CASA of Jefferson County Program Update

In lieu of October 2020 Board Meeting

**Program update:**

* We are in our fifth and final week of Zoom classes with our current training class.  We're planning Zoom court observations at the office and will likely break into several small groups so that we can have them in person and then swear them in.  It will take a few weeks to complete this depending on Judge Dougherty's docket.  At this time, we expect to have 13 new volunteers.  We did lose 2 who have moved to the January class due to illnesses in their families.
* I have four upcoming Zoom sessions for potential new volunteers and have people scheduled for all of them.  We hope to have a full January class but the next couple of months will determine if we're able to hold in-person or remote classes.  We will be monitoring the situation with Covid closely and make an informed decision as we get closer.
* I am in the process of completing our 4th quarter and annual VOCA reports regarding the number of children we've served as well as many other questions about our cases.  I am so pleased to say that I was able to use the Optima program and our data was correct and reliable!  That may seem like a small thing but I cannot tell you what an accomplishment it has been for us.  The staff has worked very hard this past year to utilize the software as it was intended and now it is a huge tool for us to use to track program progress.  Having a full year of correct data means that we have truly turned a corner and can now move forward to incorporating volunteers into the mix by allowing them to directly record their own service hours.  We're very excited and I'm very proud of the team!
* We are currently monitoring a situation with the rental space next to ours.  Unfortunately, a marijuana based business has moved in and our first introduction to them was not a pleasant one.  For our first Thursday evening Zoom class, Monica went to the office to use the internet and was confronted by a huge party in the parking lot full of people smoking marijuana.  They were very nice and introduced themselves to her and told her their goal is to eliminate the stigma and bring marijuana usage into the norm in Hillsboro.  Monica locked herself in the office but partway through class, she became ill from the smell and had to move her desk to the open rear window so that she could finish training.  Since then, we have not had any interaction with them, there is no signage to indicate what exactly the business is and there has not been any further issue with the smell.  The biggest issue has been people congregating outside their door smoking cigarettes.  We're keeping an eye on it but it's possible that we'll need to look for a new office space.  Regardless of what personal beliefs are, their business does conflict with ours and to have the two co-exist as the only two businesses in our location may not be possible or advised.

**Poker Run:**

* The Poker Run was a great success!  I've attached a Profit and Loss for the year as well as a graph that shows a comparison of the three years that we've had the event.  The net profit was $4583.73 which is nearly double what we cleared last year.
* The biggest difference was that we sold a larger amount of sponsorships than we have in years past.  Good job to all!!!
* The day was beautiful and everyone seemed to have a good time.  October seemed to be a good time for the event.
* The only real note I have is that next year I think we should go back to one large raffle of something like a cooler full of alcohol and lottery tickets (just my opinion).
* I do have a few shirts left over if anyone wants one.
* THANK YOU TROY FOR PLANNING ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL EVENT!!!!

**Vacation Raffle:**

* ***To date we have only sold 38 out of 100 tickets.*** This is our biggest action item right now and we really need a big push to sell all of them.  It's a beautiful home, great value and free money for us.  Please let me know if I can help you get the word out or promote the opportunity.
* The raffle is scheduled to be drawn on Sunday November 1st so we'll need to monitor sales and decide if we want to change that.  Ideally, we should try to keep it as it is if at all possible.

**Updated Policies:**

* As part of our fiscal monitoring in January, we received feedback at the end of August regarding the need to update these policies for compliance.
* The Confidentiality Policy was updated to be a more detailed document than our previous one.  There are no major changes to it, mainly just more words.
* The Procurement Policy was updated to include language regarding women and minority owned businesses.  Most of the additions are from other VOCA approved policies at other CASA programs.  The biggest departure is the threshold for purchase without full board approval.  Our previous amount was $500 and the amount for other CASA programs was $3000.  Ours now reflects an amount of $2000 since I think we're a smaller program with less resources.  This may seem like a large increase but, in all reality, our program does not make large single-item purchases without discussion anyway unless the item is dictated by VOCA.
* Please let me know if you have any questions regarding these policies and, unless VOCA has additional needs, you can take a formal vote on them at the next meeting.

**Transportation:**

* In the original board meeting email, I  included quite a lot of information regarding transportation, including the previously proposed policy and part of the process that another local program used to consider the issue for their program.
* I am currently compiling responses from some of the volunteers who have provided feedback about their opinions on the subject.  I expect to continue to receive that feedback and will pass it on when I have a larger amount.
* It would be helpful if the board would submit questions or concerns in advance so that we can better guide the discussion and have possible answers on hand to address these.  This is a very complicated issue and there is no right answer, only the hope that we can arrive at a decision that everyone feels is justified for our program.
* I look forward to a healthy discussion at our next meeting!

**Peer Support**

* At this time we do not have a Peer Support speaker scheduled for our October meeting.
* I had hoped to have a domestic violence speaker or drug education speaker but finding one is proving difficult. For whatever reason, as the pandemic continues, finding people willing to provide training seems to be more and more difficult.
* We're all continuing to reach out on these topics as well as others to see if we can find someone willing to speak.
* Please let me know if you have suggestions about particular topics-especially if you have a lead on a speaker willing to speak.
* I'll send the normal Peer Support invitation as soon as I have a confirmed speaker.

Please let me know if you have additional questions, comments or issues on any of the topics above or on any additional topics.  In general, things are going well but the current 'new normal' continues to wear on us and we look forward to a return to our previous 'normal'.