

## Next meeting Wednesday, April 28th - 12pm

### Sonoma Valley Interfaith Ministerial Association

Website: [sonomavalleyinterfaithma.org](http://sonomavalleyinterfaithma.org) Email: [sonomavalleyinterfaithma@gmail.com](mailto:sonomavalleyinterfaithma@gmail.com)

Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 12pm - 1pm Zoom Meeting

**Present:** Steve Finley, Curran Reichert, Peadar Dalton, Donna Thomas, and Nicole Trotter.

**Welcome and Call to Order** - Steve opens with reflection on a few quotes - each can relate to social justice, "If I am not for myself who will be for me?", "If I am only for myself what have I become?" and "If not now when?"

#### Non-profits check-in -

- Curran reports [Sustainable Sonoma](#) is launching a vision around low income housing at SDC. At some point they will need testimonials from our community (our congregations can help provide) of how the housing crisis affects low and middle class. Stay tuned for more.
- FISH and SOS are here today to report.
- Peadar reports that City Council is continuing to work on housing and environmental issues.
- Donna may be able to be our liaison for the school district.

#### Guests -

F.I.S.H. - Sandy Piotter. They are entering their 50th Anniversary Celebration by renewing their Vision and Mission Statements, identifying all those wonderful elements that make FISH unique while surveying the changes over the past 50 years. Simply sharing and sharing simply would characterize the earlier vision of FISH. Included in our work that is to be completed in May are revisiting our vision, mission and core values, expanding and updating our bylaws, creating an organizational chart and articulating a decision - making process. FISH will always be an organization of volunteers extending a helping hand to our neighbors - we have many more neighbors and certainly more opportunities to serve. In the past five years FISH has experienced significant challenges as it responded to both the fires and pandemic. We are shoring up our infrastructure to meet the demands of the next 50 years.

In 2020 they have provided 825 families with \$800,000 in rental assistance and 360 families with utilities assistance. Most families that are helped make less than 30% of the average income for this area. They are thankful for the assistance received from the community which has been enormous. This past year they have also received \$150,000 from the city of Sonoma, \$25,000 from the county of Sonoma and \$250,000 from the State CARES program grants to use for rent and utility assistance. This year they have received \$109,000 from the Community Development Block Grant (more [here](#)) of which \$102,000 has already been used for January and February leaving \$7000 to be spent between now and June. The county of Sonoma has received \$31 million to be used with many strings and rules attached which F.I.S.H. will be able to meet.

Please share with your communities and congregations the following help available:

- [housingiskey.com](http://housingiskey.com) information for tenants and landlords
- PG&E has the Arrearage Management Plan ([AMP](#)) and other ways to help, visit [here](#).

Beginning in April all volunteer drivers will be vaccinated and hoping to resume regular ride support. The clothing room is currently open 2 days per week and will be open a third day soon. Please say a prayer and light a candle for continued support for and from F.I.S.H. Volunteers always needed(see what's available [here](#)), please reach out at (707) 996-0111 or use the [Contact Form](#). There is some wonderful and useful information to be found in the February newsletter [here](#).

S.O.S. - Kathy King. They are grateful for community support and partnerships with La Luz, F.I.S.H., and the Community Health Center. They are continuing to meet the needs of not only the unhoused but those with food insecurity. The Haven is currently using a single intake person with support from La Luz and Community Health Center to provide bilingual support and mental/physical health support. In 2020 they serviced all ages from children to 70+, more male than female, approximately 716 locals served, and about 150 meals per day totaling 37,706 meals served. They provide case management, showers, laundry, bus passes, taxi vouchers, socks, underwear, and hygiene items. They also help with stimulus checks, tax returns, voter registration, census, flu shots and vaccine information. They are hoping to get the Johnson and Johnson one shot vaccine soon. 75% of clients are unemployed and many who are employed can't meet financial needs.

There has been in an increase in food insecurity for housed and unhoused locals, in fact 60% of food served clients have housing but can not afford food. They are offering sit down and to-go options at the Springs Hall with on-site volunteers, cooks and kitchen aides in coordination with caterers, Meals on Wheels and Brown Baggers.

There has also been an increase in individuals living in their cars. There are only 10 overnight parking spots in front of the Haven for those living in their cars but they currently have 52 clients reported living in their cars, up from approximately 30 in the past.

The city has been given some money to be used to improve The Haven, possible proposed work would be to add another shower and another washer and dryer, improve storage and office space.

The current volunteers are now vaccinated. They are always in need of more volunteers to help, please reach out to Andy Garcia at [volunteers@sonomaovernightsupport.org](mailto:volunteers@sonomaovernightsupport.org) or (415) 810-9051.

There will be a Mother's Day drive through fundraiser coming up on May 8th, more info. to come soon. To read more, contact or donate visit [here](#).

Nicole Trotter closes with a blessing.

**Meeting adjourned 1:00pm**

**Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 28th, 12pm. Please mark your calendars now.**

**KSVY has a two hour Morning Show each day from 8-10 am. The Interfaith guest spot is on Tuesdays at 9:00 am and lasts for about 20 minutes, give or take.**

Members' topics should be as inclusive as possible and please make sure to talk about your institution as well as our interfaith group.

Email your topics/talking points in advance to the host, Pat Carlin, at pcarlin53@gmail.com. During Covid-19 no one is coming into the studio. The call in number is 933-9133

<u>Date</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
Mar. 30	Manette Fairmont	707-529-9562
Apr. 6	Scott Pryor	831-747-0139
Apr. 13	Jim Thomas	707-933-6514
Apr. 20	Peadar Dalton	707-939-7613
Apr. 27	Nicole Trotter	707 996-6024
May 4	Steve Finley	818-207-1757
May 11	Marie Wilson-Johnson	707-996-2151
May 18	Donna Thomas	707-939-6774