



Meeting Minutes

EVENT | LaGrange Partners

DATE | June 13, 2023

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Present | Amanda Sarver, Andi Sherman, Brandi Schorey, Cathy Frey, Christina Blaskie, Deb Linstromberg, Denise Landers, Emilee Fincher, Fred Fulkerson, Grace Spero, Hannah Baughman, Jackie Christman, Jasmin Miller, Jenna Anderson, Jenna Overmyer, Jennifer Kennedy, Julie Wahll, Katie Savoie, Ken Weaver, Kevin Showalter, Lannette Robinson, Leanna Martin, Lisa Eicher, Missy Eichelberger, Molly Tritch, Natalie Evens, Pamela Deetz, Regina Cannaday, Ron Sherck, Rustin Krapfl, Sara Patrick, Sarah Hostetler, Shay Owsley, Sonja Giggy, Stephanie Young, Steve Sherck

Welcome

Leanna Martin, LaGrange County Community Foundation

Each meeting will include an opportunity for each attendee to share news and current programming or resources. If you have a resource to share, you may provide it to me before or after the meeting and I will be sure to include it on the resources page (prefer pdfs or links to websites).

You will be able to access meeting minutes, agendas, and resource documents through Foundation's website:

lccf.net/LaGrangePartners

Food Insecurities

Molly Tritch, Veggie Rx Parkview Health

Community Health needs assessment is available online now. A screening tool is used to identify clients who are food insecure. Veggie Rx is produce prescription, clients receive \$50 worth of fruits and vegetables and four sessions with a registered dietician for 6 months. Patients do not need to be a Parkview client, they can be referred, everyone is accepted into the program. Participants do need to be LaGrange County resident and have diabetes, high blood pressure or obesity and Medicaid, Medicare, dual eligibility or uninsured. Other programs offered by Parkview: Farm to School is running right now in Lakeland and Fit Kids.

Katie Savoie, Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana

The Farm Wagon is in Wolcottville every Monday at 1:00 pm at the Liberty Free Will Baptist Church. At the last distribution, 3,013 lbs to 207 families. The average family size is over 3, more households with children in LaGrange County. Community Harvest is a Food bank, donated food and purchased food, is available to nonprofits at up to 19 cents a pound. Any nonprofit food pantry or distribution has access to the bank. Senior Pak program is drive through program for any senior in need. Currently seeing an increase in seniors. The LaGrange County Council on Aging is a partner with this program, Cheri Perkins is the person of contact to sign up. Hope for Heroes; veterans and military families can receive food assistance (military ID is needed). Emergency; a 10lb bag of food is available at the Ft. Wayne facility. KidsPak/TeenPak is food for kids year round, currently looking for other backpack food programs to partner with. Challenges in current data, are in need of better research. Hunger is not the only thing that families are facing. Many

people are having to stretch their dollar for rent, gas, utilities, etc. Increase in middle class families visiting the Farm Wagon for the first time.

Deb Linstromberg, Clothes & Food Basket of LaGrange County

Volunteer based food basket providing food and clothing for LaGrange County residents, located on Railroad Street in LaGrange. It is based on income guidelines and participate in the TEFAP program. TEFAP is a federal program that helps supplement the diets of low-income people with food assistance at no cost. Serving 900-1,000 individuals on a monthly basis. Must be a LaGrange County resident, meet the TEFAP requirements, and current mail with address. Clients receive food based on the number of people in household. Clients pick what items they want to take home. Clothes, kitchen items, household items (sheets and towels), are all available. Welcome emergency needs, CPS situations, individuals that have been incarcerated, and referrals from township trustees, guidance counselors, Elijah Haven, and Agape Missions. Do have milk vouchers available. Also operate the Christmas Bureau. Are looking for volunteers. Clothes & Food Basket is open every Monday and Thursday, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Roundtable

Denise Landers, Crossroads United Way – Single Care cards are available. Testimony from a resident who used it, they work and saved significant amount of money.

Christina Blaskie, Parkview LaGrange Hospital – Parkview is sponsoring a table at the Farmers Markets in Howe and LaGrange, fun activities, education, resources on making healthy activities. Fit Kids 360, spring of 2024 to start, looking for a fall cohort location on the west side of the county. Fit Kids 360 is a free event, wrap around 8-week program for families. Looking for volunteers and incentive prize donations.

Jenna Anderson, Thrive by 5 – Juniors and Seniors in high school, Lakeland is offering a child development associate program. Kids City will take place August 5 at Noble County Fairgrounds.

Ken Weaver, First Presbyterian Church LaGrange – Grief support group will begin September 12 at 4:00 pm, will meet for 10 weeks, free to attend.

Jackie Christman, Impact Institute – Free classes are available to complete a high school diploma. New certification in welding is currently running.

Lisa Eicher, IHCD – Rental assistance is available, contact Brightpoint. Regional homeless planning council meeting will take place on June 26, 11:30 am in Fort Wayne. It is important to attend if you plan to apply for HUD funding. The Volunteer Lawyer Program Clinic is now available at the LaGrange courthouse, 3rd Tuesday of the month from 8:00 – 10:00 am.

Kevin Showalter, Indiana Youth Institute – June 28, 9 am – noon, Fuel Up in Angola at Kahootz Coffee, meet and greet with IYI. Youth worker cafe topics needed, suggests from the group: mental health, depression, anxiety, suicide, truancy, vaping, confidence/self-advocacy, recognize bullying, primary taker role/more responsibility in the home, human trafficking, selling illicit photos online, motivation/resilience/grit.

Sonja Giggy, Meals of Hope – Home delivery meals to kids (living in LaGrange County or be a student in LaGrange County). Currently serving 284 kids in 91 families, running four routes. Serving all kids in the household up to 18, do make exceptions. Providing 4 meals and 7 snacks per family, provide 1 fresh vegetable and 1 fresh fruit. Currently pack meals at The Garage.

Fred Fulkerson, The League – Senior client services teach independent living skills for 55 and over. Also have low vision support groups, currently meeting at the Council on Aging on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 11:00 am. Services are provided in nine counties.

Regina Cannaday, Cancer Services of Northeast IN – Provided cancer services to 85 LaGrange County residents, please reach out for programs or services.

Pam Deetz, Community Health Clinic – Genetics clinics located in Topeka and are getting ready to move to new location in Shippshewana, an Open House is planned for Sept. 9.

Jennifer Kennedy, FCS Headstart – Taking applications for upcoming school year, ages 3 -5 years old. Federally funded all day preschool offered free for low income families. If a family is homeless, a part of SNAP or foster care they are automatically qualified for the program. Please reach out for applications or more information.

Yasmin Miller, New Life Fellowship – Offering a drive through food program, next drive through will be on June 19, program is offered every other month.

Leanna Martin, LaGrange County Community Foundation – I will be hosting a free Grant Workshop on July 20th. If you are a nonprofit seeking funding through our next Community Impact Grant program it is beneficial for you to join me. The Fall Community Impact Grants will be open at the end of this month with a deadline to apply on September 1. To rsvp for the workshop or to apply for funding visit, lccf.net.

Next meeting August 8 – Mental Health