



**Community Outreach Committee
Minutes
January 22, 2020**

Those in attendance:

Valdovinos, Josie	Bilingual Facilitator, EARTHs
Lerette, Rosana	Bilingual Facilitator, WHS
Rodriguez, Sandra	Bilingual Facilitator, Maple
Chopp, Kimberly	Counselor, Colina
Snider, Nathan	Counselor, Elementary
McCarthy, Karen	Counselor, Los Cerritos
Rosenthal, Tracy	Counselor, Redwood
Martens, Shannon	Counselor, Sequoia
Guyette, Rachel	Counselor, Century
Choi, Tina	Counselor, NPHS
Avila, Aurora	Counselor, WHS
Alamilla, Elizabeth	Outreach, Walnut
Quezada, Belen	Outreach, Acacia
Matter, Ann-Marie	Language and Literacy Support Teacher
Stanziano, Susie	Senior Office Assistant, English Learner Services

Welcome:

- Ann-Marie Matter welcomed group and guest speakers.

Guest Speaker:

Heather Donatini and Amy Wing, Bumblebee Foundation, Childhood Cancer Support:

Contact Information: (805) 374-2124/<https://www.bumblebeefoundation.org/>

A non-profit organization provides supports to pediatric cancer families by inspiring hope through these challenging times. Ms. Donatini shared her personal story about his son, Jarren, who battle with a rare liver cancer. She remembers how stressful it was caring for a pediatric

cancer patient. The community supported them and if it were not for that, they would have drowned. Her son touched the lives of many and showed others the true meaning of true love, faith, and courage. The family knew that they had to help other families. The Foundation was established in 2011 in memory of Jarren. Jarren loved the Transformers, especially Bumblebee, hence the name. Everyday 43 children are diagnosed with cancer. 1 in 4 elementary schools have a child with cancer. Two students in High School have cancer.

Bumblebee offers the following programs:

1. Bee day card program: Child receives a hand written card along with a gift card.
2. Holiday Bees Program: adopt a family
3. Kelli's Wagons Program: A newly diagnosed family is given a wagon, mattress topper, and bed sheet.
4. Patient Aid Program: Provides much needed assistance to families. It can be Gas cards, car payment, counseling assistance, etc.
5. Bee packs: Includes necessities like toiletries, cozy socks, tissue, etc.
5. Spring Baskets Program: Around Easter, baskets for patients and their families are donated.

How to contact them? A Social worker refers child to the Foundation (Initial referral) Ms. Wing talked about her background as a teacher and administrator. Bumblebee is connected with other social/emotional community programs to help families. They connect families who are diagnosed with cancer (Parents/Students) so they can share stories.

How can Counselors help? Support students: Have SSTs to offer services to students like extra time on test. Students could have some hearing and vision loss, social issues (they have been with adults in a hospital room). Be an advocate for your students and connect them to Bumblebee.

Assistance is State Wide: Most Social Workers have their application already.

This is a portion of the population we do not hear much about so please be the liaison.

Monica White, Food Share

Contact Information: (805) 983-7100/<https://foodshare.com/>

History: Started 41 years ago in 1978. A group of friends wanted to feed the homeless who live under a bridge in Ventura. They started collecting food in their garage and work with farmers that allowed them gleaning. Now, they distribute more than 13 million pounds of food/year. They are located in two warehouses in Oxnard, CA that together have 36,000 square feet.

How does it work: It is like a Costco at no cost. No questions asked. No requirements for anyone who needs food. They just have to provide their name and address.

Food Share has 190 pantry and program partners feeding over 76,000 people/ month. They get their food by purchasing some of it, running food drives, retailers donate items that cannot no longer sell. They work with farmers that give them food. They also have a garden where they

harvest and grow food, approximately 10,000 lbs. of food. Twenty percent of their food comes through government funds and then millions of pounds of healthy food are distributed.

Ventura County has 1 in 6 food insecure (do not know where their next meal is going to come)

Video: VC Reporter share her story when she was a recipient of Food Share for a couple of years. Now, she wants to give back. It is just not for homeless people. It is for anyone that needs it due to financial hardships.

Some programs are Senior Kits Program, Mobile pantry, and kids Farmer's Market.

They have a staff of 30 employees and 3,000 volunteers that help them sort food to make sure it is in good quality.

Ms. White invited the attendees to tour their facilities. Tours are offered 11:30 -1:00 with lunch provided. This is a good time to learn more about this non-profit organization (see website for days).

Q: Where in this area can someone go? A: 30 different pantries in the Conejo area. The website gives you information on how to help and where to find help.

Q: What is the age requirement for volunteers? A: 12+ years

Q: Could a contact list or document be created of all the programs presented during C.O.C, so it can be easier to find the information? A: Yes.

Adjourn:

- Meeting adjourned at 10:25am

Next Meeting:

- Date: February 12, 2020
- Location: University MPR
- 8:30-10:30am
- Guest Speakers:
Ana Alvarez – Update on the Outreach program at CVUSD
Immigration Attorney