

CCRT Friday Stakeholder Meeting
2/11/2022

Attendees: Annalee Tobey, Michael Ervin, Bill Deutscher, Larry McGee, Larry Cook, David Hartz, Joanne Schwartz, Terry Harris, Brian Wilkins, Jacki Jewell, Justine Pense, Muriel Wheatley, Sarah Price, David James, Eric Sonnenberg, Susan Delaire, Skylar Templeton, Tony Ketchum

Jacki Jewell updated the group on Visiting Nurses Foundation

- In 2021, VN focused on stores with some capital upgrades. The thrift stores are the largest generators of revenue for the Foundation.
- \$100,000 grant provides comfort therapy in hospice program. 200 patients were served through the comfort therapy program in 2021 which was a lighter year due to Covid.
- New this year, Visiting Nurses will offer \$25,000 in scholarships to high school students. Jacki will be visiting local schools to share the new program.
- Both locations will host a donation event on March 26th with special sales to those donating. There will be food available at the Centralia location.
- Reminder that the Medical Equipment Bank at both locations helps local families with medical needs.
- July 14-15 is their annual golf tournament, their largest fundraiser of the year.
- Thrift stores are open daily 10am-4pm Monday-Saturday, Sunday 11am-4pm. Centralia Store will take furniture.

Muriel Wheatley provided update on the Chehalis Timberland Regional Library.

- Muriel started as the director of the library in December. She grew up in Olympia, has a background in classical music and small business, and has a master's degree in Library Science.
- Before coming to Chehalis she was the operations supervisor in Centralia and is a member of the Centralia Downtown Association Board.
- Reminded attendees that the library offers a free \$44 printing credit to library card holders. \$0.10 per b/w or \$0.50 cents per color copy. Option to upload online.
- The library also has a large meeting room available for rent at no cost.
- Digital collection of books available via the Libby mobile app.
- Planning small renovations to the children's area to make it more kid-friendly.
- The outdoor statue of the girl reading the book will be moved in to the building after the book has been removed several times.
- Annual operating budget is \$522,000, not including costs of adding books/materials to library collection (this comes out of regional budget).

Joanne Schwartz provided update on the Chehalis-Centralia Railroad & Museum.

- The Steam train hopes to receive money from FEMA for disaster relief due to January's flooding. There is about a mile of track that was damaged during the flood that needs repair.
- The Easter Train will run April 16th.

- 2021 was a successful year! 47 sold out runs of the Polar Express and all other special events in 2021 were sold out.
- Work continues rebuilding the #15 Locomotive. Currently working on the tender.
- The Board has a new president, James Folk.

Promotion Committee - David James

- Postcard project to be wrapped up in the spring.
- March 11th will be the new brand announcement, and March 14th will be the presentation to Chehalis City Council.

ERC – Brian Wilkins

- Continuing to look for intern/part time employee for Coworks
- We'll be offering a security grant this year to help downtown businesses secure their businesses. Program is being developed now.
- Rural Development Initiative works closely with OR/WA Main Street Organizations. CCRT will participate in a program focusing on development and strategies for ERC committees.

Design Committee - Annalee OBO Emily von Flotow

- Planning mural on the side of historic Royal Bakery/Star Tavern with Lewis County.
- Self-Guided Art Tour is being created to showcase the art in downtown Chehalis and provide an activity for guests downtown.
- Other murals for the season are being planned.

Executive Director - Annalee Tobey

- It's B&O tax season and CCRT is working with local businesses to donate to the program and support 2022 projects and activities.
- 2021 Impact Report is available sharing CCRT's work done last year. Available online and shared on Facebook.