

December 8, 2016
TBNEH Monthly Meeting
Minutes

1. Introductions

Caitlyn Peacock opened the meeting by welcoming members and asking each to introduce themselves and their respective organization.

2. Network business

- New Project Management Software. Caitlyn Peacock introduced Asana, the project software system that is to be piloted by TBNEH as a result of the growth of the network and an increase in the number of work teams. United Way had previously recommended Asana for tracking the network's projects and tasks.
- Membership Application and Survey. Sandy Cooper thanked members for their input on the draft membership application that was presented in November and asked members to fill out one of two membership applications that were distributed at this meeting -- the Organization Membership Application or the Unaffiliated Individual Membership Application. Caitlyn pointed out that the applications will be online before the holidays. The TBNEH membership survey, also distributed at this meeting, was designed to capture members' perceptions of the effectiveness of TBNEH's support, based on the 2016-2017 goals and strategies for the network. Members were given approximately ten minutes to fill out and turn in the forms.

3. Thomas Promise Presentation. Amanda Keith provided an overview of the Thomas Promise Foundation, which strives to eliminate food insecurity and hunger of school children during weekends. The foundation primarily serves East Pasco including Dade City, Zephyrhills, San Antonio, Wesley Chapel, and Hudson. An application, filled out by parents, gives permission for the children to bring home backpacks of food. In the previous week, 1,045 bags, not counting the four high schools that are served, were distributed. The foundation also funds sports and field events and provides blankets, hats, gloves, furniture, and whatever they can to help. Dinner with Santa is approaching; each child will take home gifts, thanks to the support of a generous community. The February 11 Hunger Walk is coming up and there are lots of ways to support it, including the need for vendors, sponsors, volunteers, and teams to walk. Amanda can be contacted for more information. Four years in operation, the foundation is funded 100% by the local business community (including Florida Medical Hospital, Zephyrhills) and is supported by 50 volunteers. In response to questions, Amanda provided the following:

- The high schools served by the foundation have a pantry so kids can pick up the items they can use.
- During the summer and longer breaks, larger, longer-lasting items are sent home. In partnership with the Rotary and Elk clubs, the foundation is able to provide food throughout the year.

- Through farm share, they are able to distribute fresh food.
- Their methods of distribution include tables at events, such as Dinner with Santa; reaching out to the schools; and delivering to the schools.

Follow up includes:

- Caitlyn will reach out to Amanda on working with high schools
- Amanda's contact information: amanda.keith @thethomaspromise.org; 352-424-1747

4. Social Enterprise Presentation – ECHO Handmade. Eleanor Saunders gave a presentation on Emergency Care Help Organization (ECHO – echofl.org). In its 30th year of service, ECHO has a thriving food pantry for emergency services. 20 lbs. of food for each person is provided and a family is served up to four times a year. Additionally, 12 outfits per person are provided. \$1.4 million of the \$1.5 million budget is donations.

ECHO's social enterprise: The abundance of clothes donated to ECHO have been recycled into 15-20 monetized products, giving those served by ECHO an opportunity for hands-on training, a grasp of entrepreneurialism, an earned income, and a work history. ECHO's one-of-a-kind products can be found at Orange Boutique and Revolution Ice Cream in Brandon and in two weeks will be available through ETSY. ECHO's market is social consciousness organizations.

Eleanor encouraged network members to engage in social enterprise.

Information on the Community Foundation Big Idea grant will be released in the near future.

5. Caitlyn Peacock provided an overview of the functionality of Asana, the new project management software to be piloted within TBNEH by the Summer Food Expansion Work Team in Pasco and other work teams who are interested in working with it. Several members indicated that they were familiar with Asana and were supportive of its use.
6. New Potential Work Team. David Whitwam is interested in starting a work team to coordinate a farm-to-school program. The purpose of this agenda item was to gauge interest in creating a master list of registered school gardens in Hillsborough and Pinellas in order to create a single group to talk to. A membership list was passed around for those interested in joining the team. This initiative is also seeking a co-chair. Caitlyn Peacock offered network assistance and suggested a first meeting in January.
7. Additional Information to share.
 - Mark Trujillo reported on several meetings with agricultural producers in Pinellas County. The Grow Local, Eat Local kick off is in January. Mark will send a flyer/information to Ace for the newsletter.

- Pat Rogers invited others to join the small team that is working to increase the involvement of the for-profit sector.
- Allie Nguyen announced that training on evaluation will be offered early next year. The goals are to help work teams measure, evaluate, and sustain their projects. Caitlyn invited other research-minded people to join the team.
- A request was made for contact information on pantries with a client choice model serving more than 100/day. Metropolitan Ministries and possibly the Shepherd Center were suggested.
- The showcase for Sweetwater Farm is December 18.
- Elaine requested help with food for kids during the winter break, a program similar to the summer break program. Amanda Keith indicated that she may be able to help.

8. Caitlyn adjourned the meeting.