**Neuse Trent Housing Alliance**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**8 AM**

**March 4, 2015**

**United Way Building, New Bern**

Present:

Patricia Benefield

Terry Brubaker

Michelle Carver

Ron England

Jeanine Ethridge

Danielle Frisoli

Clayton Gaskins

Linda Godette

Beverly Heine

Monica Kazan

Susan Lucas

Chick Natella

Sandra Phelps

Juliet Rogers

Lovay Singleton

Reeshema Walker

* Juliet called the meeting to order. Introductions were made.
* The February and March minutes will be approved at the May meeting.
* Jeanine Etheridge is the new executive director of the Reviving Lives Ministry.
* Juliet reported on the status of the Balance of State. The Neuse Trent Housing Alliance is part of a regional committee composed of 50 counties and reports to the North Carolina Commission to End Homelessness. This gives us the ability as a group to apply for grants. The goal is permanent supportive housing; the federal government wants to eliminate shelters. This is not likely to be possible in our area but might be possible in larger cities with housing and transportation available. In our area, we need to start to identify available apartments, land, builders, realtors, etc.
* Ron reported on the upcoming Health Fair, March 13 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Free booths are available to committee members from 11:30 am to 12:15 pm and 3:45 to 4:30 pm; this schedule enables booth participants to listen to the speakers. He encouraged committee members to participate all day. The Alliance will have a booth; please let Susan or Juliet know if you can help out.
* Terry reported on events to open Child Abuse Prevention Month. There are two opening ceremonies: April 1 at 8:30 am at Bank of the Arts and April 2 at 9 am at Havelock City Park.
* Terry also provided information about Parenting Cafés. The first one is for grandparents on April 7 from 5:30 to 8 pm at the Senior Center in New Bern. It is free and dinner and child care are provided. Registration is required through Coastal Community Action (223-1650). Stages of development and parental resilience will be discussed. The second café is on April 23 from 5:30 to 8 pm and will be at Pelatah Ministries with dinner and child care provided. Registration is also free and is not yet open. Parental knowledge and discipline will be discussed.
* Terry also reported that the Festival of Fun will be April 18 at Union Point Park and volunteers are needed.
* Monica reported that April also is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
* Faith Through Song, a fundraiser for RCS, will be held on April 17 from 6-7 pm at Grover C. Fields. Tickets are $10.
* Reviving Lives is having a fundraiser this Saturday at First Presbyterian Church from 6-9 pm. Donations are appreciated.
* Peacock’s Plume is hosting a fashion show to benefit Coastal Women’s Shelter on April 2 from 5-7 pm at the New Bern Golf and Country Club. Tickets are $45 or $400 for a table of ten.
* Although not applying for the block grant, Lovay is still planning on a Hunger and Homelessness Week in October to increase awareness about these issues.
* Juliet handed out certificates of appreciation to committee members whose organization assisted with the PIT count.
* Pat asked for committee assistance when Coastal Community Action conducts their community needs assessment. Committee members may be asked to participate in a focus group and/or provide data. If you are interested, please let Pat know.

**\*\*\*\*\*INSTEAD OF OUR REGULAR MEETING IN APRIL, PLEASE ATTEND THE OPENING CEREMONY FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH-----8 AM AT THE BANK OF THE ARTS\*\*\*\*\***