



Nov. 17, 2018

Vol. 34 No. 46

Jean Stephens speaks about Hope-Net

Jean Stephens, Treynor, spoke on Saturday, November 17. Jean has been Program Director for the Hope-Net After-Care Program in Council Bluffs for eight years. She also serves on the SW Iowa Human Trafficking Coalition.



Jean Stephens, Hope Net

The Hope Net After-Care program is for women coming out of incarceration and addiction. It is a women's reentry after-care ministry committed to shaping lives and renewing minds. Hope-Net is operated by 99% volunteers.

There are three phases of support: 1) *Inside* – Meeting with each woman before she leaves jail to begin the relationship and discuss re-entry logistics. 2) *Transition*- The Hope-Net team supports each woman during her first two months out of prison, assisting her to get back on her own two feet. 3) *After-Care* – For those staying locally, there are three support groups per week and a Circle of Support dinner once a month. Other support comes through Sequels Thrift Store vouchers, bicycles for those needing transportation, counseling, connections with food pantries, Gifts of Love program at Christmas, and job training.

Stephens stated she wasn't sure God wanted her in this job the first two years. After a conversation

with a female parole officer, she determined that she couldn't save all and had to set boundaries and now loves her job.

Regarding human trafficking Stephens offered some tips: Speak to your kids and grandkids about this issue to be aware in all situations. If someone makes you uncomfortable, take a stance. Double team. Have a safe word to use if there is a call to send money or for a child to be picked up. Human trafficking is greatly on the increase and we live in a hotbed area due to Omaha-Council Bluffs being a major interstate corridor.

Meeting Minutes

President Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order. Fourteen members were present plus one guest, Jean Stephens, speaker. Lt. Governor Fred Hildebrand and his wife Sandy arrived in the last minutes of the meeting. Gary Funkhouser, Mick Gutttau, and Dale Willenborg shared jokes followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Dale Willenborg gave the opening prayer. Judy Gutttau won the 50/50 award and Steve Irwin won the attendance drawing but was not present. Kevin Underwood won the Football Contest. Mick Gutttau's birthday was observed as was Diane Willenborg's. There were no anniversaries.

For bragging rights, Judy Gutttau contributed for the outstanding Veteran's Day program at the school, for Mick being asked to speak at the SAC Museum on Veteran's Day and speaking on Jon Jacobsen's radio program today, and also for West Sioux winning the state football title, which Treynor played them in the first play-off game. Gary Gutttau also contributed for Mick's speech at SAC and for his arm doing well after his ten-day IV has run out.

Community News: Gary Funkhouser reported that the Treynor girls won in a BB game/scrimmage against Glenwood in the last second. Funkhouser reported the Jr Class is selling 55 gal. trash bags (25 for \$13) from 2-4 PM tomorrow around town. The JOII Club is

having a winter clothing drive between Nov. 26- Dec 8. Clothing can be dropped off at the high school commons.

Under old business, Gary Gutttau reported that membership dues are due. He asked for volunteers to help contact unpaid members. Dale Willenborg reported that 75 attended the Human Trafficking program at Silos last Wed. He stated that we would pay for half the pizza which totaled \$268.43. He thanked Kevin Underwood and Dee Gutttau for providing cookies.

Under new business, it was reported that Gary Funkhouser, Gary Gutttau and John Klein helped with the last can kennel sorting for the cub scouts. The next sorting will take place at 1 PM on Nov 28. Thanks to Casey's for donating 9 bags of trash bags.

Allison Green will receive the can kennel check when possible for the National Honor Society. Gary Funkhouser stated that some area National Honor Society groups are changing to a School Honor Society to avoid paying the \$385 organization fee. At Treynor each member pays \$10 to help with the costs.

John Klein will research further renewing our sponsorship of a swim day. He has had conversations with Katie Campbell, the elementary PE teacher.

Dee Gutttau contributed sweet potatoes for the auction. They were purchased for a total of \$7 by Bill Vorthmann and Jim Clausen.

Our new Lt. Governor, Fred Hildebrand spoke a few words to the group and will come visit again.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by stating the Optimists Pledge.

**Measure your lifetime in blessing,
And you'll always remain in your prime.
For youth is a feeling you keep in your
heart
Whether seven or seventy-nine.**

Calendar

Nov 28 Can kennel sorting for Cub Scouts

Birthdays

Anniversaries

Programs

November Keith Denton
December Kirk Vorthmann

Speakers

Nov 24 Dean Schechinger – Impact Hill

Judy Gutttau, Editor, 31107 Dogwood Rd, Treynor, IA 51575
402-670-4330

Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 51575