**Strangers No Longer Zoom Meeting: Dec. 19, 2023**

**Attendance:**  Rose Pikor, Mary Lou LaTorre, Kathy Best, Pat Watanabe, Julie Watanabe,

Fiona Archer, Sue Johnston, Cyndi Malow,

**Opening Prayer:**  Kathy Best

**Strangers No Longer Updates**

* Assembly for Human Dignity:

Sister Martha gave an update saying there were about 100 people there. Some from Christo Ray High School opened the meeting with an prayer. There was a memorial for those from SNL who have passed. There was a “shout out” section where different Circles of Support represented their activities. Julie sent Bill O’Brien some pictures from ours and Amy Ketner also represented St. Michael’s Circle. There was talk of importance of Mutuality with Circles of Support. They spoke on Advocacy with updating the Drive Safe Plan, which seems to possibly be stalled and also talk of “Wage Stop” (sp?) issues.

The meeting was considered a success.

* Fundraiser Goal Met:

Cyndi told a story of Bill O’Brien receiving a phone call about the Fundraiser. That woman spoke to her mother and together sent a check of $10,000 helping to exceed the goal.

* Fundraiser luncheon:

Pat W. reported that no one is in charge yet. It will again be at the Ukraine Cultural Center which holds 400 people.

**Christian Service Update:**  All accepted Cyndi’s report.

**Holiday Business Completed by the Circle:**

* Christian Stocking Project: Discussion was had on the implementation of this project.

All were pleased with the project. Twenty five stockings were adopted. Since each donation wasn’t the same size, we wondered if some children were noticing that some gifts were larger than others. Julie stated that Sr. Martha didn’t mention the differences in the size of the various stockings. Julie said she would ask Sr. Val if there were any concerns from the children. We also related this to other donated projects, such as Easter baskets. More discussions on details for future projects is needed.

* Giving Tree Tags: All our 30 tags were donated with $1985 going to both SNL

(N. Macomb) and Mujeres Group. All were counted as $25 each, but more could have been donated.

* Holiday Food Boxes: Boxes were picked up by both Sr. Val and by Marisol (sp?) from Mujeres Group in Ann Arbor. We discussed adding more specific foods to the generic list already generated for each box. Julie will ask Sr. Val for any suggestions. This year beans and rice was added to the boxes per Sr. Val’s suggestion.

**New/Continued Business:**

* Educational speaker: We will reach out to Sr. Val after the New Year to continue our interest in finding a speaker from the Matamoros Refugee Camp.
* Building Relationships between Circles of Support: Bill O’Brien talked to Julie about 2023 having been the year of Advocacy and 2024 will be the year of building relationships between Circle of Support Groups and wondered how we were communicating with the Mujeres Group. We discussed how we can better build a relationship with them other than just donating Easter baskets or Food Boxes. There are usually between 12 and 17 women in that group. Marisol and Nancy already sometimes send e-mails that have been translated. When Sr. Martha in the past attended our zoom meetings, she was a good liaison between our two groups. We thought about maybe asking one from the group or Sr. Martha to occasionally attend our zoom meetings. Another thought was that we might consider attending Church services together. We will revisit more ideas at a later date.
* Lenten Communion Service: Pat. W. informed us of Santos, whose children played the music at our past services, had an upcoming court date (to see about possible deportation). She will keep us updated to let us know if he will again be available.

Ideas: Julie wondered if some students from Christo Ray might take part. We also talked about the value of having men take part, possibly with a dad and a son attending. More ideas are to be generated at a later date.

**Bahkita House:**

* Supply items needed. We discussed ways in which to donate (ex. at our Lenten Service, etc.) Rose will check to see if we can visit the House.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, January 16th at 7PM on Zoom

**Agenda:**  Julie **Minutes:** Rose **Opening/Closing Prayer:**  Sue Johnston

**Communication with Kathy Chadick (bulletin):**  Julie

**Comunication with Michelle Hayes (Facebook):**  Fiona

**Closing Prayer:** Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!