**Neuse Trent Housing Alliance**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**8 AM**

**February 4, 2015**

**United Way Building, New Bern**

**Present**:

David Adams

Cindy Blot

Terry Brubaker

Georgia Ensley

Jackie Jreisat

Tharesa Lee

Susan Lucas

Chris McCutcheon

Whitney Morton

Juliet Rogers

Lovay Singleton

**Sue Steinhauser**

Reeshema Walker

* Tharesa Lee called the meeting to order. She announced that the start time for the meetings beginning in April will be 8:30 AM to enable participants from Carteret and Jones counties to attend.
* Cindy Blot introduced Chris McCutcheon of Wells Fargo Bank. Chris spoke about Wells Fargo having a corporate representative on the Alliance.
* No minutes were approved—several sets of minutes will be voted on next month.
* Patricia Benfield had a slight accident and will make her presentation next month.
* Reeshema Walker provided information about the national Point in Time Count that occurred on January 28, 2015. Ninety-seven individuals were identified and Ron England added two more during the meeting; this number is more than twice that of last year. This information will be sent to the aldermen and commissioners with the goal of enhancing RCS’ and veterans’ services. Many organizations provided volunteers this year to count the homeless and Reeshema will send a public thank you to them via the Sun Journal. Next year she hopes to have more media involvement about Point in Time
* Lovay Singleton reported on a proposal she is submitting on behalf of the Veterans Employment and Organic Garden for the Community Block Grant She is proposing a City of New Bern Homeless Awareness week with the following schedule:

Sunday: Walk for Hunger

Monday: Proclamation by the Mayor

Tuesday: The Hunger Games

Wednesday: Homeless Documentary

Thursday: Support Agencies Open Houses

Friday: Sleep out for the Homeless

Saturday: New Bern Morning of Service

Letters of support would increase the likelihood of getting the grant. Agencies who support this initiative should send Lovay their letters by Friday, February 6. The month of October was voted on by the Alliance as a good month to hold the events. Susan Lucas indicated that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and that they would not schedule any events conflicting with the Awareness Week.

* David Adams, pastor of Antioch Church in Bridgeton, reported that the church has obtained a building that will become a clothing and feed shelter. They hope to be open in March and the long term goal is to have a room for families to use for shelter. They have collected and distributed clothing for Bridgeton Elementary School. Contact David at 633-5734. The Seeds Ministry will highlight Bridgeton in the second quarter of 2015.
* Juliet reported for Patricia. Patricia is writing a grant in partnership with RCS and hopefully the Neuse Trent Housing Alliance to bring a culinary arts program to New Bern using the RCS kitchen. Cindy Blot suggested that she make contact with Robin Matthews of Craven Community College concerning her interest in this program. Cindy asked if businesses could rent the RCS kitchen as an incubator, and Juliet will investigate if this is possible.
* Lovay reported that Panera Bread wants to donate leftovers to nonprofits. Anyone interested must go online to request a donation @ paneras.com/donations. RCS was contacted by Paneras to receive bread but turned it down because they already get bread from Food Lion, thus opening up the opportunity to other community members.
* Jackie Jreisat reported that the City of New Bern has $8,000 in their account to help with electric bills.
* Terry Brubaker announced that the Prevent Child Abuse Month is April. The Opening Ceremony will be at 8:30 AM on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at the Bank of the Arts.  There will also be an Art Display of children's art from around the county depicting their families.  More information will be available at the March meeting. She also reported that the SPARCS program for teens is active.
* Ron England announced that Friday, March 13 is CarolinaEast’s Mental Health Community Health Fair from 8:30-4:30 at the hospital. There will be a nationally known speaker delivering a keynote address on trauma-informed care. Agencies are welcome to have booths with information at no cost. Contact Ron if you are interested.

**NEXT MEETING: MARCH 4, 2015 @ 8 AM**