

We met at Sibley Park on May 13.

**Members Attending:** Mary Otto, Beth Christensen, Lisa Ray, Lucy Lowry, Eric's Simmons, Cindy Shirk, Marla Kontak, Marcia Holt, Sue Benson, Kinney Eberhart, Nancy Blethen, Peggy Januschka

Beth gave a brief update on masks and we presented Erin Simmons with a check from our profits for approximately \$2000. We have 50 masks left and we are giving them out and asking for a free-will donation.

We are pleased with what we accomplished and proud that we didn't spend COVID "languishing."

**Erin Simmons report on My Place:**

They are presently serving 40-45 kids each week after school. Their biggest problem at this time is hiring. If you know of anyone who would enjoy working with kids K-8, please let Erin know. It is good on a resume and gives students interested in education a chance to try their hand.

They had the vaccine mobile visit My Place, recently.

**Preventing Food Waste**

Erin is working with other community leaders on a new initiative to get food that is often discarded, to families in need. The "Wooden Spoon" has obtained a grant from the EPA that is helping to fund this project. Grace Lutheran Church is partnering and providing a kitchen for processing the food, much of which is obtained from Walmart. The food is frozen and then delivered to My Place where the kids are fed and families can pick up food to take home. This project will save about \$8000 for My Place by eliminating food expenditures in the budget.

**Vista Workers**

My Place has been able to hire Vista workers for the summer program. Their work contract is for three years allowing My Place to develop a sustainable academic program. One of the workers will help develop the K-5 academic offerings and one will be in charge of the middle school academics.

**Tutoring**

Erin is hoping to grow the tutoring program. Presently there are 2 gentlemen tutoring 4 students each week. Kristi Skilbred will be on board in the fall to help ramp up a tutoring project involving volunteers. Erin is hoping for volunteers from AOK for the summer and into the fall. Most of the students have fallen behind during COVID so this is a critical need if they are to have a successful school experience. If you can help out, please call Erin or

email([Erin@myplacemankato.org](mailto:Erin@myplacemankato.org) 507-720-6898).

**Future**

My Place has a property committee that will be exploring other sites. Erin would prefer something located closer to the population they are serving. A future ideal would be a community center model with many services located in the same building; these might include, medical, nutritional, and legal services.

**Transportation**

This remains a big problem. District 77 still does not provide transportation to My Place. The vans are insufficient, partly because, legally MP must have two adults in every van that goes out. With this problem solved MP could serve up to 75 children.

If you are interested in volunteering at My Place and have not gotten a background check, this is the site for applying. If anyone got one within the last couple of years you should be good to go.

<https://trueme.goodhire.com/verify-identity>

If you have trouble getting through to Erin you can get in touch with Beth ([beth.christensen309@gmail.com](mailto:beth.christensen309@gmail.com) 507-384-7567). or Kinney ( cornelia .[eberhart@gmail.com](mailto:eberhart@gmail.com) 507-469-4623). We will connect you with My Place.

Respectfully Submitted: Kinney Eberhart, Secretary