

# Livingston County CARES Inc. Board of Directors Meeting

February 24, 2010

## Approved Minutes

The Board of Directors met at the MacVittie Union Boardroom on Wednesday, February 24, 2010. The following board members were present: Tom Matthews, Kay Fly, Lori McEvoy, Katie Rogers, Dick Hathaway, Lyle Lehman, Wes Kennison, Dan Hart, Marissa Evarts, Andrew Demosthenous, Jerry Alonzo, Dave Parfitt and Joan Ellison. Guests: Alex Coots, Jessica Jurczynski, and Dr. Rose-Marie Chierici.

Matthews called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

**Introductions:** Matthews introduced Jessica Jurczynski who is a student intern from the Jones School of Business working on the accounts for Livingston CARES. Matthews also introduced Alex Coots who is student leading a project to engage student volunteers in community projects throughout Livingston County on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Coots did a presentation to the Board of Supervisors about the project. Matthews and Fly believe it is important for the students to make connections in the county beyond Geneseo.

**Approval of the minutes:** Alonzo made a motion to approve and Kennison seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2010 board meeting. The minutes were approved.

**President's Report:** Matthews said that he received a two-page report about the February work trip from volunteers who were disappointed in the work assignments. Matthews said that out of the four days, the volunteers reported that the work assigned took only about a day and a half to complete. Matthews said that according to the report volunteers were sent to clean up a house for dedication and were given one can of a cleaning agent, one roll of paper towels, a mop and a can of window cleaner. Matthews said that on Tuesday of their week no work was assigned because it was Mardi Gras and the supervisors were at the parade. Matthews said that he sent a copy of that report to HOPE asking for an explanation and stating that we cannot have this happening on future work trips.

**Guest Speaker:** Matthews introduced Dr. Rose-Marie Chierici, the chair of the Anthropology Department and a native of Haiti. Chierici also heads a foundation called HOPE. Chierici said that she would like to see collaboration between the College and the rural areas in the Northern part of Haiti. Chierici said that her organization was working on community development, health education, clean water and how to develop the human potential. Chierici stated that the area had lots of valleys, rivers and was very mountainous and the population was 80,000 people in 250 villages. Chierici said that to get to the town of Borgne people had to travel a great distance. She said that the coffee and cocoa industry has collapsed and that the health profile from the rural area was dismal. Chierici said that there was one small

hospital with 18 beds, 5 doctors trained in Cuba and 4 doctors from the Borgne area. She said that there are mobile clinics from the hospital that travel to the outlying areas. Chierici reported that education in the area consisted of three teachers that visit four sites per month and teach children ages three through seven. Kennison asked how we could support Haiti in the long run. Kennison said that maybe we could send curriculum material for the teachers utilizing resources from the College. Chierici said that each site had a shed with teaching supplies and that more supplies would be welcome. Kennison asked how could technology reach the remote areas. Alonzo said that MIT had a program to give laptops, \$200 a piece to children and it was designed for remote areas. Chierici said that Borgne was getting people from the earthquake areas and those refugees need food and clothes. She also said that they are getting post-op patients that need a lot of attention. Chierici said that they are building a hanger to help more people and they are looking at a resettlement area to provide housing, tools, long term medical care and counseling. Many people lost relatives and close family members. Kennison said that even though Borgne wasn't hit with the earthquake people are drawing from their resources. Chierici said that Port-au-Prince was where all the resources came from and now they are no longer getting the resources but they are getting all the people. She said that 90% of the people do not have electricity and there is a problem with Malaria. Chierici said that a group from Geneseo sent mosquito nets and that flip-flops were needed so the children won't go barefoot. Matthew thanked Chierici and said we will appoint a committee to focus on how Livingston CARES will respond and allocate the funds collected for the Haiti Relief Fund. Board members agreed that CARES should take time to review possible projects before allocating the funds.

**Announcements:** Jerry Alonzo talked about a project he was working on called the Art of Compassion. He said that that it was based on gathering the words of the community stating what they believe compassion is or what people have seen that showed compassion. Alonzo said that the words will appear on a sculpture and there will be an opening at the Interfaith Center where there will be a discussion on compassion. Alonzo said that any words or phrases would be needed right after the March trip.

Matthews announced that Kennison has agreed to help market the Gumbo to Go dinner.

Matthews also asked and the board agreed to move the thank you dinner for the volunteers from March 29 to April 26.

**Financial report:** Lehman went over the financial report that was submitted to the Board members. He reported that we have collected \$3,004.00 for Haiti Relief.

**Work trips:** Rogers said the March trip was completely filled but we only have two applications for the May trip. We also need to recruit three drivers for May. The deadline for applications is March 13.

**Compliance Report:** Lehman and Kennison reported on the compliance committee recommendations and asked that the board review the recommendations attached to the handout for the meeting. Board members agreed that the recommendations made sense and Lehman and Kennison agreed to report back at the next meeting with compliance language for adoption by the board. Lehman recommended and board members agreed that July 1 to June 30 be established as the Livingston CARES fiscal year.

**Special Project Accounts:** Kennison recommended that we establish procedures for administering accounts for special projects. Kennison also asked if we need a special code of conduct for volunteers similar to the code of conduct for students at the College. Matthews responded that the volunteer agreement for work trips refers to the code. He agreed to review the agreement to determine if we need any additional language to cover participants who are not college students.

**State Farm Grant:** Matthews reported that the College did not get the grant from State Farm to cover the VISTA HEROS project. He further reported that our VISTA will not be able to assist with Mississippi trips next year because the new guidelines for VISTA's prohibit work on out-of-state trips.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15pm.

Submitted by Kay Fly, Secretary

**Next meeting: March 24, 2010 at 3 pm.**

## Livingston CARES

### January Financials

Beginning balance	12-31-09	\$26,572.04
1 Deposit		165.00
4 Withdrawals		2,085.61
Interest Paid		2.94
Ending Balance		\$24,654.37

### Deposit

Personal donations	115.00
Corporate donation	50.00

### Withdrawals

Reimbursement car rentals	2,085.61
2010 January trip	

Balance in Ghana Acct.	1,510.00
Balance in Give Kids	447.51
Balance in Livingston CARES	22,696.86