

Marion County Children's Alliance Monthly Meeting Wednesday, July 1, 2009

Invocation:

Given by Howard Moon of Howard Moon & Son.

Introductions:

Scott Hackmyer requested introductions from new attendees.

Mr. Hackmyer spoke on a KCI article that was in the paper and how they were saving money in Marion County.

If anyone would like to help sponsor the Back-To-School event, the cost of one backpack with supplies to start school is \$10 per child. Checks may be made payable and mailed to the Marion County Childrens Alliance, Inc., 3482 NW 10th Street, Ocala, FL 34475.

A new Clinic on Wheels, West Side Stop has begun next to Cunningham Funeral Home on the 4th Friday of each month through the Health Department from 9-3p.m.

Kids Central, Inc. has funded summer programs for the Children's Alliance.

The Children's Alliance will hold a Back-To-School Bash on August 15 at Ed Croskey Center from 10-2 p.m.

Minutes:

The April minutes were approved as written.

Staff Report:

Given during Roundtable.

Speakers:

Connie King, Coordinator, Eckerd Mentoring program spoke on "Working With Children Who Have An Incarcerated Parent." Mentoring Speakers are available by contacting Connie at (352) 445-1410.

Roundtable:

Kelvin Richardson is working to get fathers involved with their kids through the Nurturing Fatherhood program at the jail.

City Parks & Recreation is averaging 150 kids per day for the summer program.

Julie Linhart said Girl Scouts 101 is starting on the West Side on Thursday evenings. If you have a facility to team up with the Girl Scouts you can call Julie at 694-4425, x1821.

Martha Cieplinski stated that the Francis Marion Military Academy is alive and well. Located at 2091 NE 35 St., Ocala, FL. for grades 9-10. Martha can be reached at (352) 291-6600.

Dennis Baxley endorsed mentoring a child. He spoke about how he thought his schedule was too busy until he heard that the governor was mentoring a child with his schedule. We are never too busy to mentor a child and the rewards are tremendous.

Brian from The Samaritan Corp stated that on July 25 there will be a walk starting from the Baseline Trail Head. You can contact him at (352) 553-2684.

Herb Dupree, Howard Academy offers tutoring Monday-Thursday 4-6 p.m. They are located at 306 NW 7th Avenue, Ocala, FL and can be contacted by phone at (352) 629-7082.

Howard Academy has comfortable meeting rooms available (FREE) to non-profit, community-based groups M-F 8:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m. and Sat. 8:30a.m.-3:30 p.m. with extended hours if necessary.

Joanna Bennett spoke for the Childhood Nutrition Workgroup. They had over 600 kids, including the summer program, that took pre and post tests and had their BMI stats taken. W.O.W. curriculum was used. The next meeting will focus on new school and strategic plans.

Sylvia Miller, co-chair for the Autism & Other Disabilities Workgroup was a KCI grant recipient and has almost 50 children in 2 summer programs which will go for 10 weeks instead of the 1 week held last year. Volunteers included an EMT, high school and UF students.

Howard Moon reminded everyone that October is Disability Awareness month. He was recently at a planning & prevention summit and stated that Marion County is so far ahead of the rest of the state of Florida in "What we are doing." He thanked Bill D'Aiuto, Phil Scarpelli and Cyndi Schuler.

Dawn Westgate said the Fourth Annual Art & Soul Children's Art Auction will be held on August 6th. Tickets are \$35 for this Kimberly's Cottage fundraiser.

Shirley Page said Meadowbrook Church is hosting a special DivorceCare seminar and support group for people who are separated or divorced. This is in conjunction with a children's group (ages 5-12 years of age) on the same subject matter. The next session will begin August 6th at 7:00 p.m. There is no fee for the seminar but the workbook costs \$13.00. She can be reached at 873-3767.

Connie King said the Orlando Family of prisoners Conference will be held Feb. 24-27 and is looking for presenters.

Mary Ann Ellis, Growing Families has expanded tutoring. She can be reached at 465-2444.

American Hearts Unlimited, Inc. has a community clothes closet and thrift store. They are a 501c3 and gives out everything from refrigerators to shoes for the needy by application. Call (352) 625-4400.

Donna McCroan said the Safe Kids Workgroup is working hard. They just completed a car seat class. Donna can be reached at 629-0137 x2251.

Geraldine Lochren, Success By Six stated the next parenting series begins July 15 at the Marion County Public Library. They have 10 speakers, 5 of which are new. Free dinner and childcare are offered. Call 369-2315.

Jorja Greig, Citizens For A Safer Florida, reminded everyone to have a safe Independence Day. Florida Statute 791 states can be found at:

http://www.flsenate.gov/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=Ch0791/ch0791.htm

There are those who believe using aerial fireworks or exploding ground 'sparkler' displays are safe and sane, yet the National Fire Protection Association's data show they are neither, particularly to children. Please attend a public display firework display. Visit: CFASFlorida.org or e-mail jdarabians@earthlink.net or Wjohns7@tampabay.rr.com.

Rev. Jim Bullock invited everyone to the next Mentoring and Faith Community Network meetings. (See the schedule below.) Pastor Delcamp, Shores Assembly is teaching young men construction skills. For more information on the "Carpenters Shop" call 687-0190. David Houck has a mentoring center in the Forest that is going well.

Ken Nelson, Interfaith said Food for Kids now has a Spanish brochure. Backpacks are always welcome. They must meet certain criteria. Call 629-8868 for more information.

Monica Bryant spoke for the Family Violence Prevention Workgroup. 2,000 middle school kids were educated; Marion County Know the Law booklet is being worked on; Circuit 5 FVP website will be up in about 2 weeks; remember Anthony Porter, "A Call to Men" will be coming in October for the domestic violence conference; December will see another toy drive; \$10 buys a backpack for the Back-To-School event to be held in August. This year a second event will be held in Summerfield.

Future Meetings:

Safe Kids Coalition	2 nd Wednesday, July 8 – 9:30 a.m., Health Dept.
Faith Community Network	2 nd Wednesday, July 8 – 12:00 p.m., OPD
Family Violence Prevention	2 nd Monday, July 13 – 11:00 a.m., Sheriff's Office
Autism & Other Disabilities	2 nd Tuesday, July 14 – 11:00 a.m., 2810 NE 14 th St.
Childhood Nutrition	2 nd Tuesday, July 14 – 3:30 p.m., CDS
Mentoring Workgroup	3 rd Wednesday, July 15 – 11:30 a.m., Jail Adm. Conf. Rm.
Grant Advisory Workgroup	4 th Thursday, July 23– 11:00 a.m., OPD
Quarterly Board	1 st Wednesday, September 2, 2009 - 11:30 a.m., Jail Adm. Bldg.
Alliance Monthly Meeting	1 st Wednesday, August 5 - 11:30 a.m., Jail Adm. Bldg.
9 th Annual "Children First" Breakfast	– Tuesday, November 17, 2009

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.