

**Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition Meeting Minutes – Monday, Nov. 4, 2024**  
**PLACE: First Presbyterian Church, 130 W. Central St., Chippewa Falls, WI**

**TIME:** 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

\* Introductions and Prayer Requests

\* Opened Meeting With Prayer by Pastor Ed Williams

\* **Guest Speakers:** Lisa Husom and Erin Whitfield – Mentor Chippewa Staff

**Subject:** Mentor Chippewa Program – How You Can Make A Difference In A Child's Life

- 36 years of mentoring in the Chippewa Valley, started by interested community members.
- 2020 became their own 501c3 non-profit
- Program highlights from this past school year:
  - 56 new students in the program (Currently more than 100 students in all)
    - Half self-requested to be in the program asking to have a mentor
  - Added 2 new program partners: Stanley-Boyd and New Auburn school districts
    - New Auburn peer-to-peer matches – going really well – middle/high school students
  - 34 new adults applied to be mentors
  - Happy to connect with any recommended new mentors
  - **Current Ask: NEED MORE MALE MENTORS.** They've seen an increase in young male mentees advocating that they could use a male mentor in their lives
  - Marketing materials: posters, postcards, etc. are available. Share them with your folks! Website: **Mentorchippewa.org**
- The process:
  - Fill out an application. Lots of questions to match partners on a deep level.
  - There is a waiting list of mentees and just a few mentor applications.
  - After the application, there's an interview and a thorough orientation and 1-1 support in the program
- Commitment is 30 minutes, 1 day a week.
  - Meet the child at their school during the school day. Maybe they just want to talk. Maybe they want to color. Maybe they want to play a game. Helping them find their voice and use it for good.
  - School partners/teachers indicate that the Mentor Chippewa students go back to class more engaged, less classroom behaviors, positive referrals, staff are happy with it, etc. Very positive results are coming out of the program.
- What if I'm a 'snow bird'?
  - Yes, you can still be a mentor. You can pre-write postcards or letters. Some school districts allow the use of technology to connect virtually.
  - **\*\*Tom to connect Mentor Chippewa with Becky Kneer and the Menomonie Area Mission Coalition. (NOTE: Sent Menomonie Connection following meeting)**
- Hoping to continue to expand to schools in the Chippewa Valley. EC County, Barron, etc.
- Donations: where do my donations go to?
  - All money stays within the Mentor Chippewa Program in 4 main areas below:
    - **1.** Mentor recruitment (marketing, social media), **2.** Student safety (background checks), **3.** Mentor training and education (full resource library), and **4.** One-on-One support (celebrations, food, activities)
- Is there a set time to mentor?

- Each school has a different schedule. The school will give you day/time options, but once it's set, try to stick to it. (Some flexibility allowed, check with school)
- For more information go to their Website: **Mentorchippewa.org**

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**\* St. Francesca Winter Coat & Clothing Giveaway – Final Tally** (Tina Simmons)

Report on how this Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> outreach mission helped those in need.

- Started with 554 coats.
  - Knights of Columbus gave 180 new coats
- Served 126 families = 485 family members! Gave away 315 coats, 38 pairs of boots, 648 misc. clothing items.
- (This is the collection that used to happen with St. Joe's Hospital.)
- Still accepting donations ... warm winter clothes being given away all winter. If you have a donation, contact Tina Simmons at St. Francesca Resource Center ... [st.francesca.rc@gmail.com](mailto:st.francesca.rc@gmail.com)

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**\* Holy Ghost/CFMC “Socktober” Sock Drive -- Final Tally** (Mark Birrittella)

Report on how this October outreach mission helped those in need.

- Collected 800+ brand new, and 110 gently used.
- Half to St. Francesca's Resource Center and half to Valley Vineyard Pantry.

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

-- Capital Campaign/Construction Update

- Under construction of the 2 duplexes and the 6-plex. Good progress on the duplexes. Some delays on the 6-plex. Should be done by the first week of April!
- Green Team Grant: the solar equipment is on-site and needs to be installed. (solar panels for the community center which will mostly pay the cost of the community center and the 10 tiny houses.)
  - Chi High Students “Green Team” wrote grant for the \$180K solar project.
- 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!
  - 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.

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

Volunteers? Funds?

- All volunteer spots are filled for December
- 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. Details to follow in coming months.
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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?

- Ham Loaf dinner on Nov. 13 at First Presbyterian Church, 130 W. Central St., C.F. ... 4:30 – 6:00 pm
- Mentor Chippewa will be sharing some of the CFMC info and events with their Mentors via their emailed newsletter. The CFMC in turn will also share Mentor Chippewa info with our group.
- 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](http://registertoring.com) or phone **715-834-1224**.
- February mission trip for the Presbyterian Church. Going to North Carolina hurricane destruction. If you want to go along or if you want to donate, let Pastor Ed know. Tom will send out link. (NOTE: Waiting for Link from Ed. Info to follow.)
- Christmas and Thanksgiving meals.
  - Thanksgiving Community Meal: 11am-1pm at Central Lutheran
  - Pam Moran at Central has a sign up for the Thanksgiving Community meal. Need volunteers for the setup, serving and cleanup. Casper Rutledge is funding the meals. Tom has sent the volunteer link out. Here is the link to sign-up again ... <https://centrallutheran.churchcenter.com/people/forms/618286>
  - Thanksgiving Flyer will be coming. (NOTE: Thanksgiving Flyer sent out after meeting.)
  - The Christmas meal will be at First Presbyterian from 3-5pm. Rutledge Charities again funding the meal. (Details and volunteer sign-up to follow.)
  - Purpose is not just to get a meal. The purpose is that folks should not be alone on these holidays. Get people to come! Fellowship is the goal. It’s a community meal so that no one is home alone.
  - (No carry-out meals)
- Chippewa Steel is doing a Hope Village night – raffle items, quarter auction tickets, etc. January 4 at 7pm

**\* Next Meeting – Dec. 2, 2024 ... at St. Francesca Resource Center, 117 Allen St., C.F.**

**Guest Speakers:** Tina Simmons, Program Director of St. Francesca Resource Center & Elaine Geissler, Co-Founder & Director of P.R. for Rescued & Redeemed

**Subject:** Pregnancy Support Ministry at St. Francesca & Rescued and Redeemed Ministry

**\* 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://facebook.com/cfmissioncoalition)

Respectfully Submitted, Kari Allen