



ANGELS AGAINST ABUSE, INC. MEETING
March 14, 2023

Angels Against Abuse met on March 14, 2023, at the Pasadena Community Church Life Enrichment Center. President, Sandy Kearney, welcomed everyone.

Speakers, Mindy Baird and Kelley Vitorino, spoke to us about Pineapple Projects which was started in July, 2020. Their goal is to transform houses into homes for those who are starting over and need a helping hand. They provide home essentials to families in Pinellas County and will accept donations of furniture and home essentials that are stored in a large warehouse until needed. They are working on their 44th project, and their goal is to help more families by completing three projects a month.

Our second speaker was Kayla Lao who represents the Children's Home Network, which goes into homes and provides respite services to families within the home. They fill in the needs of the family unit.

Hector Escajada, a CPI recruiter, sitting in for Kelly of the Sheriff's office reported they are committed to families and are meeting with DCF.

Lisa Alchin is with DFL and doing fund raising.

Kim Bauer and Helen Consoni are working on the luncheon/fashion show to be held April 29th, at the St. Pete Yacht Club with fashions by Dillard's. Tickets are available on our website. Door prizes and baskets are requested.

Noelle Moody of Healthy Start said they are at full to capacity and working with many families with substance abuse and mental illness.

Linda Frease from the Literacy Council of St. Petersburg told us of their fundraiser, a "Not Your Kid's Spelling Bee" for adults to be held April 14th at Coastal Creative.

The Kind Mouse is having a food drive until March 31st. On Mouse Monday on March 20th, they will have baked goods for sale.

Alan Yergovich of the Kiwanis Club announced they will host the Mad Hatter event at the Coliseum on August 6th. This is a fun day for children in the system, and volunteers are needed.

Anita Myers is a new volunteer recruit for GAL.

Sandra Sloan of PAR says they are dealing with housing needs and seeing a need for those with addictions.

Heather Reuscher of Hero to a Child says they will be paying for summer camp for children and discussed the impact the Angels are having with the Opportunity Outreach Program. It is changing lives for these children by providing them with activities and normalcy.

Family Support Services, Friends of the Children, Hero to a Child, the Angel Center staff are all on board for the Mental Health Training by DFL.

Michelle Schaefer of Healthy Start Pinellas says she works with Judge Moore to help families get back on track. Some have been living in vehicles, hotels, etc. She will be attending our monthly meeting.

Ashley Tominus runs the Angel Center and reported they have 51 visits, or 102 hours, a week. The visits have resulted in reunifications which has been the goal of our Angel Center. The feedback from all of our community partners that visit the Angel Center has been very positive.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Valerie Rankin, Secretary