

LUTHERAN LAY FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, INC.

May Meeting

Thursday, May 5, 2011—12:00 noon

Saint Luke Lutheran Church

9100 Colesville Road at Dale Drive

Silver Spring, MD 20910

The Rev. Pedro L. Lopez LCMS

Hispanic Mission Developer for Northern Virginia

"Minorities and the Hispanic Challenge in Lutheranism"

Thursday, April 7, 2011 Meeting Minutes:



"CFLS Programs and Poverty and Homeless in DC"

Claudia C. Thorne, MSW Executive Director, Community Family Life Services (CFLS), cthorne@cflsdc.org, 202.347.0511 x 411
A Ministry of First Trinity Lutheran Church, Judiciary Square



Claudia C. Thorne, MSW, has been the executive director of Community Family Life Services since 2006. With more than 30 years of successful social service program management and development locally and nationally, Ms. Thorne has extensive experience working with organizations addressing issues of poverty and homelessness, adolescent parents, high school drop outs, substance abuse, persons know to the court and child protective systems. Additionally, she brings long experience in development, research and evaluation, community organizing, and coaching to CFLS. Ms. Thorne is a licensed social worker, a published author, and is a member of Leadership Washington Class of '08.

Announcements:

Kathryn Baerwald and the speaker were the first time attendees.

The April 2011 birthday celebrated were Bonnie Priebe, April 27th.

Claudia Thorne led the devotional by leading the group in the prayer of St. Francis (attached).

Sarge made the following announcements: he offered a slate of Fellowship Square corporate members through 2014 for approval and it was approved; the revised bylaws will be reviewed by the board prior to the May meeting and offered for approval to the members present at the June meeting.

Dan Bella recommended that all members be encouraged to attend the June meeting to vote on the bylaws.

John Priebe acknowledged receipt of \$600 for the Wegener Chaplaincy program.

Presentation: “CFLS Programs and Poverty and Homeless in DC”, Claudia C. Thorne, MSW, Executive Director, Community Family Life Services

***“Poverty is not natural...
it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings.”
Nelson Mandela***

Ms. Thorne shared the following about CFLS: it is a faith-based, nonprofit organization established in 1969 by members of First Trinity Lutheran Church to address issues of poverty and homelessness. Initial service offerings included employment development, after school, and family life enhancement programs. With over 40 years of service to the Washington community, CFLS has grown and evolved to meet the changing needs of homeless and low-income families and individuals in the District of Columbia. Their mission is to provide clients with the tools they need to move themselves beyond poverty and homelessness into permanent self-sufficiency. They have two primary goals: (1) to provide short-term crisis assistance, and (2) to empower families and individuals to change their lives over the long term. They achieve those goals through a web of interconnected services provided by staff and volunteers in Housing Services; Supportive Services & Community Outreach; and Youth Development & Advocacy.

According to the US Census Bureau, 17% of the residents of the District of Columbia are living in poverty. When compared to the national average of 13%, the scope and breadth of poverty in the District of Columbia is significant. Single headed households comprised of women with children and the elderly are more likely to be living in poverty. Of the District of Columbia's residents living in poverty, 25% are Black, 16% are Latino, and 8% are white. Low educational attainment, few low-skilled jobs paying adequate wages, minimal work experience, insecure jobs, criminal record, job loss and illness—including HIV, mental and physical health challenges – are contributing factors to poverty and homelessness. Poverty can cause physical, emotional, and developmental harm to children, with a number of children living in poverty suffering from emotional, behavioral, and learning problems. In Ward 8, their main

center of activity, the unemployment rate is 28%. CFLS addresses these challenges through the following programs.

Housing and Supportive Services. Our flagship housing programs include Trinity Arms Transitional Housing for 17 Homeless Families, Milestone Place Shelter for 35 persons, and Housing Case Management for 21 persons who are HIV positive. The purpose of our housing programs are to allow families the opportunity to improve their life circumstances through the provision of housing and supportive services such as health, mental health, nutrition, life skills development, clothing, employment training and development, and placement, and benefits assistance. Milestone Place Permanent Housing is for 35 single adults, and Shelter Plus care Case Management for 21 persons living in scattered site apartment units throughout the city.

Employment. Persons who are homeless and low income often do not have the basic skills or the education to meet the increasingly competitive job market, particularly during the current recession. To address these issues CFLS offers job readiness skills such as Work Habits, Communication, Workplace Effectiveness, Job Search, and Business Etiquette and job placement support.

Youth Development. Children who are living in under resourced areas require extra support to function at grade level proficiency and to prepare them for school completion, higher education, and career fields. Our afterschool and summer enrichment programs utilize enable youth to develop academic, life skills, and leadership competencies.

Today, the meaning of a family encompasses each individual who shares in the guidance and nurturing of one another. The physical and emotional abuse, neglect and abandonment experienced by children prior to their placement in foster or group homes places them at risk for later instability. The **CFLS Volunteer Mentoring Program** is supported by research demonstrating that mentoring by mature, caring adults can make the crucial difference. The program allows 100 youth in foster care to create sustainable relationships with positive adult influences, teaching them the skills they need to be financially, physically, and emotionally independent. The mentors teach the children to shape their goals and visions for the future. Many of the youth in the program are about to age out of foster care. Therefore this program helps prevent poverty and homelessness before it starts. **The Parent Center** provides a weekly parenting workshop, home visits, for 40 parent participants to teach the parenting skills that build success in children. **CFLS' Family to Family** Mentoring program matches 35 families in need with stable families, Social and recreational activities help participants to approach family life from a position of strength, allowing families to build upon their existing strengths and use them in other situations.

The following is a report of CFLS' accomplishments for FY 2010 as measured by logs, survey, and interviews:

- Provided housing and housing case management to 69 persons
- Provided financial assistance and walk in referrals to 410 persons
- Provided emergency clothing to 1743 persons
- Provided breakfast and emergency food to 1013 persons
- Distributed 444 foodbags to seniors
- Placed 50 persons in jobs
- Moved 11 families into permanent housing
- Enrolled 95 youth in academic enrichment and summer programs
- Improved academic outcomes for 76% of youth in afterschool program.
- Provided mentoring to 35 families
- Provided mentoring to 39 families (program in start up phase)
- Provided parenting training to 15 families (program in start up phase)
- Adopted 300 families for holidays

The following client testimony is an example of the impact of CFLS.

“I have one child, a son...who is 10 months old. I came to Community Family Life Services a year ago after my husband passed away. We were living from house to house really having no where to go and no job. During that time, I was referred to CFLS. I attended a job training program that paid for me to go to school for Phlebotomy. I passed the class and now I'm a certified Phlebotomist. While living at Trinity I became a better person for me and my son. I am now employed as a Phlebotomist. In the beginning, I had lost hope; but with a wonderful staff at CFLS and a program like Trinity with employment counseling, I found my faith and successfully reached my goals and for that I say thank you to CFLS.” LK

CFLS is supported through local and federal government grants, foundations, corporations, churches, and individuals. They hold their clients accountable for following their programs resulting in success which in turn generates repeat contributions. They are honored to witness the power of healing in the lives of children, adults, and families. Providing human services is very complex, however, at its core, human services are about caring, compassion, and the power of human relationships. There is power in simplicity and our message today is simple: Lives are transformed through healing of the mind, the body, and the spirit. They believe that everyone who enters through their doors will be better off than when they arrived. This transpires through a hot meal on a cold winter day; new clothes to keep warm; a safe place for a family who is escaping domestic violence to lay their heads; connecting to a caring adult who mentors the client to excellence in the next phase of their life; or finally being clean and sober after many years of living on the street. And finally one day it all begins to come together. They are self sufficient – employed, educated, and a contributing member of society who is making our world a better place! CFLS believes in the inherent good and the resilience of the human condition. They provide both moral and tangible support, as well as encouragement for all who come in their care. They work to cultivate strong minds to think critically and make appropriate life choices; strong healthy bodies to do the work that needs to be done; and resilient spirits to overcome life challenges. CFLS is looking for partners as they move forward with their mission of healing mind, body, and spirit. Opportunities to help are attached. They can be contacted at **Community Family Life Services**, 305 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001; www.cflsdc.org or call: 202-347-0511.

Respectfully submitted,

Rodney Smith



305 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

phone 202.347.0511
fax 202.347.0520
web www.cflsdc.org

The Prayer of Saint Francis

"O Lord, make me an instrument of Thy Peace!

FOR CHILDREN TO HAVE BRIGHT FUTURES

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

FOR FAMILIES IMPACTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE

Where there is injury, pardon;

FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY CRIME AND LIVING IN UNSAFE COMMUNITIES

Where there is discord, harmony;

FOR SOCIAL INJUSTICE AND INTOLERANCE

Where there is doubt, faith;

FOR PEOPLE TO KNOW LIFE CAN AND WILL BE BETTER

Where there is despair, hope;

FOR THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS

Where there is darkness, light,

FOR THE ELDERLY TO LIVE WITH DIGNITY

Where there is sorrow, joy.

FOR THOSE WHO FEEL LONELY AND DESPONDENT

*Oh Divine Master, grant that I may not
so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand; to be loved
as to love; for it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life."*



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**Become A Community Family Life Services
2011 Partner in Prosperity**

Administrative/Development	Youth Services	Adult Services	Equipment/Operations
Serve on a CFLS advisory committee	Donate tickets for recreational and fun events	Become a Family or Career Mentor	Donate A New Van Office Equipment and Supplies Furniture for families New beds for residents of Milestone Gift Certificates Food Cards Metro Fare Cards Tokens Food Furniture Clothing
Become a CFLS ambassador to speak at special events	Sponsor Field Trips	Provide Employment Opportunities	
Host an event at your home or office to raise funds for programs	Provide One-on-One Mentoring or tutoring	Host A Book Club	
Host a benefit concert or other event.	Become and Girl or Boy Scout Leader	Conduct Health & Fitness Workshops	
CPA to conduct annual audit pro bono or at a reduced rate	Provide Camping Experiences	Conduct Theater & Music Art Activities	
Design and print PR materials, Write quarterly newsletter/annual report, design/update website	Organize and Coach a Sport Team	Donate tickets for recreational and fun events	Volunteer Clothing room Food distribution Clean Up Days
Provide pro bono photography	Conduct Theater, Music, Art & Crafts Activities	Conduct Financial Literacy Workshops	
Register walkers for the Walk-A Thon	Donate arts & crafts materials	Find low income housing for individuals and families	Repair Wax/Stripping Floors Indoor painting at facilities Building Repairs Landscaping Repair the roof at Milestone
Obtain Annual Gala gifts and sponsors	Conduct Financial Literacy Workshops	Host a Saturday Breakfast for Homeless persons	
Make a contribution directly, Designate #8818 United Way/Designate #60759 CFC of the National Capital Area	Donate Toys/Books		Art Paint a mural
Shop online through igive.com and designate CFLS as charity recipient			

For more information contact De'Orlean Claiborne CFLS 202.347.0511x415 or email Development@cflsdc.org