

**Hastings Youth Council Minutes**  
**James V. Harmon Community Center Lower Level**  
**Wednesday, November 06, 2019, 7:00pm**

**Staff Present:** Vernal Ford, Jill Iturbe, and JoAnn Reed-Stokes

**Board Members Present:** Alana Campus, Carrick Forbes, Amy Nichols, Karen Sokol

**Board Members Absent:** Liz Gabay, Elizabeth Galletta, Damaris Lois Lang, Lori Walsh

**Guest Present:** Christopher Kreiter

**I. Old Business–**

**a.Youth Advocate Report/Drug-Free Coalition/Food Pantry (J.R., V.F)**

- **Hastings Food Pantry-**
- Recipients have increased over the past several months, with daily numbers as high as 10. It is becoming difficult to keep up with the demand. Considering changes to hours of operation, residency requirements, etc to compensate. Karen suggested that a standard operating procedure be created and provided to the users of the pantry to avoid continuous disruptions during working hours.
- Several giving events/food drives happening in November; the Cub Scouts will be creating recipe meal kits, the girl scouts are preparing several drives including turkey basket giveaways, the 6th grade service club will have food drive on 11/19.
- The Amazon Wishlist remains active, when people inquire about donating, they are directed to the link. Karen said that she could attach Amazon link to the Youth Council website.
- **Hastings WAY Drug Free Coalition-**
- Flavor Ban- Have reached out to the Mayor and BOT of trustees about bring community awareness to the Westchester County Flavor ban vote on 11/18.
- Family University-Evaluation: Family University was held on October 22nd Total attendance was 269 participants. The overall feedback was positive from both parents and students.
- **Youth Advocate Program** After-school numbers have steadily increased, we are at 40-60 daily. We have hired an additional per-diem staff member for extra help during the week.

**b.Annual Fundraising Mailing/Other Fundraising Ideas/Project for Monies from Anonymous Donor (KS)**-Discussed annual fundraising mailing ready to be sent out. Will replace section on donation card with name and email instead of phone number.

**c.Harlem Rockets/Fundraiser/Social Event with Hastings Police (A.N.)**-Amy is waiting to hear back from Lou Adipietro and Chief Dosin regarding possible dates for the Harlem Rockets. She is going to attend the Rockets' event at Briarcliff this Friday to evaluate it and will report back.

**d.Youth Council Newsletter**-Group discussed publishing newsletter quarterly. Karen said that she could post request for food pantry donations quarterly in the newsletter.

**e.Collaboration with School District on Communication and Conflict Resolution Program at Middle School and High School (K.S., J.R.)**-JoAnn has reached out to Melissa Syzmanski about the curriculum and is still waiting for follow-up since they are trying to coordinate the input of

the different school principals and asst. principals.

**f.Youth Employment Service (J.I.)**-31 jobs were filled through the YES Office since the last meeting. These include: Tutoring and homework help (mostly math), Adult French lessons, after-school child care, evening babysitting, tech help, clerical help, retail help, moving, yardwork, party aides, packing goods, after-school program staff. The PTSA contacted me for assistance in finding sitters for a drop-off at Hillside during back-to-school night and Jill provided 2 students - they will use them plus one more person on an on-going basis. Jill is in the process of being trained on Google Docs/Gmail for the district. Jill went to a small group yesterday and will have a one-on-one session next week. Jill had 2 requests for the Yardwork List and 5 for the Babysitter List this month.

**g.Social Media Campaign (C.F.)**- Carrick will continue to publish events to Facebook and instagram. Anyone leading an event should send her information to post.

**h.Safe Rides (K.S)**

- **SAFE Rides Social Media Campaign**-Karen sent email to Jeanine Genauer who coordinates Hastings Happenings who is posting it weekly in newsletter. The SAFE Rides cards will be revised with a simple explanation/description of Safe Rides for the upcoming fundraising mailing.

**i.Hastings KIDS updates (E.G.)**

- **Relay for Life**-scheduled for June 6th, 2020-Bracelet fundraiser-to raise awareness about Relay for Life prior to event to be sold at athletic games, etc Cost \$3.00 and would charge \$5.00. Will order 150-200 bracelets. Youth Council will provide monies up front and will be reimbursed.
- **Bingo Battle-Collaboration with Seniors (K.S., A.C)**-scheduled for Tuesday, November 12 which is an early dismissal day from school. Currently there are 12 students and 14 seniors signed up. JoAnn and the Youth Council will supply pizza and Anne Russack and the Senior Council will take care of beverages, desserts, and prizes. They will also set up tables and bingo equipment. Alana and Karen will be volunteering from the Youth Council at the event.
- **Reading Partners October 26**-Alana reported that the Reading Partners was successful with three H.S. student volunteers and 10-12 children reading.

**j.First Generation College Prep (D.L, J.R..)**

- **Free Tutoring Program**- Chris Kreiter was in attendance at the meeting and reported that he has had a few students take advantage of the tutoring; one parent is interested in some tutoring assistance to study for GED exam. Discussed need to publicize more.
- **College Shower for First Generation College Students**-discussed this idea again.
- **Creation of curriculum**-Chris has created the outlines for essay writing, and a study plan. Each outline includes a breakdown for possible workshops. Discussed collaborating with D.L. Lang to create a sustaining curriculum. Contact info. exchanged to arrange meeting

**k.Help-a-Child (A.C., L.G)**-Liz followed up with the past donors some of which have responded and said that they will continue to be donors and some of which have retired. New donors need to be recruited and children's list needs to be updated. Also, a new application for Help-a-Child donors will be created describing the description and obligations/expectations of being a donor as well as to provide necessary contact information.

**l.Mercy College/Hastings Youth Council Internship (L.W.)**-An email was sent to Lori to remind her about posting the internship at Mercy for the upcoming semester.