

Women Helping Others  
General Meeting  
September 25, 2023

President Terry Fierle welcomed WHO members and visitors. For those who were new, she explained that the board had decided to cancel the dessert time for a while. In place of dessert, members will get to know each other better via “ice breakers”. Today, each table had a question to ponder. Their response was shared with the rest of the members. This was fun and thought-provoking.

Terry also explained that Kathy Davis provides sandwiches for Helping Hands and that the “orange basket” was for contributions toward this project.

In addition, Terry informed members that the Outreach table had been moved away from the treasurer’s table in order to facilitate volunteer efforts more efficiently.

Members sang happy birthday to all summer and September birthday celebrants.

**Secretary’s Report**

Secretary Marilynn Rawnsley moved that the minutes of the August general meeting be approved as written. Anne Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Ramona Thomas explained WHO’s financial report.

Balance per Board Meeting August 14, 2023		\$ 4,652.57
Contributions from Members:		
Meeting and Mail in	\$ 825.00	
Online dues		
Subtotal of Contributions		\$ 825.00
Expenses:		
Donations to non-profits:		
Key2Free	\$ 500.00	
UR Our Hope	\$1,000.00	
Texas Baptist Men – Maui	\$1,000.00	
Subtotal of donations to non-profits		\$ 2,500.00
Balance September 11, 2023 (Board Meeting)		\$ 2,977.57
Petty Cash Balance	\$231.68	

Ramona moved that the report be approved as presented. Kathy Davis seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

### **Outreach Report**

Director of Outreach Louise Fry explained the purpose of the Outreach Table at which members can explore the opportunities to volunteer at the miscellaneous non-profits. She also asked that a member consider coordinating the volunteer efforts at the Delaney as our current coordinator, Linda Winzinger, will be moving. If interested, contact Louise at [louise@fcfry.com](mailto:louise@fcfry.com).

### **Vice-President's Report**

Vice President Maria Tolleson thanked the members who brought gift cards for Hope Alliance.

She shared that several members had participated in the inspiring tour at Key2Free. She introduced the Executive Director and Founder Teri Janson. Teri explained that Key2Free was founded ten years ago to prevent and end sex trafficking through education in our schools, awareness in our local communities, and aftercare solutions for survivors of trafficking and exploitation. Sex Trafficking is surprisingly prevalent in Williamson County. About 313,000 people are being trafficked in Texas at any given time and nationally, trafficking is a \$150 billion "industry". In Texas, human trafficking is believed to be highest within the "Texas Triangle" that connects the Houston, San Antonio and Dallas-Fort Worth metro areas, as well as in the lower Rio Grande Valley. Texas is #2 for the most reported trafficking cases in the United States. In the United States, there are only 287 beds for survivors of human trafficking. In Texas, there are only two houses. However, if a victim contacts Key2Free, they will do anything they can to assist them.

Programs are free for every individual involved in the aftercare environment. The time to complete the program can be from 12 months to 2.5 years long. The home provided for this care has the ability to house four women. Two are on the waitlist. The non-profit has plans to purchase the property so that they can expand and serve more victims. They are also going to open a resale shop/boutique for the purpose of fundraising. They will be accepting women's clothing and accessories. Days to volunteer to assist in organizing the shop are October 12 and 19 from 10-3 p.m. The grand opening will take place on October 21<sup>st</sup>. This is a volunteer opportunity! Please visit the website [www.thekey2free.org](http://www.thekey2free.org) for more chances to volunteer. Training is provided.

Teri shared a moving success story. After having completed the program, a survivor went on to get her associate's degree and her bachelor's in social work. Currently, she is pursuing her master's and will be part of the team at Key2Free. This is very exciting for all concerned.

Maria thanked Teri for her wonderful presentation and presented her a check for \$500, to be used for their general fund. Teri graciously accepted the check.

The next non-profit to present (on October 23) will be Simple Sparrow Farm. This non-profit collaborates with community partners to provide trauma-informed educational and therapeutic care farm programs/services for all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to *Learn+Grow+Heal*. Joan Douglas shared that she would be leading the informational tour on October 6. Those interested should meet at the Activities Center at 9:00 a.m. As long as Joan had the microphone, she invited everyone to attend the next general meeting in a farm animal costume – in reference to the tour and Halloween! A prize for the best costume will be awarded and Joan will bring

candy! On behalf of the Programming Committee and the board, Maria moved that \$500 be donated to Simple Sparrow Farm. The motion was seconded by Gladys Jeffery. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Maria explained that there would be no non-lprofit tour in November as we shall be learning about the Holiday Meal Program and WHO's involvement in this wonderful annual event.

### **Old and New Business**

Director of Fundraising Cindy Ralley reported on the Heroes, Hounds, and Hotrods fundraiser which is scheduled for October 19, 2024. At October's general meeting, Joni Thompson, from The Dog Alliance/Hounds for Heroes, will be introduced. This organization will be the recipient of the funds raised at this event. There will be many ways in which members can be involved in this event. Stay tuned for more information!

Nina Stancil Shared that the Sun City/Georgetown Meals on Wheels program, led by WHO, raised over \$52,000. With St. David's Foundation's match, the amount raised was \$98,631. Seventy-two seniors are served in Sun City! What a huge success!

Director of Membership Barbar Kjos told us about the new one-on-one mentoring program that is to be implemented. If you are interested in participating, please contact her at [barbarakjos@msn.com](mailto:barbarakjos@msn.com).

Pat Scheuer reminded us that the toiletries drive for the Holiday Day Meal event had begun. Seven wonderful WHO members had volunteered their homes to be drop-off sites. Please visit WHO's website (via CA website) for these locations or contact Pat at [pascheuer1@gmail.com](mailto:pascheuer1@gmail.com). Our goal is to provide 400 packages which will include standard size soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and a toothbrush. These will be assembled at the November general meeting.

In Judy Blakely's absence, Terry reminded members that the baskets for the ROCK event are due by October 4. In addition, she provided the Gals About Town events that are coming up:

- Happy hour at El Monumento on September 26
- A shopping trip to Marble Falls in October (date tbd)
- Lunch at Monument Care on November 16.

Diane Bartulewicz told us that "Sun City Walks" was back! Those interested should meet at 9:00 at the ballroom on Fridays and enjoy a one-mile walk on sidewalks. She encouraged everyone to participate in "Goal to Health" by walking 50 miles by the end of the year. Next year, we'll strive for 100 miles!

Door prizes were distributed and accepted with the usual excitement!

### **Adjournment**

Terry adjourned the meeting at 2:40 and encouraged everyone to attend the October general meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilynn Rawnsley, Secretary