for several months of the year. If Allen Center becomes available, TEP may underwrite the cost of electricity. Don questioned why this would be so given that the next Veterans Stand Down is not scheduled there. Bro. David said that the group plans to lobby the Tucson City Council to allow the use of Allen Center. He added that they have identified potential donors to the effort.
- 6. Next Meeting.** The next meeting was initially scheduled for Tuesday, August 2nd. Due to Chair Sylvia Cuestas' changed in schedule, the next meeting was moved to Wednesday, August 10th, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Sullivan Jackson Employment Center, 400 E. 26th Street.

Submitted by Settle Madden

Attendance

Name		Organization	Email
Don	Blascak	Community advocate	dblascak@comcast.net
Jerry	Brillo	Community advocate	jbsaret@aol.com
Bro. David	Buer, ofm	Franciscans	buerofm@gmail.com
Sylvia	Cuestas	Living Faith Christian Center	Sylvia.cuestas@pima.gov
Wendy	Heiden	La Frontera Center, Inc.	wheiden@lafrontera.org
Louis	Khoury	Franciscans	
Amanda	Kroy	SAVAHCS	amanda.kroy@va.gov
Pam	Moseley	Pima County CDNC	pamela.moseley@pima.gov
Joe	Ochoa	Compass Health Care	jochoa@compasshc.org
Jill	Rich	American Red Cross	jbr@dakotacom.net