

HOPE 4 Youth February Board Update

March 1, 2022

Where did February go? It is unusual to not gather this month but thank you for the committees or orientations you have been a part of. There is much happening, all moving in very positive directions, thanks as always for your advocacy!

Community advocacy – New facility DREAM

- We need to assemble a *Building HOPE Project* committee to help advocate for needed project advancements. We will discuss at our March board meeting. See the case study in the board portal for project scope and vision. This committee will be a blend of board and non-board member community advocates.
- We toured House Representatives Stephenson, Gomez, Herring, and Lee, Senator Hoffman, and met with Mayor Jerry Koch over the last 4 weeks.
- We are testifying in two legislative hearings the first week of March. Things continue to appear intriguing.
- We have partnered with a new property broker tied to EBC – THANKS Anna for the connection. We continue to explore options but have learned with the current real estate climate, we are challenged in not being able to move forward on purchase agreement discussions until we know we have been awarded funding.

Board Engagement – Meaningful engagement objective

- Please see the Board Portal for all HOPE 4 Youth updates, documents, and information. You will find a modified Monthly Board Packet in the corresponding folder in the portal for February. This includes our January financials and monthly scorecards. If you need help logging in, please reach out to Brooke at blimanen@hope4youthmn.org.
- We all agreed our committee work will be where our action and momentum will happen. If you have not already reached out to me with your committee interest, please do so asap. I will update the committee roster as appropriate.

Team and Mission Alignment – Stabilization and strengthening objective

- We have been working hard with Amanda Golly at MACC with our HOPE 4 Youth conversion to their HR oversight and support. Our automated payroll process will go live on April 1st. All other assets are beginning to take shape with weekly roadmap processing and actions. Amanda will participate in our All-Staff meeting on March 8th to fully onboard the team with partnership assets.
- We are finishing our 2021 performance reviews and merit increase discussions. It has been good to fully turn the page to 2022.
- We have finalized phase I of our compliance plan with the Public Health office. As shared in January, we can no longer accept Drop-In Center meals prepared in homes, rather we are only able to accept food prepared in a certified kitchen. We will be submitting a grant to *Open Your Heart Foundation* requesting NSF required appliances for proper sanitization and warming of delivered food. This phase II direction of our plan would be in place by Q2.

Operational vision for 2022; Program and Advancement – Mission advancement and meaningful engagement objective

- At the March board meeting, I will share with you our 2021 operational plan and matrix by which you can easily track our progress of goal attainment throughout the year. All objectives in our 2022 Operational Plan will sit in our teams' goals and personal objectives.
- We have a plan for our camera need! Paul worked with a local security organization who will be installing a full system on June 10th, 2022. Until then we will identify immediate needs and determine how to address concerns. THANKS Paul.

Financial Solvency – Fiscal transparency and area accountability culture objective

- In February we learned of an error which was made on our yearend financial recap. We believe all elements of our financials are now sound and will end 2021 with a \$20,980 surplus. Our final yearend will be confirmed through our 2021 audit. Updated yearend information is housed in the February Board Packet as well as the Finance committee folder in the portal.
- We have ended our agreement with MMC (accounting support). Our *controller level* transition with Angie Forsman was positive. We will be embarking on a partnership agreement with Tanya Bacigalupo. Tanya has been on the H4Y Finance Committee for years. She knows H4Y and will be strong in a compliance role operating as H4Y's contract controller. Brooke Limanen, current *Financial and Data Specialist* continues to shine in supporting H4Y's accounting and data needs. We feel great in the direction of financial oversight and our day-to-day financial management.
- Last week we submitted all required documentation for our 2021 audit. We are ahead of their timeline and feel encouraged by the process thus far. More to come...

Please reach out with any questions or clarifications. It will be great to see you in-person for our March meeting, until then – THANKS!