

Small Wonders Ad Hoc Committee

Human Services Office

June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4pm-5pm

Present: Karen Saccu, Helena Schwalm, Eric McCoy, Abigail Egan

Group was presented with Small Wonders Policies and procedures for both Holiday and Back Pack programs. Discussion about timeline (Applications due July 11<sup>th</sup>, Donations need to be dropped off at Plymouth Center on Aug 13 and 14<sup>th</sup>, distribution Friday August 15) Discussed eligibility requirements: families must be referred by their school, food pantry or must provide Abby with proof of income or hardship. Programs have grown significantly in the past few years and is about 30% the same families who repeatedly need help, but majority are not people who use this program every year.

What is most needed is a donor contact person. Eric and Karen agreed to have their names and phone numbers in the paper.

Eric will reach out to: Fire and Ambulance Corps, and Dollar General to see if they want to have a donation box on site

Helena will contact churches. Abby will provide Helena with contact info.

General discussion regarding changes to curriculum and schools reducing the supplies they are going to require. Discussion about having the "giving trees" only be for back packs and clothing, and having a supply drive to fill the back packs. Helena and Karen will do this at St Casmir, and will ask if the other churches would find this helpful.

The Plymouth Early Childhood Council is hoping to host a concurrent "positive parenting" program concurrently with back pack distribution. While this may complicate things, it would be a way to reach families who might not come out for a separate program.

Some discussion on Holiday gift program. Similar requirements, except families are required to go through the food pantry to sign up. Group decided that we will get through back packs and start working on ways of streamlining the holiday gift program in September