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**Fox Valley United Way  
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda  
8:30 am –10:00 am  
Thursday, September 14, 2023 – Via Zoom**

1. Call Meeting to Order—CEO Deborah at 8:34a
2. Roll Call:  
Board—Kelly, Laura, Mark, Joe E., Terese, Michele, Mansa, Karen, and Joe D.  
Absent—Maria, Stacey  
Staff—Deborah
3. Approve Minutes—July and August 2023
4. Chairman of the Board's Report—Mark
5. Chief Executive Officer Report
  - Introduction—Mansa Latham joins our board. Welcome Mansa!
  - Reminder—Board members should go to our portal and record their vote on the Nominating Committee policy.
  - FVUW received membership approval from United Way Worldwide after successful completion of all the requirements.
  - As part of our UWWW membership certification, we are required to update our DEI Statement and DEI Board and Staff training. Michele Clark has agreed to assist us with that process.
  - Staffing—Our Community Engagement Coordinator with SPARK, Mayra resigned and provided a one-week notice. We have posted her position and we are looking for someone to fill it ASAP. We have already received some very good resumes, but none of them from bilingual candidates. In the meantime, FVUW will assist with some of the duties until the perfect candidate is hired. We are also hiring a consultant. Rosa and Deborah are working on a strategic outline for staffing and program expectations for SPARK. Some reorganization may be necessary to maximize the talent and time we have. Rosa and Deborah are also working on updating the internship descriptions and will develop an internship manual that aligns with our personnel policies and procedures. We plan to submit two applications to Aurora University: one for SPARK which will be for their social work program, and one for FVUW which will be for a non-profit leadership program. Jenny Everhart has offered to help us with "Our Commitment" document.
  - Holiday Assistance—Here we go! JD will be the Team Lead for the project this year. The SPARK team will handle the intake interviews. We are already receiving calls from people we have assisted in the past. Our team met to review the recap notes from social work interns, CRC members, volunteers, and staff from last year. We served 550 children in 2022. History tells us we are providing assistance to many repeat applicants that have relied on FVUW year after year. We have identified there are many others that are in greater need. This feedback tells us we should reset the priorities. As a team, the staff would like to propose some key changes to qualifications for this year:

- Referrals will take priority. We will be reaching out to partner agencies, local childcare centers, school districts to identify McKinney Vento families, Waubensee ESL student immigrants learning English, homeless shelters, and in-shelter families.
- Limit enrollment to first-time recipients.
- Additional blanket drives to support seniors. We learned that at least 35% of senior population in Aurora are considered ALICE.

#### 6. Programs: Engagement

- ALICE—We are working on grants and have completed our application to the Dunham Foundation, and to the City of Aurora for their *Quality of Life Grant* which will specifically support ALICE in Aurora. Lisa met with the COA and learned that about 46% of the population in Aurora is ALICE. As we develop this initiative, it will be focused first in the Aurora area. Lisa will use a simulator demo to take to presentations and start to collaborate for resources to support the ALICE population. Joe Espinoza has reached out to Deborah to discuss some workforce development ideas he has that may support the ALICE population. Lisa, Mansa, and Deborah met with Jimmy at Bureau Gravity—a local marketing firm here in Aurora. They discussed the ALICE initiative and what collaborative work we can do to support the conversation here in Aurora, possibly a *Day in the Life of ALICE* video. This would provide the opportunity to illustrate the type of decisions facing this population. ALICE is also the focus of the work the Women United group.
- Kane 211—Lisa has been promoting this service at several Chamber events including two golf outings, two Kane County Triad events, and two community health fairs.
- Caterpillar Campaign—Lisa coordinated over 30 volunteers from Cat to volunteer at seven different non-profit agencies in our service area. JD, Lisa, and Deborah held *Lunch and Learns* to present FVUW mission to Cat employees.

#### 7. Development: Campaigns

- We wrapped up 4 weeks of Campaign presentations to over 120 employees at Caterpillar. Our message included data on ALICE, SPARK, and our partner agencies.
- Presentations have also been made to Earthmovers Credit Union, NICOR Gas, Kiwanis Club in Aurora, Fox Valley Park District, and Aurora Bearing (250 employees).
- JD has been working on the Geneva Chamber Challenge to be held on Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. Look for more info on our FB and in your email.
- Joe Donor is holding an event at his gym *Kokua CrossFit Geneva 5K for United Way* on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Address: 419A Stevens Street in Geneva. Who is going??
- The Paw Parade 5K will be on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. We need more info on this.

#### 8. Committee Reports

- Finance—June Financials, tabled until October. Look for reports to be added to the portal after Mark and Kelly meet to review.
- Nominating—Rosa is looking for a new board member that comes from the early education field.
- Women United—We are moving forward with the *Power of the Purse Golden Raffle* and have secured 4 beautiful prizes! Look for all the info on our socials and be sure to purchase your ticket early—before they sell out. The drawing will be held on Thursday evening, November 30<sup>th</sup> from 6p-8p, at Society 57 in downtown Aurora. That is the day after Thanksgiving. We will also livestream the drawing on IG and FB. Proceeds from this event go to support ALICE. Light appetizers and beverages will be served.
- Community Resource Committee--Working with staff and SPARK on *Power of the Purse* and Holiday Assistance.

9. Program Updates:

- SPARK—Rosa is managing the reporting for three SPARK grants, due every month. We have an event at the Fox Valley Mall on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> and sponsored by PNC. It is a free Mobile Learning Adventure from 10a to 2p. We met with Illinois Action for Children to review their grant and reporting requirements. Rosa is looking into offering classes through the Open Doors network.

10. Next Meeting Date – October 12, 2023

11. Adjournment at 9:43a