

## Hastings Youth Council Meeting Notes - 9/11/23

### **Attendance:**

JoAnn Reed-Stokes  
Judy Jakubik  
Lori Walsh  
Marie Louise Miller  
Sarah Epps  
Laura Heisler Mitton

#### 1. Food Pantry

##### A. New Infrastructure

1. Over the summer the back room was set up for families to shop for clothes, books, toys, items they need – and the front room is the pantry, with beautiful new cabinets from Kenji Greene (free!) - plans for more cabinets, rolling carts, move the fridge out to create more room

##### B. Summer campaign to recruit new volunteers

1. Last meeting we set the goal to double volunteers for Food Pantry - we have 38 total volunteers, 10 of whom are from the FM recruiting day – of those, 25 in Mighty Network app
2. We still need a bigger network, haven't met goals yet

##### C. Plan for fall to activate volunteers

1. active outreach is important - you have to target specific people and see if they'll come, sustaining enthusiasm is hard
2. Mondays are still an effort, but there are a few regular Tuesday volunteers
3. "4 ½ hours is a big commitment to stay open for" – but you are just being asked to be on call for a window in that time (with a 30 min notice)
4. Good to recruit thru existing relationships, one-on-one walks with friends - it's so awesome to have events (like we are doing) to active around and to publicize the Monday/Tuesday needs
5. Spreadsheet to sign up on Mighty Networks
6. Asking for more coordinators - at least 1 more person would be great on Mondays (Mary Esther and Sarah both often busy on Mondays)
7. Sarah is planning to use emails, internal Mighty Network posts, FB posts on community and parent group pages,

- Insta (2 new insta people signing up for Rivertown Thrift) – positive results and momentum so far
8. Can we table at FMS and HHS Back to School Nights?  
Sarah can drop postcards to Marie Louise
  9. How to target parents of young kids at nursery school and elementary school level? – postcards sent home with kids in nursery schools (Rivertown Preschool, Co-op, Little Leaf, Goddard, Hudson Lab School), get more postcards made
  10. Laminated signs with a QR code at doctor's offices - Lakeshore Learning is good for big laminating jobs, JHCC can laminate 10 here on site
  11. Welcome Letter for new families – have a QR code for volunteers
  12. E-blast thru Village, different from Hastings Weekly (there's not so much traffic to the website)
  13. See if schools will do a blast for volunteers
  14. Food Pantry donations at all theater department opening nights - have a generic flier: "The Hastings Youth Council / or KIDS is collecting donations for the Hastings Food Pantry at each and every opening night performance at every show this year!! Bring food donations to a bin, or give through our QR code." - goes in The Weekly a week before the show. Phyllis can email to parents during tech. KIDS can help as well.
  15. Jill runs youth employment service (for sitters, snow shovelers, lawn work) - ask her if it can include QR code for volunteers there too
- D. FP collections at school shows
1. Elementary school did a great job with food donations
  2. Older schools had more cash donations
  3. Goal is for food & cash donations and to sign up for our Volunteer network
  4. Kids did the announcements
- E. Breakfast cereal and snacks are most in need at FP right now

## 2. Community Center Space

- A. Plan to further clean up and organize downstairs space
1. Can we get rid of broken red arcade game? - JoAnn will talk with Parks guys about removing it or getting a game fixer – fooseball table as well

2. Can we ask people to donate gently used pool table sticks? – Marie Louise will post on FB Buy Nothing group
  3. Try to pull in more programs to recruit girls to the space (Henna hair events, more crafts projects) – preteen boys tend to get there first and that can be intimidating
3. KIDS
  - A. Riya from KIDS wants to work on the FP collections for shows again – Lori will put her in touch with Mary Esther and Sarah
  - B. KIDS work on FP but not only – let's invite the kids to join Mighty Networks
  - C. Can KIDS paint the rock around an event? Maybe something for spring?
4. Friends fundraisers
  - A. Friends are doing TWO big fundraisers:
    1. Kids Night Out - at JHCC, \$60, movie/hip hop instructor from Amanda Kupilas Dance, arts and crafts, pizza - all the \$ going to the Emergency Funds
    2. Rivertown Thrift - at The Good Witch - on 9/30 only (no clothes collected on 9/16 or beforehand - just hangars and rolling racks), the clothes that don't sell will go to us - to store in the backroom - organized for families in need to shop for clothes
5. Safe Rides Car
  - A. The car is broken again
  - B. Village requires all new car purchases to be fully electric – but to be both fully electric and to fit 6-7 kids = highly expensive, \$100k and we don't have the funds (and it feels icky to pull up in a Mercedes electric vehicle when there are families in serious need)
  - C. A plug-in hybrid could work in a 50 mile radius
  - D. Friends has an endowment - Jen Altman had coffee with the anonymous donor, see if they might make a further donation?
  - E. Let the cops know – this past weekend they used the Parks & Rec Dept sedan and the driver got pulled over, since it was 1 am and they thought it might be a stolen vehicle!
6. Laura Light no longer Booster, Melissa is now – can we connect to coordinate with sports again?

October 2nd next meeting!