

## **ASSOCIATION FOR CATHOLIC CHILDHOOD**

### **Minutes for November 14, 2019 ACC Board Meeting**

President Patty Barnes called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and Nancy O'Brien offered an opening prayer. In attendance were Patty Barnes, Deirdre Brownlow, Tara O'Connor, Marilyn Price, Maureen Britt, Nancy O'Brien, Anne Read-Andersen, Gayle Kaplan, Mary Lou Wickwire, Kathy Kane, Helen Santucci, Ann Popovich, Judy McAteer, Linda Bowers, Judy Schroeder, Shannon Langer and Mary Roddy.

**MINUTES:** October minutes were approved by voice vote.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Mary Roddy reported on the financial statements and balance sheets for September and October 2019. October numbers do not reflect much of Celebrate the Children proceeds, which primarily came in during November. Endowment is at approximately \$1.14 million. With respect to the Celebrate the Children fundraiser, Mary reported that ACC has paid \$33,460 in expenses to date with few receipts still expected. She estimated that CTC would net slightly over \$170,000.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

**Celebrate the Children:** Patty reported that Celebrate the Children was a huge success and that the committee would provide further details (see below).

**Memorial Mass:** Patty said the Mass was lovely and Fr. Brad's homily was very touching. Maureen Britt said he mentioned in his homily that ACC pre-dated CCS and brought it into being. Fr. Brad is the vicar for charities and the son of an ACC circle member so his presiding over the Memorial Mass was very appropriate.

**Communication to circle leaders:** Fundraising plans for each circle were due Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> but many have not been submitted. Circles should report the type of fundraiser they are planning and when that money will be raised, for purposes of determining cash flow and meeting grant requests. Circle member information should be updated with the ACC office, and dues should be submitted by November 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **COMMUNICATION:**

**Glassybaby:** Deirdre has about 100 left at \$100 apiece. They will make great Christmas gifts!

**Endowment Christmas drive:** Custom made gingerbread house ornaments by Lynn Swick will be sent to those making contributions to the endowment this Christmas season. The ornaments are beautiful! ACC endowment contributions generally bring in \$4,000-\$5,000.

**Pregnancy & Parenting Support:** PPS only has little boy layettes at the moment and none for girls. Interested members can donate baby girl clothes to PPS so some of the layettes can be re-purposed. Members can consult the "Member" tab on the ACC website for items to be included in layettes.

**Christmas gift program:** Last year, gifts from circles went to PPS and parents came in to the agency to select clothes and toys for their children's Christmas gifts. Members are asked to donate large plastic shopping bags from home so that shopping families can keep their presents dry on the way home. Judy Schroeder agreed to be the contact for the PPS gift program.

#### **COMMITTEE AND CIRCLE BUSINESS:**

**Celebrate the Children:** Tara O'Connor and Gayle Kaplan reported that ACC met both its fundraising and its strategy goals for the event. A continuing goal is to change how we fundraise so it's not just ACC members writing checks: that model is not sustainable. Erin Manca and Gayle ably chaired the event, which was spirited and fun! It grossed about \$204,000, with final numbers still being determined. The sponsorship goal was \$50,000; actual sponsorship was almost \$73,000. Gross goal was \$125,000 so the

\$204,000+ gross was phenomenal. Expenses were modest and came in very close to projections at about \$33,500, thanks to the liquor, etc. being donated. In addition, the caterer - Little Kitchen in Lake City - gave us a great deal. The raffle raised over \$6,000 and Raise the Paddle brought in \$63,670. We had a goal of 200 paid guests but only ended up with about 160. Given the space, this was actually a better number. Half of the net proceeds will go to the endowment and the other half to grants. The committee welcomes feedback so the next event will be even better.

**Labor of Love:** Anticipated dates for our online auction are February 14 - February 24, 2020. We need a chair for the auction, since for the past several years Deirdre has done the bulk of the work, with Gayle's and Marilyn Price's able assistance. Patty volunteered to help with procurement and Gayle is willing to close out the customers and payments after the auction closes. The chair position requires about 30-50 hours total, with many tasks that can be delegated. Many of the tasks can be completed online from home, such as importing donations, scheduling reminder emails, etc. The requirements for circle procurement are \$25 per member; if one or more circle member donates the total value, that meets individual procurement requirements. Procurement forms will be available online soon. Circle members are encouraged to get online and bid whether they have donated or not: we hope to exceed our usual 300 or so bidders. ACC members and their friends constitute about 80% of the bidding in LOL. Last year's LOL net was between \$25,000 and \$27,000.

**Membership:** Tara O'Connor heads the membership committee and reported on continued efforts to increase membership by various means. A toolkit was developed by the committee to assist circles in spreading the word about ACC and in recruiting new members and circles. New circle members came to the CTC fundraiser; some came away with big live items. Judy Schroeder's efforts have paid off with the addition of new members. Tara is going to speak at a women's group soon to spread the ACC word. She suggested holding a happy hour meeting and inviting daughters, other potential members, etc.

**Josephine McDermott:** Shannon Langer said that her circle is planning a pre-Valentines Day wine-tasting event in Woodinville in early 2020, with more information to come.

**Lilly Peabody:** Judy McAteer handed out a flyer about her circle's Potluck Press fundraiser. It will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> and 20% of all proceeds will be donated to ACC.

**St. Bridget:** Aromatic, long-burning candles are still available for \$25. An order form can be found on the ACC website.

**Marjorie Ryan:** Gayle reported that wreath orders are still being taken but poinsettias are no longer available.

**Grant Funding Committee:** Linda Bowers reported that the grant committee reviewed fall requests very carefully. Grant requests totaled \$147,500 this cycle and the committee recommended awarding \$129,000 of that amount. Two requests were for over \$10,000: Pregnancy and Parenting Support and Kinderling Center of Bellevue were both awarded \$12,000. A couple of the requests were not fully funded, but those agencies can re-apply if they meet and overcome the grant committee's concerns. This calendar year, ACC funded about \$225,000 in grants instead of the usual \$150,000, thanks to the amount generated by our endowment and the success of Celebrate the Children. There were two new applicants this fall: New Bethlehem Day Center and Humble Design. In January, the committee will develop guidelines for evaluating and funding grant requests. The board approved the fall cycle of grant requests after a motion was made and seconded.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020 at 9:30am at CCS.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Read-Andersen  
(Morning meeting secretary)