

Community health depends on community voices

**North Port CHAT Meeting Agenda
June 13, 2012, 4:30 pm**

Present: Monica Becket, Tom Davie, Freddie Koenig, Glenda Pinkerton, Janis Russell, Vanessa Carusone, Mary McDonald, Hector Mendez, Linda Jericka, Tom Jones, Brenda Szych, Pat Lucia, Faith Chapman, Vince Giuffre, Diane Ramseyer

Welcome and Introductions- Sam George, Chair, welcomed everyone and introductions were provided.

Guest Presentation – Glenda Pinkerton of JFCS (Jewish Family and Children Services) shared information on a new support group offered in North Port on the USF Campus. The focus is on caregiving and is provided with a Licensed Social Worker facilitating. It is offered at 5920 Pan American Blvd. Room 205 10-Noon on Tuesdays (USF Sarasota-Manatee Campus in North Port). Another group meets in Venice at St. Mark's Episcopal Church 508 Riviera St. on Fridays from 1-3 pm. More information can be found at 941.366.2224.

JFCS also uses Americorps Volunteers to help provide respite, but their schedules are full already.

Janis Russell also shared that there is a caregiver support group on the 2nd Monday of the Month at the Library in the morning.

Summer Meeting Schedule – The group decided to suspend July and August Meetings due to summer travels and conflicts. Next meeting will be September 12, 2012.

Community Updates

North Port Coalition for Homeless and Needy Children (Backpack Angels) – The group will be slowing down with distribution during the summer due to summer school schedule. Supplies are available to be distributed to other partner organizations as needed (such as Salvation Army and Day Cares). Pat provided a brochure of the supplies needed and drop-off locations. Reminder for summer vacations – if you come home with hotel toiletries, consider donating. See attachment for details.

Committee Reports

Health Services – A nursing intern will be working with the committee over the summer to begin a behavioral health assessment of resources and gaps for North Port.

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NP-ASAP (Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention) – The coalition has passed bylaws and they are in process of developing a slate of nominees for the coalition board. The election will be occurring in September. The grant announcement will occur in August. Regardless of grant outcome, the coalition is positioned to begin its strategies and running as a full-fledged coalition after the board elections. The mentoring grant will still continue through September 2013, if the stand-alone grant is not awarded this year.

NP D-Fy (Drug-Free Youth) – Thanks were provided to Vince Giuffre for his fund-raising efforts to secure graduation cords for the seniors who are NP D-Fy members. Donation of test and membership card supplies has been given through the health department which should meet the needs in the coming year. This will allow the group to have a year to raise sufficient funds for the subsequent year, as well as for graduation cords and scholarships.

Community Announcements

The Library will be offering several activities in the coming month: See attachment

People for Trees are doing a tree planting at LaBrea Park on Saturday (behind library) and welcome volunteers.

Tri-County's Life Solutions for Teens program was highly successful and entering another round. They are also planning to offer it in a format for adults.

Addiction 101 – a free community education program on understanding addiction will be held at the City Commission Chambers on Friday (June 15th) at 9 am. This was highly recommended and requested to be held in North Port after a successful program in Sarasota. In the afternoon (1:30 pm) a panel will be available to answer questions, and it includes representatives from the North Port area, including Thom Glaza of Tri-County.

Meeting Dates to Remember

June 27th – 3:30 pm – Health Services Com – Family Services Center

**September 11, 2012 - 8:30 am – NP-ASAP Community Coalition Meeting
3010 S. Sumter Blvd (Peace Christian Church)**

SEPTEMBER 12, 2012 4:30 pm – Next CHAT Meeting – Enjoy your summer!

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Our organization is the **North Port Coalition for Homeless/Needy Children, Inc.** We are writing this on behalf of the homeless and needy children in the North Port Community. We are a committee of eight trying to make a difference in their lives. Our goal is to keep the children in school and receive their diplomas. Because of personal hygiene some of them do not show up for class.

We are working with the social workers assigned to the North Port schools. There is a need for backpacks filled with personal hygiene products. Students often move around with what they can carry. By having the backpacks filled with personal care products, it would be one less thing of concern. The benefit of having backpacks with supplies would allow the social workers to act with an immediate response when a student walks in the door and shares their homeless situation.

Both girls and boys are in this situation. As of May, 2011 North Port had 240 homeless students attend their schools and the numbers continue to increase. Through October 30, 2011 we have distributed 2,200 family bags/backpacks. We are trying to provide them with everyday essentials. We are in need of toiletries and monetary donations. This is just a band-aid for the homeless problem, but we can make a difference in the life of a child by showing him or her someone cares.

On behalf of the students and families who are in homeless or needy situations in North Port, your willingness to help provide products to meet their needs is greatly appreciated.



Our goal is to provide North Port, homeless and needy children with toiletries to meet their daily hygiene needs. This effort is being coordinated with school counselors.

We Are In Need Of The Following Items:

- Jan Sanitizers
- Hair Shampoo & Conditioners
- Bath Soap
- Feminine Products
- Razors, Shaving Cream (Fawn)
- Lotions (skin care and antiperspirant)
- Chapstick
- Laundry Detergents
- Combs, Hair Brushes
- Deodorants
- Travel Size Tissues
- Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Dental Floss, Mouthwash

We are also in need of monetary donations to purchase the above items. If you wish to donate, please send your check to:

North Port Coalition for Homeless and Needy Children, Inc.
P. O. Box 6826
North Port, Florida 34280

Visit the website to learn more and donate online!
www.backpackangels.org

For pickup, please contact:
Jan Huesgen (941) 473-6078 jhuesgen@northport.org
Diane Peallegro (941) 476-5519 Diane.555@northport.org

Drop Off Locations for "Backpack Angels"

- Jan Huesgen 14925 Tarlanti Trail
- Carli Galati 14018 Sumner Blvd.
- Patrol Storage Tiger Bay
- Patrol Storage Toledo Bldg
- Jane Barber Shop 14503 Tarlanti Trail
- Zyw Auto Salon 3345 Bobcat Village Center Rd
- Out Coast Medical Clinic 14575 S. Tarlanti Trail
- Coastal Community Church 12497 S. Tarlanti Trail
- St. Nicholas Church 4700 S. Escalante Blvd
- St. Pauls Presbyterian 5350 Sunset Blvd.
- Seventh Day Adventist Biscayne Blvd.
- Senior Center 4340 Pan American Blvd
- Brick Grill 122 S. Sumner Blvd (Opposite)
- Bullac Wigs & Flings 1307 W. Pys Blvd (Opposite Brady)
- Artistic Day Spa 14822 Tarlanti Trail
- Charo Barber Shoe 14889 Tarlanti Trail
- Classic Barber Shoe 17218 Toledo Bldg Blvd
- Hibon Treasures 13641 Tarlanti Trail
- Sandy's Ped Boutique 730 Tarlanti Trail
- YMCA 6307 Sum. Glades Way
- San Depot 7200 Sumner Cross Drive

Backpack Angels Homeless/Needy Children



North Port Coalition
for
Homeless/Needy Children, Inc.

"Help Us Help Them"

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Tuesdays in June
Landscape Assistance
Have your gardening and landscaping questions answered by a Master Gardener!
5, 12, 19, 26,
(Tuesdays)
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Computer Classes
Will resume at a later date

Monday, June 4
Caregiver Series: Understanding Dementia
Join Pam Polowski of Infinity Homecare to learn about the signs & symptoms of Alzheimer's and the difference between Alzheimer's and other dementia.
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Monday, June 18
Caregiver Series: Helping Families Cope
Mike Levine from Home Instead Senior Care will discuss ways to help families care for those with Alzheimer's while also taking care of oneself.
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Tech Talk with Mary Lou Dowd
This program will provide you with an opportunity to address your computer issues. *one-on-one!*
1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Thursday, June 21
Kindle Fire Demonstration
View a youtube video that shows how to load an app to a Kindle Fire and also how to load both an audio and ebook to this device. If you bring your Kindle Fire, you must also bring your library P.I.N. and your Amazon log on and password.

Saturday, June 16
Travel Tales from China, Mongolia & More!
Join Connie Curtis and Shana Hinze as they regale us with stories, artifacts, and an insider's knowledge of these far-flung countries.

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