

SEDONA KIND MINUTES MARCH 15, 2019

ATTENDEES: Linda Brecher, Cheri Baldwin, Gloria (Glo) Rodriguez, Judy Neiman, Marcia Conley, Ruthie Parsons, Christina Schneider, Ruti Lovitt, Sandy Brandvold, Katie Hamilton, Laurie Dawe, Janet Marshall, Helen Knoll, Gail Moore, Heather Molans, Marci Robledo, Don McClelland, Mary Feeney, Gloria Woody, Sally Plauche, Kathy Huffstetler, Jawn McKinley, Carol Wallen, Felicia Filep.

First Time Attendees: Judy Henry, Meri Thomason, Debbie Robinson, Elinor Friedman. Katie Hamilton called the meeting to order. First-time attendees introduced themselves and said how they heard about SedonaKind. Acts of Kindness stories were heard.

Sandy read a letter from Craig Swanson, president of Friends of the Forest, requesting SedonaKind to inform the FOF if there is another government shutdown and SedonaKind decides to raise funds again. The FOF would like to be involved with us.

Sandy reported on the great response to the Scavenger Hunt for the SedonaKind benches, and she thanked Heather Molans, Jawn McKinley and Judy Neiman for accomplishing great publicity.

Ruti reported that \$4350 was contributed to thank furloughed U.S. Forest Employees for all they do for our community. With Basha's 3% discount, we were actually able to give out \$4460 in \$20 gift cards. The recipients are thrilled. Thank you to Joy Sinnott and Connie Levinson and all contributors for making this happen!

Ruti gave the KIS report. The Montessori program at West Sedona School has been cut because "it does not fit into the District Plan". Gail Mann is stepping down as Co-Chair with Pam Hollenbach, due to her travel schedule. KIS is making plans to honor teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week the last week of school as well as planning something fun for the students. Only a few school supplies have been donated to the spring school supply drive. Heather Molans put it on the Wish List again.

Cheri Baldwin explained the Food Bank's Homebound Program. Monthly boxes of food are delivered to approximately 60 homebound seniors. Not included are Ensure, Boost, coffee, and treats (they loved the "lollipops" made at our last meeting) which would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at the Food Bank. SedonaKind agreed to sponsor extras for one month. Two more delivery drivers are needed. The boxes weigh 35-40#. Deliveries leave the Food Bank the 2nd Monday at 10:00. Rita Maya's crocheted blankets went to these people. If you want to write her a thank you note, her address is: 35 Rimstone Circle, Sedona, AZ 86336.

Sandy told us about the Lions Club HERO program that collects used hearing aids, prescription, reading and sun glasses (no cases) to be distributed all over the World. Please drop off your donations to Dr. Serge Wright at 95 Soldiers Pass Road (behind Chase Bank).

Felicia Filep and Linda Brecher discussed potential ways for SedonaKind to "spread kindness to pets" in cooperation with the Humane Society of Sedona — "Paws for Kindness". Sandy suggested they choose one project to submit to SedonaKind or KIS. The Community Center is

a possible partner. Gail suggested that for it to be in keeping with the mission of SedonaKind the project would need to relate animals to humans, possibly seniors or children. If you are interested in working with this group, please contact Felicia Filep at ffilep@humanesocietyofsedona.org. A sign-up sheet was also sent around. In June the Humane Society will put on "Kids n Kritters". If you are interested in this, email sporter@humanesocietyofsedona.org or call Felicia Filep at 928-282-4679.

Jawn gave a synopsis of the Homeless and Foster Students Committee, now entitled ("These are Our Kids" Committee) meeting with Deana de Witt, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Homeless/Foster Liaison, for the School District. There are 27 homeless students in Sedona, most living with working families. The School District gets approximately \$2000/year in Federal Funds to cover breakfasts and lunches and items required for classes. Deana's goal is to provide the best possible overall school experience for these students so they feel fully integrated. Needs include transportation, back-to-school clothes, athletic shoes and equipment, haircuts, dental exams and cleaning, prom outfits, etc. Gift certificates from providers of services would be great, but be certain the provider understands that these are homeless students, some without shelter.

There are several ways for individuals to donate funds. A check can be written to SOCSO with "McKinney-Vento" on the Memo Line. Vouchers can be purchased from Verde Lynx. Deana prefers single trip passes. You can contact Karen at Sedona City Finance department and she will have single Lynx passes sent over from Cottonwood. Just call her a day in advance. Gift cards can be purchased from Beall's, Walmart or Big 5. Grocery gift cards are also an option, but not as pressing a need. Any of these can be delivered to Deana at the District Office at 221 Brewer Road or brought to the next **These are Our Kids** Meeting.

Aside: There are rules and restrictions for checks written to the District, so I am including email information I received from Deana that clarifies these restrictions and tax deductibility at the bottom of the minutes — her email is in italics.

Gloria met with Deana to discuss "Operation School Bell" to take the students shopping for back-to-school clothes in July. The artists who donated paintings for Kindness Blooms were passionate about pets, vets and kids, and SedonaKind plans to allocate approximately \$100 per student for this project.

Gail re-iterated Deana's urging for community awareness that Sedona *does* have homeless students who need assistance and asked that we all help get the word out. She also offered to include an ongoing monthly column in the SedonaKind Newsletter with needs entitled "These are Our Kids".

The committee meets on the third Friday of the month prior to the SedonaKind meeting. The next meeting will be at noon Friday, April 19 at the Church of the Red Rocks. If you would like to join the committee, please contact Jawn McKinley at jawn@jsedona.net.

Sandy gave us an update on Operation Special Delivery. 100 Cards will be made and will contain a kindness token. The 7 seats for making the cards are filled. If you would like to hand write and deliver cards to "unsung heroes" in the community, please email Sandy at sandybrandvold1@gmail.com your list of names so we have a list of all who will receive them. Arrangements can be made with Sandy to get your cards.

As part of the “Ambassadors”, Jawn will be giving a presentation about SedonaKind to the third local PEO group. Presentations have been given to the other two local PEO groups, Antique Car Club, St John Vianney, OLLI Lunch and Learn and The Sedona Women. If you are interested in speaking, please let Jawn know.

Don was asked his thoughts on recruiting men. He is carefully considering who to ask. Members are welcome to bring men.

Gail offered a suggestion for handling the multiple requests for SedonaKind’s involvement with dollars and manpower. She will create a Public Service Announcement Page on our Website where members can put a link to an organization, enabling those who want to help to directly respond to the organization. The person submitting the request for an announcement must be an active member of SedonaKind and be on the email list, and the organization for which they request involvement must be a 501(c)3 (non-profit) corporation.

Sandy put out more heart *Take What You Need* posters with tear-off tabs. For anyone that would like more: contact Sedona Copy at 282-4575.

Jawnie ended the meeting with a kindness quote.

Email from Deana de Witt

There are two ways for community members to provide funds to support our homeless/foster care students: 1) Donation - In any amount can be given to the district office and "earmarked" for the programs donors want to support (i.e., homeless students); 2) Tax Credit (dollar for dollar tax credit for Arizona income tax) - Up to a maximum of \$200 for an individual or \$400 for a couple earmarked for homeless students. There are more restrictions on Tax Credit funds, as I can only spend them on approved extracurricular (sports) fees/expenses, field trip fees, and/or testing fees (AP, SAT, ACT at the high school level) by statute. The donations can be spent a little more easily on direct-purchased resources (school supplies/equipment), clothing, shoes, and other necessities (Prom expenses or yearbooks would not be approved expenses). I cannot buy any gift cards with any of those funds. I can purchase the bus passes. To access the funds from the district office, I submit a Purchase Order and generally receive a check within two weeks.

My immediate needs are Verde Lynx passes and gift cards to Bealls, Big 5, Walmart, and/or JC Penney. Grocery gift cards are a secondary need, as I have a great resource in our food partners at the Sedona Community Food Bank and Manzanita Outreach. Prom is scheduled for the last Saturday of April this year! (I have not yet spoken with my HS students yet to find out which would want to go, but there could be as many as 5 girls and 3 boys. I will know for sure within the next two weeks.)

If you prefer to purchase vouchers, single passes for Verde Lynx are most needed. Their office is in the City of Sedona complex at 102 Roadrunner Drive (Per Jawn...speak with Karen at the City to get individual passes). Gift cards for groceries or from places like Walmart and Bealls would also be helpful.

