March 2018

REACH News

REACH Advocacy Developments:

❖ REACH Advocacy has now adopted a set of by-laws as we move toward becoming a legally incorporated entity under NYS law. Now we are in the process of identifying who will be the nine people to become the founding board members. Once our papers are filed we will then begin the process of applying to become a 501c3 charitable organization. We are appreciative of the assistance of Amy D'Amico, Esq. in this next step.

❖ REACH Advocacy is moving toward our long-term goal of creating permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless. REACH in collaboration with PCHO (Person Centered Housing Options) has begun a conversation with a local church to re-purpose a part of their building into permanent supportive housing. If all things come together we could see some permanent supportive housing apartments being opened in 2020.

❖ We, as REACH Advocacy, are represented on the HSN (Housing Services Network) Advocacy Work Group. There are three issues being addressed at this table:

  o Operational experiences with 211.

  o Concerns about the way sanctions work.

  o Home Stability Support legislation in NYS. For more information click on HSS.

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Please note that REACH Home 2017-18 will close in mid-April.

Until then we still need people or organizations to sign up to provide evening meals for our guests by clicking here. Scroll down the list to the date of your choice.

We are saddened to report that one of guests, Andrew Hendricks, died at the end of last week. Andrew was doing so well, he was willing helper at REACH, and he had started a new job at McDonalds and was really looking to get on top of his addictive behavior. But that was not to be. We grieve at this loss and commend him into that greater life we all journey toward.

Please keep our guests and Andrew's family in your thoughts and prayers as they deal with this sadness.

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Homelessness is tied to poverty. Fifty years after Martin Luther King's Poor People's March on Washington there is another Poor People's Campaign being planned. To learn more, go to https://poorpeoplescampaign.org

Meet our Guests….

Nikki and Ricardo have each been homeless for more than four years. They met at the Salvation Army shelter four years ago and hope one day to be married and make a new start in their own place. They have had a tough time—they have stayed with friends who asked them to leave, had a room in a rooming house but their rent was raised beyond their means. They came to REACH Home in January and are so very thankful for the community and home they have had here. They are each in recovery and have been substance free for six months and very happy with their lives. They have qualified for Rapid Re-Housing and now are actively looking for an apartment. Ricardo, who was injured on the job and on disability, is now beginning an educational program with ACCESSVR and hopes to do his GED and train for alternative employment that he can do with his disability. Between them they have five grandchildren and hope someday to be able to visit each of them. They both express their deep appreciation for REACH.

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REACH Funds

Last month we spoke of our critical cash shortage. This month we are pleased to report that, thanks to many we are out of the crisis for now. We would like to make special thanks to the following:

- Connie Wahl's church, The Church of the Transfiguration's bake sale donated $1905.60.
- Oliver Del Rosario from Coldwell Banker Custom Realty and Matt Vercant of **Just Games** organized and promoted an event that raised $831.83. The .83 cents came from a boy who was not in the tournament, but who gave his change anyway!
- Evelyn Gartz, an 8yr old, organized a fundraiser that collected $1,820.
- Holy Trinity Church, Webster, sent a donation of $2,413.
- Folk City Benefit Concert $500
- The Realtor's Charitable Foundation awarded us a grant of $2,000.
- The Wilson Foundation awarded us a grant of $15,000.
  Each of these grants were submitted by Sarah Peters and we thank her for this work.

In addition, the County has begun to pay for those guests who are eligible for re-imbursement, so we are confident that we will make it through until we close. Then we will begin to raise funds towards creating permanent supportive housing, and gifts continue to be welcome. Checks, made out to FLACE/REACH Advocacy, may be mailed to P.O. Box10845, Rochester, NY 14610, or you may go to our web page where you can donate on line. All donations are tax deductible.

REACH Home takes about $3400/week to operate and at this stage we have not reimbursed our faithful social work team who make our mission so very successful. With the additional income this month we will be able to catch up on these arrears.

We also received some wonderful gifts in kind this past month:
- The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints a very large donation of personal care products, cleaning supplies, paper products and food.
- Lisa O'Connor and the Child Support Enforcement Unit gave a gift card, clothing, and personal care items.

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REACH is looking for a new Treasurer

Dave Gloss our current treasurer signed on to see us through the end of the current REACH Home in April. As we move to incorporate and expand our vision we are looking for a person who can fill this central role in our organization. If interested, please contact Peter W. Peters at peterwpeters@me.com, or Andy Carey at mccollaborative1@gmail.com.