

Minutes for HCC meeting of Sept 13, 2011

OLR Hall

Attendees: Susan Adams, Nancy Ng, Laura Chiu, Ruth Chippendale, Jean Ramaciotti, Michael Gray, Rosemary Gill, Claire Collins

With Paul unable to attend the meeting, we did not have a moderator.

The whole meeting was dedicated to discussion about the refugee families.

Apologies were extended to Jean, Michael and Ruth who were not involved with the refugee project and was made to sit through the discussion.

Summary of what has been discussed:

- We raised \$5,700+ for the deposit and so have \$1,700+ leftover. Need to decide on best way to use the cash. (Since that day, we collected \$200+ more)
- Claire wants to know who has the warranty documents on the washer/dryer (turns out Andrea Lee does)
- Susan reported her experience with the children and pointed out that Chantal, Daniel and Dianne all have difficulties following instructions. Transportation office of the school district needed to practice “bus sitting” with them. Chantal expressed desire to learn cursive; maybe Kamal can help.
- Nancy suggested that the mothers get some parenting skill training, will look into “Preschool Family” and “Cooperative Parenting”.
- Rosemary observed that Illumineta in particular does not seem to have much interaction with her own children. Depression? Post-traumatic Stress Disorder? Medication side effects? (Observations during recent visits seem much better).
- Wonder how she behaves with children during medical appointments, when she is out of the house and on her own (ask Virginia Mensing).
- We need to try and talk to their own church (Seventh Day Adventist?) and see if we can better coordinate the help we provide to the family (Paul to broach the subject with Emmanuel?).
- Discuss about putting the list of requested furniture on the bulletin to solicit donations but then....
- They are getting too much stuff for their limited living space. We must be careful what to give them from now on. Always make sure they need them first.

- Someone needs to show them how to clean the floors, toilets, vacuum, use the different appliances (dishwasher, clothes washer, dryer). Landlady worries about appliances going bad if not used for a long time. Also she does not want clothes to be washed in sinks or tubs because the fibers will clog the drains.

- Do we need to train them on money skills (how to pay bills on time, follow a budget etc.)? Laura was told by Emmanuel that they were leading responsible lives in Africa before coming over so they do know many things without us teaching them.

- Should we invite them to the parish picnic? Having car seats for all 7 children is necessary. Rule is 6 years old or 60 lbs. Will take some major coordination. (We did it!)