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**Fox Valley United Way  
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda  
8:30 am –10:00 am  
Thursday, October 11, 2023 – Via Zoom**

1. Call Meeting to Order—CEO Deborah at 8:35a
2. Roll Call:  
Board—Kelly, Laura, Mark, Joe E., Terese, Mansa, Karen, Joe D., Stacey  
Absent—Michele, Maria  
Staff—Deborah and JD
3. Approved Minutes—September 2023
4. Nominating Policy—Deborah asked the board to revisit the electronic vote to approve the nominating policy as proposed. After a motion by Stacey and a second by Kelly, the motion passed unanimously to approve.
5. Chairman of the Board's Report—Mark – nothing to report.
6. Chief Executive Officer Report—Deborah
  - SPARK has hired a new Family Resource Specialist. Yvette Ortiz will start on October 16<sup>th</sup>. She is bilingual, a doula, and was a parent educator for Family Focus. She holds an associate degree in early childhood. Her background includes managing a multicultural daycare center on the East side of Aurora.
  - SPARK also engaged in a 6-month contract with Adrianna Casillas, and her salary is paid out of the Community Saturation Grant funds. She is bilingual and holds a master's degree in social work. Her background includes time spent as a parent educator, as well as assisting immigrants.
  - The Dunham Foundation did not fund our grant request to fund ALICE at this time as they felt the program was too new. They encouraged us to reapply in the future. They also asked us to resubmit for SPARK, and they will reconsider that portion of our \$75,000 ask.
7. Committee Reports:
  - Finance—July financials were reviewed by Kelly. She notes our contributions are up significantly from one year ago. Receivables are down, and allocation payables are down due to timing. Our accountant at the firm has resigned. We are transitioning to someone new, so things are moving slowly right now. The August financial review was tabled to November as the reports were just received the day prior.
  - Nominating Committee—As mentioned earlier, the Nominating Policy was approved, and we will continue to build our board. We look to recruit an early childhood professional who would also sit on the SPARK executive board. We would also like to recruit a legal professional.
  - Women United—Stacey provided a recap of their recent meetings: The Power of the Purse Golden Ticket Raffle ticket sales have started. The committee has decided to donate the proceeds from this event to the Neighbor Project. The committee met with the Lake County Women United to collaborate and discuss some of their goals.

- Here is the link to our website to purchase Raffle tickets online. Help us sell tickets by sharing on your social media and sending this link to friends and family.  
<https://www.foxvalleyunitedway.org/power-of-the-purse>

8. Development — Campaign Presentations:

- The Caterpillar campaign included 4 weeks of presentations to over 150 employees. Employee participation was 61%, and their pledged amount with the corporate match was \$204,496.00! This represents an increase of 13% over last year. Lisa created a thank-you montage video for the Cat employee participants, and JD created a survey for all Cat employees that will be deployed later in October. Congratulations, and a big Thank You to Lisa and JD for the many hours spent managing this important campaign!
- Staff coordinated 8 volunteer projects 40 volunteers 160 hours of volunteer time.
- JD shared his presentation “United in Purpose” used to launch a new workplace campaign to Timken—a bearing manufacturer located in Aurora. They are long-time United Way partner and supporter, having donated over \$1,076,654 from the Timken Foundation.
- JD reported the Geneva Chamber Challenge, held on Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> was successful with 8 donors and \$575.00 raised.
- Karen asked for more information about making a recurring donation to FVUW, and JD explained this is an existing option using our website.
- On Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> we will be presenting to the City of Aurora and Mayor Irvin.

9. Program Updates

- SPARK—Although they are shorthanded, they have been managing their commitments.
- Opening Doors held at the Fox Valley Park District Eola branch—This is a 10-week parent leadership program, originally developed for parents in Latino communities. It gives parents the tools and resources they need to successfully navigate the first 5 years. 20 parents with diverse backgrounds, including Latino, Persian, and African American. Kassia received special training to facilitate this program.
- On Fridays, SPARK runs a play group at New England Church on the Aurora’s west side. This program supports parents as their child’s first teacher.
- The Quarterly SPARK community meeting was held at the Fox Valley Park District with about 25 representatives from local agencies coming together to collaborate around the birth to 5 work being done in the community.
- PNC Bank sponsored a mobile learning adventure that was held at the Fox Valley Mall.
- SPARK attended the Community Hero Day held at the Aurora Regional Fire Museum. The event was very well attended. We handed out over 220 bags!
- Holiday Assistance: General community calls for assistance applications will begin October 16<sup>th</sup>. Based on the response from referral agencies, we already have over 100 children on the list. We are updating our toy drive and blanket drive posters and doubling our efforts on collecting those donations.
- 211 continues to be a readily used resource.
- VFV: JD, Lisa, and Deborah met to discuss our efforts on Volunteer Fox Valley The \$4,200.00 renewal fee for the web portal was paid, and we’re in the process of making updates. We will need to do additional outreach to agencies, organizations, and the general public.

10. Engagement: ALICE—We continue to submit grant applications for ALICE funding. We are working on a project plan, creating a steering committee, and mentorship opportunities.

11. Next Meeting Date – November 9, 2023

11. Adjournment—9:45a