

**Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition Meeting Minutes – Monday, Dec. 2, 2024**

**PLACE:** St. Francesca Resource Center, 117 Allen St., Chippewa Falls, WI

**TIME:** 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

\* Introductions and Prayer Requests

\* Opened Meeting With Prayer by Deacon Rose Ruthy

\* **Guest Speaker:** Tina Simmons, Program Director of St. Francesca Resource Center

**Subject:** Pregnancy and Family Support Program

St. Francesca's Pregnancy and Family Support Program is a "Earn While You Learn" type program ... and the program is free of charge.

They offer a number of video topics that cover various areas of parenting from pregnancy to birth to infant care, toddler care, parenting skills, life enrichment skills, fatherhood lessons, positive partnerships, special circumstances such as abuse, addiction, codependency, etc.

With each topic you learn about, you earn credits that can be used to "purchase" items such as maternity and baby clothes, blankets, diapers, formula, car seats, gas cards and other much needed parenting supplies.

This is a faith-based program and they currently have 21 moms in the program, with room for more. It is designed to educate, support and create interest to continue with the program with the "Earn While You Learn" incentive. They also connect the moms in the program with other moms going through similar circumstances so they have a support group in the program.

For more information about the program, contact the St. Francesca Resource Center, 117 Allen St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729 ... 715-215-2638 ... [st.francesca.rc@gmail.com](mailto:st.francesca.rc@gmail.com)

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\* **Guest Speaker:** Lauren Bearson,

**Subject:** Rescued and Redeemed Ministry

Rescued and Redeemed is a 501c3 Christ-centered, anti-sex trafficking organization located in Eau Claire, started in 2018. It currently is the only Rescued and Redeemed program in the state of Wisconsin.

They focus on confronting this issue by providing deeper awareness and practical, effective solutions that rescue and redeem all involved individuals through the love and gospel of Jesus Christ.

Their mission is three-fold ... #1. REACHING vulnerable people through awareness and education. #2. RESCUING victims by protecting them and providing hope and healing. #3. RESTORING survivors through effective solutions, services and support.

They help survivors of sex trafficking reclaim their lives and find healing through their survivor's services which cover everything from advocacy to safe shelter. They also bring a deeper understanding and awareness of the root issues that lead individuals into activities and mindsets that can potentially result in sex trafficking by providing preventative resources and mentorship opportunities.

One of their methods of support is an on-going clothing drive with all items collected distributed around the world for those in need. They also offer short-term clothing drives.

If you would like to support the Rescued and Redeemed mission by placing a clothing collection box in your church/non-profit organization contact Elaine Geissler ... 715-379-3533. If you would like more information about Rescued and Redeemed, check out their website ...

<https://www.rescuedandredeemed.org>

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\* **Mission Update:** Thanksgiving Meal, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Meal, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>. (Tom Drehmel)  
NOV. 28<sup>th</sup> - We serviced 117 meals on Thanksgiving at Central Lutheran Church (77 dine-in, 40 take-outs). Food provided by Rutledge Charities.  
DEC. 25<sup>th</sup> – We are planning a Christmas Community Meal on Christmas Day at First Presbyterian Church. Food again provided by Rutledge Charities. Volunteer Sign-Up info will be forth coming. Stay Tuned.

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\* **Mission Update:** Hope Village/Tiny Houses (Mike Cohoon)

-- Construction Update

- Under construction of the 2 duplexes and the 6-plex. Should be done by the first week of April 2025!
- Green Team Grant: the solar equipment is on-site and is currently being installed. (solar panels for the community center which will mostly pay the cost of the community center and the 10 tiny houses.)
- Need more mentors for the Tiny House guests. 2 mentors are paired with each household. Always looking for volunteers to staff the community center – just need to be on the property! Interested? Contact Mike Cohoon ... [director@hopevillagechippewafalls.org](mailto:director@hopevillagechippewafalls.org) ... 715-210-5405.
  - Biggest success of Hope Village is having mentors for guests. The connections are very needed for people to know they are not alone. We all have times where we just need someone who cares.
- **Biggest News is pending purchase of Indianhead Motel in Chippewa.** We have signed a purchase agreement for the Indianhead Motel. We are seeking a \$1.5M grant from the state through their Community Development Block Grant program. The Chippewa County Housing Authority is partnering with us to administer the grant. Our plan is to convert the 27 motel rooms into efficiency apartments for singles and couples. First meeting with the city planning commission is Monday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Chippewa City Council Chambers/City Hall. Please plan on attending to support this mission. Thank You!

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\* **Mission Update:** “Lighten Your Load” Family Laundry Mission. (Gayle Klitzke)

Volunteers? Funds?

- Always looking for new volunteers. If you are interested contact Gayle Klitzke ... [gayleklitzke@hotmail.com](mailto:gayleklitzke@hotmail.com) ... 715-723-5053. If you are new, we will team you with an experienced LYL veteran.
- Always appreciate donations of detergent, pods, etc. and money. All monetary donations for LYL should be sent to – “Pam Moran-Lighten Your Load, c/o Central Lutheran Church, 411 N. Bridge St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729” ... be sure to put “Lighten Your Load” in the memo line.

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\* **“Lather With Love” Soap Mission – February 2025** (Tom Drehmel)

It was decided at our Oct. meeting to do our “Lather With Love” soap mission in February 2025. Be sure to put it on your church/non-profit agency calendars.

- Last year we did this in April, but will be doing it in FEBRUARY for 2025.

- Central Lutheran will again be the collection point.
- Collection can start around Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> and end on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>. All soap items should be delivered on or before Feb. 26 to Central Lutheran. Local Pantries can pick up their soap items on Thursday, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>
- Flyers and details to follow. Stay Tuned!

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**\* Other Business/Announcements**

-- What other mission projects/community events are happening at your church/non-profit? How can we help? Include on Website and/or Facebook?

- Christmas Concert – Thursday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> ... 7:00pm at Trinity United Methodist Church, 201 W. Central St., Chippewa Falls. Featuring the musical talents of Art Mathews II, Janet Mayer, Holcombe Madrigal Singers, Sue Seeger and Trinity's Bells and Chimes.
- Reverse Advent Calendar for food pantry – First Presbyterian Church. Each day in December has a separate food item you can collect. On Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> you turn in all the food items, which will be given away at their Food Pantry. If you would like a copy of their "Reverse Advent" Calendar, contact Tiffany Wogahn at First Presbyterian Church ... [admin@fpcchippewa.org](mailto:admin@fpcchippewa.org)
- Salvation Army Christmas Bell Ringers needed in Chippewa and EC County. Funds stay local. You can choose location, date, time, etc. Invite your youth groups, choirs, friends, family, etc.. You can register online: **registertoring.com or phone 715-834-1224.**
- Chippewa Steel Hockey Team is doing a Hope Village night – raffle items, quarter auction tickets, etc. January 4 at 7pm

**\* Next Meeting – January 6 ... at St. Charles Community Center, 810 Pearl St., Chippewa Falls**

**\* Closed Meeting with Lord's Prayer/Our Father**

**CFMC Mission Statement:** "Faithful people joining hearts and hands to be God's Love in Action for our neighbors near and far."

**CFMC Bible Verse:** Psalm 60:12 – "With God's Help We Will Do Mighty Things."

**WEBSITE:** [cfmissioncoalition.org](http://cfmissioncoalition.org) -- **FACEBOOK:** [facebook.com/cfmissioncoalition](https://www.facebook.com/cfmissioncoalition)

Respectfully Submitted, Tom Drehmel