

**INTERFAITH OPEN COMMUNITIES  
HYDE PARK CLUSTER MEETING  
MINUTES; October 10, 2005**

**Present:** Mark Granfors, Joe Marlin, Allan Lindrup, John Murphy, Paul Beals, Pat Wilcoxon, Ken Oliver, Marlene Vellinga, Don Coleman, Will White.

1. The meeting held at Augustana Lutheran Church, was called to order at 8:15 p.m. by P. Wilcoxon.
2. **FAITH REFLECTION:** In light of the many recent natural disasters, Pat called for silent prayer for those who are without housing in the world. Particular attention was given to contributing weather related events and circumstances in Pakistan, India, Guatemala, Africa, and here in this country. Those homeless due to socio-economic factors were also mentioned.
3. **SHARED HOUSING:** Paul reports that outreach, advertising, and marketing efforts are ongoing with good results. A continuing problem is overcoming homeowner reluctance to enter into a home sharing arrangement with strangers.
  - a. The idea of a “sharing dinner” involving participants is moving forward. Paul and the Murphys will work on details. This effort should help in overcoming participant uncertainty of being matched. Also, it was suggested that intra-faith community matches might be less intimidating.
  - b. Intake – 17 home providers and 19 home seekers are registered, waiting to be matched.  
Matches – 2 matches were made this date, bringing the total matched arrangements to 8.
  - c. A new Shared Housing poster is being developed to attract new participants and supporters.
4. **TRANSITIONAL HOUSING:** The client-family, working with the THP team, progressing toward established goals.
  - a. The treasurer reports that an independent audit of THP books is complete. Finances are in order and encouraging responses have been received from the recent mailing to donors.
  - b. Client-family’s health insurance is sufficient to cover health care needs of family members.
  - c. A second family will be added to the program provided mentors are found and adequate financial support continues. Case Manager indicates that a modified recruiting approach will be used to attract volunteer mentors.
  - d. HPTHP has joined the Housing Action of Illinois, an affordable housing advocacy group.
5. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** The Illinois legislators will convene for the Veto Session the second week of November. The funding of the Homeless Prevention Program will be a top priority for housing advocates.

6. **OTHER MATTERS:**

- a. The Hyde Park Cluster of IOC unanimously endorses and signs on a letter to Senator Obama requesting his support in opposition to a bill that would undercut assistance to Katrina children victims. This bill seeks to suspend the Homeless Education Assistance Act requirements in any school accepting a child displaced by Hurricane Katrina.
  - b. October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11:30 a.m. First Unitarian Church, Winston Kennedy will speak on Changing Demographics of Hyde Park Real Estate Dynamics.
  - c. November 6<sup>th</sup>, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Annual Meeting, Hotel Allegro.
  - d. November 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, Housing Action of Illinois, Abe Lincoln Hotel, Springfield, Il. Focused on increasing the availability of affordable housing.
7. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The next meeting will be 11/14 8:00 at St. Thomas the Apostle School.

Notes by W. White, Recorder