

Attending this meeting:

- Al Holman/Rotary Club
- Beth Washburn/Trinity
- Dave Scott/Trinity
- Justin Varteresian/Trinity
- Maria Indorato/SMOC
- Kelley Barret/Sen. Moore's Office
- Jane Wison/1st Congregational. Milford
- Donna Kingman/Trinity
- Lyn Lovell/Methodist Church
- John Fernandes, State Representative
- Donnalee Shain/Sacred Heart Milford
- Patrolman Rob Tusino/Milford Police
- Leslie Lee/SMOC
- Francisco Ramos/Health Care
- Harold Rhodes/Disability Commission
- Ellen Freedman/Milford Regional Hospital
- Mac Murray/Trinity

Fr. Mac welcomed those attending this meeting and reminded us that there are four areas that we committed to looking at since our last gathering in May. The point of these gatherings is to look at how this gathering can grow and make things happen for our neighbors in this locale and how to fill gaps and keep an overall awareness. Lots happening!! The overall idea was that lots going on and not to duplicate but to complement and support the work that is going on. Goal today is to update where we are at this time.

Fr. Mac asked each person to introduce themselves and where they were from.

Today's topics are listed below with discussion points under each area

- Food safety/access to nutritious food and shopping
 - Currently we now have: Daily Bread Food Pantry; Salvation Army Food Pantry during day 9-12 when someone there; Meal Programs @
 - Unitarian Church on Sundays (4:30-6pm)
 - Blessing Barn on Fridays (noon)
 - Trinity last Wednesday, Thurs and Friday (4:30-6pm)
 - Hopedale Union church looking at doing a midmonth Friday dinner at Trinity
 - Sacred Heart last Saturday at Unitarian Church (4:30-6pm)
 - St Mary's on the Second Tuesday (4:30-6pm)
 - Rotary Club : currently working on planning daily meal serving at a central location – possibly the Salvation Army. The Rotary Club would commit to refurbishing the kitchen there but also needs to know that there are regular committed groups who would help make this possible; the Rotary Club would not manage the program but be willing to help with it. A concern raised by Dave Scott was that daily meal may dilute some the initiatives here and elsewhere. Al shared that it is important to have a steady place to know that there is a regular and hot meal and opportunity for community development/socialization (long-term goal). Lunch vs Dinner? It would be important to have the folks from the Salvation Army to come to the next meeting so that we can understand the overall planning of how this regular offering will work out. One thought shared was to ask those people who attend

current offerings for meals how they feel and concern for a central location. It was respectfully suggested that we don't limit this type of meal planning to just the churches but also look to include the many businesses and philanthropic agencies, too!

- What about a cultural mix of food giving out and preparing. Being sensitive to needs and fresher foods and healthier foods to come in as we would for our own families

- **Elder issues**

- Lyn Lovell from the Methodist Church shared that she is looking at how to get the young folks through JAG to help with elderly so they are not alone and as a point of connecting youth from the youth center to those who might need help with things like a bit of mowing; moving storm windows; raking; shoveling; etc. It seems difficult to get things moving due to privacy acts and the need for CORI checks. This stems from some calls and information being shared via the Milford Senior Center
- Lyn also shared that there was a recommendation to utilize graduate students to help with information gathering but the reality is that we need to think two years down the road if trying to get university students out to help and connect things like connecting seniors and young adults.
- One question raised was how to break through the barriers of getting elders to talk to those who are willing to help.
- Lynn hopes to see what churches could do bundle together in this area.
- Fr. Mac cited a program like this that happens at Grace Baptist Church in Hudson, MA area. They could be a model for how to get this type of initiative underway.

- **Transportation needs(public and disabled)**

- Ellen Freedman shared that CHNA looking deeply into transportation issues for public/community health for the community overall not just health issues. So broad a need overall!!!
- Harold Rhodes of the Milford Commission on Disabilities shared that there are important and pressing issue in Milford/Hopedale in the need for public transportation overall; The Milford Commission on Disability is taking the lead on the transportation topic. The process from now to seeing busses means understanding that there is a multi-step process:
 - Starting with getting an approved contact person designated at the next meeting of Town Council on Sept 22 (Harold Rhodes) to represent Milford on the MWRTA board.
 - Generate a plan and prices and work with Milford Town Financial Committee
 - Subsequently working with the Selectmen and a Town Meeting
 - Overall, expect April 2015 town meeting for this issue to come to fruition.
 - Please pay attention to this topic. It is important and Harold will let us know when to get letters of support out and when to get loud about this issue.
- Dave Scott shared that the van food shuttle starts this week with Blessing Barn's vans; Dave Scott will drive one day a week. The question is how to keep this a regular routine.
- Please be aware that there is only one taxi service in Milford and that the charges to go two miles can be up to \$20 one way.

- **Resource Guide for this area**

- Kelly and Isabelle from Senator Moore's Office have put together a draft resource guide from a state level that was handed out at this meeting.
- John Fernandes presented it along with Kelly Barrett/Sen Moore's office. Please provide feedback to either John or Kelly.

- It was felt that we need to consider getting this document and any other information that we can find locally (being worked on by folks at the Blessing Barn) be properly translated into those prominent languages in this area.
- Hope is to have this living document be given out in as many venues and possible and kept up on!!! Thank you Kelley!
- **Thanksgiving/Christmas Help Plan (added today)**
 - Maria Indorato's idea for 31/32 scattered sight families to be divided among churches to support 10 families each for Thanksgiving and Christmas
 - This has been agreed to so far for Trinity, Blessing Barn and St Mary's and to make sure that families do not cross over to supporting parishes for help in this area.
 - Food baskets and gifts will be the need for Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- **Other:**
 - Francisco Ramos stated that we need to establish an infrastructure;
 - to create a community coalition with a staff person as a single point of contact
 - to allow for managing of volunteer opportunities (like SMOC families who need volunteer hours, court mandated volunteers)
 - Organizational meeting planned with Francisco, Ellen and Fr. Mac
 - Suggested support come from local churches, businesses, philanthropic organizations. Perhaps a \$1,000 donation per year from each organization to help fund this effort?
 - There was a bit of a surprise that there were no youth members attending this gathering
 - This is Welcoming Week in Massachusetts/Welcoming Milford with decals "Everyone is Welcome"; available at the library.
 - Locally produced design by Milford High student.
 - How do we welcome all those who come to our doors
 - WELCOMING meets monthly at the Milford Library where window stickers can be picked up for display.
 - A question was raised by Maria Indorato asking where locally Mass Health is accepted for mental health issues. Ellen Freedman suggested looking at Interface through the MA School of Professional Psychology. Hotline # 617-332-3666 x1411 or online at msppinterface.org

WRAP UP

- Thanks for your presence here today and all that was shared in discussion. Please share questions and concerns! And help get information to one another!!!
- Get comments back to Kelley at Sen Moore's Office as soon as possible.
- Food: Rotary will be in contact the Salvation Army to see what is happening and what help might be needed.
- Organization Issues: Ellen and Francisco and Fr. Mac will look at and report back to the group
- Maria to bring in a couple of clients for the group to hear firsthand of what they deal with on a daily basis
- Transportation: Harold Rhodes is working on a seven step process. He will contact people when he needs support via letters and such.

Next meeting: at Trinity on Saturday, November 8 at 9 am in the upper hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Washburn/Trinity