

Mission Committee Valley Presbyterian Church
Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2023, 9:15 a.m. Room 1

NOTE TIME CHANGE: MISSION COMMITTEE MEETING WAS HELD AT 9:15a.m. with
LUNCH AT POSADA LIVE COMMUNITY SERVICE AT 11:30

8:45 AM Bible study/reflections- "The Sermon"
Question: Do you reflect on the sermon?

Ed Storey

Members Present: Doug Clark, Ed Storey, Pastor Craig Lindsey, Les Walter, Kara Fitzpatrick, Kylene Joplin, Carol Stephens, Kay Brouwer, Deb Jones, Mary Horn, Jim Fitzpatrick. Absent: Ann Ball, Reed Olson, Judy Aguayo, George Curtis, Steve Larson,

9:25 a.m. Call to order/Prayer

Doug Clark

Announcements-

Mission Meeting- Minutes of August 8, 2023, Approved

Financial Report: Mission Budget Review- August 2023- Contingency Fund \$2207.93

Doug Clark

Mission Reports/Comments- Round Table

Update Reminder: Each person with assigned Mission area should contact assigned agency/missionary on a regular monthly basis for update and activity. If able or unable to attend meeting, please submit written update or email for committee and minutes.

Amado-GV Food Bank

Kylene Joplin/Carol Stephens

- Delivered 61 pounds of food last month. A total of \$5581.24 was raised (1/2 to each of the food banks.)
- About 10 people from VPC attended the recent Walk for Hunger.

Casa Vida Nueva para Niños

Reed Olson

Casa Vida Nueva para Niños (Orphanage)



From Left to Right: Myrel: Majoring in Psychology; Carolina: Majoring in Nursing; Antonio: Majoring in Graphic Design; and Edgar: Majoring in Business

These four college students have two main blessings. First, they were able to grow up and be nurtured at Casa Vida Nueva para Niños. And second, they were encouraged and financially supported to attend high school and now are now enrolled in college. This second blessing was due to your support – without it, they would not be attending college and achieving a better life for themselves. Thank you all. This is proof that you are truly making a difference in the lives of these wonderful children.

Background: The Mexican government pays for school through the 8th grade. From then on, the parents or guardians must come up with the costs of school (tuition, uniforms, books, travel) and for most of them, that cost is too much. Hence, many Mexican children only have an 8th grade education. RISE Scholastic Achievements was formed as a 501(c)(3), non-profit, to help overcome this financial burden and provide a life changing opportunity for these orphaned children. Through your help, RISE uses your donations to pay for the costs of high school and college or trade-school. The challenge is that per the Mexican government, all children who reach the age of 18 at the orphanage, “age-out” of the home, are no longer authorized to live there, and must be let go to find their own way. Elias (Director of the home) has come up with a creative way to help these children. If they agree to attend college / trade school and achieve good grades, they will be allowed to live at the home until they graduate. But only if they also agree to become an adult at the home - help with the chores and oversee the younger children.

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY HAS SURFACED: These college students do not have any income and feel they are outcasts when they meet other students. Although they have a place to sleep and food to eat at the home, they need spending money just like any college student. If you ever sent your child to college, you know what this is like. Elias approached RISE for help. Together, we decided that donations of \$250 per college student per month would help cover their expenses (clothing, supplies, fun) while dedicating their time to studying, and helping around the home. This places more financial stress on RISE but is well worth it and helps these young adults stay focused. Thank you again for your help and support.

Compañeros en Misión
No report at this time.

Judy Aguayo

Crossroad Nogales Mission

Les Walter

- Les represents VPC as well as being on the Crossroads Board.
- Still no financial report; hopefully by the end of the year it will be completed.
- Not sure when lunches will resume. Les is checking with the Mission and will get back to us when VPC might resume this program.
- Les visited with 3 other local churches all involved in Crossroads Mission activity
- Letter sent out to the 3 partners:
 - o We extend our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and genuine commitment to extending the message of Christ's love to those who are hungry, homeless, abused and struggling with addiction in the south-central Arizona region. In this area, Crossroads stands as the only shelter, reaching out to individuals who have lost their way and come from diverse backgrounds.
 - o The Common Ground Church, Green Valley Free Church, and Green Valley Baptist have a shared purpose that runs deep. Each of these congregations has shown a strong desire to collaborate with Crossroads in the revitalization s of the women's shelter. Our goal is to turn it into a safe haven where women and children who are going through difficult times can find refuge and comfort there.

General Mission Support

Ed Storey

- Ed passed around magazines with other ideas for mission support.

Hands of a Friend

Pat Nau/Kara Fitzpatrick

- No formal report. Kara visited the facility last month. The roof project was completed. Income was down significantly over the summer with sales at Dazees. They are trying to build inventory for the fall. Doug reminded us we have contingency funds for special needs.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox

Ann Ball

- Doug read report from Ann.
- Christmas Showbox Regional Coordinator representing Samaritan Purse. Dave McGidden, delivered 50 more shoeboxes to my house free of charge for our use. He has confidence and faith that we will need these based on Valley Presby's history of giving. Boxes stored with the others ordered at Ann Ball's home.
- Timelines laid out in the summer are being met with no problems.
- Ann and Steve Ball are attended the training Sept 8 at Christ Community Church in Tucson. No funding is being sought for attendance.

- Assembling of boxes will commence mid Sept at Ann and Steve's home and stored there until delivery to the church mid Oct.
- Valley Voice article was published for Oct. and EBlasts were done 3 times in Sept in an attempt to get participants to start shopping early and get in on sales to keep the costs down. More articles will be published in October.
- EBlasts will continue throughout Oct, and especially as the kickoff for distribution of the boxes begins. Bulletin announcements will also be utilized as needed to attract attention to the table of info during fellowship time.
- Detailed information will be available on how to donate boxes online if form of fliers available at welcome centers and on a table in Fellowship Hall on Sundays.
- The first day of actual distribution will be Oct 22, although shoeboxes will be available in the office if someone needs to pick up during the week. As last year, the needed info regarding the box filling and other misc. will be inside the box. Online giving info will also be available beginning about this date.

Mission Quilts

Patti Bright

- No report

Operation Mobilization (Pam and Dave L)

Doug Clark

- Late on September 8, at 23:11 local time, an earthquake measuring 6.8 according to the US Geological Survey (USGS) struck central Morocco. More than 1,030 people are reportedly killed and several hundred more injured – and these numbers will continue to rise as relief efforts increase. People are still being rescued from the rubble of buildings damaged during the quake. The epicenter was in a mountainous area, but the shaking was reportedly felt in several provinces and neighboring countries as well. OM has partners on the ground in areas affected by the earthquake, who are assessing how best to respond. They are evaluating what people's primary needs are, as things continue to change quickly, and to align these with their resources and experiences. Join us in extending a helping hand to those who were affected in Morocco by this earthquake. Please pray!

Posada Life Community Service

Deb Jones

- Just as you'd expect from a vibrant community center, the la Posada Community Center is the social hub for seniors in Green Valley. Each weekday at lunchtime, the center is abuzz with folks from around the neighboring community, enjoying each other's company over a nutritious meal – it is Green Valley's only senior lunch program – it is **that** popular. At other times of the day, you'll find vigorous board games and storytelling, shows from the La Posada Readers Theater, or friends meeting up to take a day trip to one of the numerous things to do close

by. And as with most programs and services at La Posada, the Community Center presents a great opportunity to volunteer, increasing our residents' social interactions with nonresidents as they form friendships with their fellow resident volunteers.

- For Senior Lunch Program information and advance reservations, contact Carla at 520-393-6814 or email her at ccastaneda@casagv.org. Suggested donation to this senior lunch program is \$3.
- For Community Center questions and rental information, contact Ellen at 520-393-6840 or email her at emarch@casagv.org.
- The Mission Committee would plan to use the Posada Life Community Service senior lunch program as a tool to encourage fellowship between VPC members.
- Pastor Craig suggested the VPC Fellowship Committee could work with Mission Committee to explore and establish fellowship at La Posada. Deb Jones will contact Jim Rusk and see if we can move this forward.
- Lunch today at Posada Life was attended by 7 members of Mission Committee.

Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program Ed Storey

- YAV is a 1 year program (Sept-Sept).
- Mission Committee contributes \$10,000 per year for one volunteer.
- Discussion of what happens to additional money received (ie. From Mission Breakfast, donations, etc.) Consider using funds for other activities at YAV or
- for other needs with the committee's Contingency Fund.

Presbyterian Campus Ministry George Curtis

- George had significant change in health. Karen developed congestive heart failure. They are planning to move into a retirement center (Aurora Gardens).
- Need to find a replacement for George for this area.

Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA missionaries) Doug Clark

- Lots going on. Bob and Kristi are back at full activity. Rices will be in Green Valley Friday evening. Mission Breakfast on Saturday. Bob and Kristi will jointly present the sermon on Sunday. 2:00-4:00 open house at Pastor Craig's home Sunday afternoon.

St Andrews Children's Clinic Kay Brouwer

- Laura expresses thanks for the \$1,000 gift we sent last month to cover the expenses for a teen-age child who needs Rhinoplasty to further correct a Cleft Palate. That surgery will be in November.
- Ed Storey, Dick, and Mary Horn visited the Clinic on Thursday, Sept. 7. Eighty children with parents were being treated. There were many professional volunteers in the departments of Physical Therapy, Dermatology, Orthopedics, Speech Therapy, Audiology, Pediatrics, and prosthetics.

- On September 7, Laura signed a one-year lease for the space she needs to continue her dream of a clinic for children and volunteers. This is for September 1, 2023 – Aug. 1, 2024. Then she will have the option to extend it for 24 more months.
- The space needs to be designed by building five rooms in available space for diagnosis and treatment in the departments of Nutrition, Vision Testing and Occupational Therapy. That will begin next week building solid walls with doors and windows for each room. The walls will not reach the ceiling because the sprinkler system must function. The cost of all this interior work is covered by designated prior donors.
- This added space comes at the cost of \$108,000 per year. \$56,000 (March 2023- Sept. 2023 – 6+ months) has been supplied by donors which does not include our church's designated giving. The Clinic needs more to pay for the rest of this year, Oct. 2023 – Feb. 2024, which is \$52,000 for 5+ months. We need to reach out to other churches and together help pay this rent. Consideration to unite with other churches to have a large fundraiser for future Clinic needs was discussed. If there is to be a successful joint endeavor with local churches to subsidize St. Andrews' Children's Clinic, a goal should be something finite and tangible. Kay will put out a letter – we need to raise \$52,000 for current rent (needed by Feb 2024). A plan for some sort of "gala" for future years working with other area churches was discussed. Once that is established, mission committees of cooperating churches need to become involved with a steering committee.
- Safety for all the children is a foremost concern for Laura and the staff. Children must always be accompanied by a parent. Windows in every area provide transparency whenever children are being treated. The security of the building is not a concern because anything of value is brought in and taken out by the professional volunteers who serve the Clinic.
- The St. Andrews' Clinic Board plans to change the name but this is a complicated legal process when that change is decided upon. There is a need for an entrance sign to designate the location of the Clinic.
- Laura is planning a big special Christmas party for the children & families on the 1st Thursday of December – Dec. 7.
- **Most of all, Laura asks for us to PRAY that the Clinic can keep this space and make it better for continuing services. It is God's Clinic and it will survive!**

Valley Assistance Services

Steve Larson

- (from Christine Erickson, Executive Director)
- Rental and utility assistance remain at very high demand. These high demands have steered VAS programs into needing more case managers to assist with these needs. It also demands much more program funding than ever before. This need has led to increased homelessness in our communities. It doesn't seem to matter what your

age or lifestyle was like before, more and more are homeless, living in a car, van, at a friend's house, or on the street. As you may know, this is a need across the country, now growing in our community. Not all cases are the same. It might be due to lack of job/income, lack of resources to access, and some behavioral health/health related issues. All are different. VAS has now been assisting about one household a week in these related crises, without a home. Imagine not knowing where you might live next.

- Some can get back on their feet with housing and with finding a job. VAS developed a workforce training program and computer lab a few years ago. This has helped those people look for jobs, write an updated resume, develop interview skills, and know what to know about an interview. VAS has had a 90 percent success level when following up on households about working and retaining a job. The financial literacy VAS offers assists many with knowing their expenses and budgeting, even on a very restricted income. These free classes are also open to the public.

Youth On Their Own

Mary Horn

- YOTO HEADQUARTERS: 1660 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson 85712
- YOTO MINI-MALL: 1642 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson 85712
- YOTO HEARQUARTERS: starting November 6, 2023: 2525 N. Country Club Road, Tucson
- YOUTH on Their Own will officially move to their new location on Monday, November 6, 2023. We will look forward to doing a tour of the new facility in February/March 2024.
- YOTO will be partnering with Ben's Bells to do a special YOTO Bell that will be available during tours. Folks who donate \$100 or more will have the option of receiving a bell which they can either take home or hang (with a message) in the trees in the Courtyard for a YOTO youth.
- Collections for YOTO MINI MALL will be this Sunday, September 17. We will continue to collect Spiral notebooks (College Ruled), Composition Notebooks (College Ruled), and Peter Pan Original Creamy Peanut Butter. We delivered 3 large bags of donations to YOTO on Tuesday, August 29 along with 170 cards of inspiration.
- Our Women's Ministry Gathering Luncheon has designated YOTO for their September Presbyterian Gift. The ladies will bring school supplies, hygiene products and food for the YOTO Mini-Mall.
- YOTO CARD MAKING will take place Wednesday, September 27 from 1-3:30. We'll meet in Classroom 5 from 1:00-3:30. All are welcome to come and create cards of inspiration for the students!

Recording Secretary
Co-chair

Jim Fitzpatrick
Ed Storey

Mission Breakfast

September 16, 2023- Bob and Kristi Rice / Sign-up for breakfast activities
November 18, 2023- YAV program
January 13, 2024-Valley Assistance Services
February 17, 2024- Youth On Their Own
March 23, 2024- ? In House Missions

Noisy Offering- 5th Sunday of month for 2023-2024

October 29, 2023 -Presbyterian Campus Ministry-George Curtis
December 31, 2023- Compañeros en Misión
March 31, 2024- YAV
June 30, 2024- Pam and Dave Lovet
September 29, 2024- Crossroads Nogales Mission
December 29, 2024- Hands of a Friend

Mission Breakfast- Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA missionaries) Bob and Kristi arrive 9/15/23 at 8:41p.m. - Mission Breakfast 8:30 a.m. 9/16/23 -VPC service with sermon 9:30 a.m. - Open House 2-4 p.m. at Pastor's Home (4151 S Westcotta Dr.)

Mission Breakfast- YAV Pastor James/ YAV worker/ November 18, 2023, plans and advertising discussed.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox plans and advertising in report.

Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program /plans

Homeless Packet Program-Leadership/ currently tabled awaiting opinion from Presbyterian
Resuming Lunches at Crossroad Nogales on hold.

Valley Voice articles- 8 or more / month- October (12) November (12) December (9)
January (9) February (10) March (10) April (11) May (11) June (12) July (9) August (11)
September (15)

New Business

Financial reports due (latest report in 2023) before the end of 2023

Mission Committee 2023-2024 Overview

GOALS -Support Missions (specific)

- Communication to congregation of missions (specific and general)
- Spiritual growth of members

Specific missions and leaders- Doug Clark Chairman

Amado-GV-Sahuarita Food Bank
Posada Life Community Services
Casa Vida Nueva Para Niño
Companeros en Mission
Crossroad Nogales Mission
General Mission Support
Hands of a Friend
Mission Quilts
Operation Mobilization (Pam and Dave L)
Presbyterian Campus Ministry

Kylene Joplin/ Carol Stephens
Deb Jones
Reed Olson
Judy Aguayo
Les Walters
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Pat Nau/ Kara Fitzpatrick
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Presbyterian Giving- Peace and Global Witness/One Great Hour of Sharing

Community Food Bank Walk 9/9/2023

Operation Christmas Child- November 2023

Mission Sunday/Mission Outreach Report 2023 -January 14, 2024

Monthly review of agencies and Mission Agencies Financial Report updated yearly

Homeless Packet Program- Pending

Tools of Communication-

Valley Voice -8 or more articles / month
Website-
E-blasts

Brainstorming- Pray for our missions

Prayer/ Adjourn-----Next meeting is October 10, 2023, at 8:45 a.m. Room 1