

JCOR Meeting Minutes-8/7/2024

Present: Ann Alpern, Jeff Basch, Rita Benn, Midge Cone, Kelt Freedman-Doan, Linda-Jo Doctor, Amanda Fahim, Ruth Freedman, Lauren Gold, Deborah Greene, Lori Hale, Jenni Leiberman, Shoshana Mandel, Renee Robins, Harvey Somers, Charles Weaver, Martha Weintraub

Health Committee- Shoshana Mandel reports that presenting the health manual to the family went well. They feel comfortable with making appointments and like their doctor. They will seek care for braces through the dental school.

Apples and Honey- JCC gave the ok for Nagham to sell baked goods at Apples and Honey if she would like. She would keep all the money. Each treat would need to be individually wrapped and labeled. Deborah Greene will speak to her about her interest in doing this. Deborah should let us know by email ASAP and Shoshana, in particular about decisions that Nagham made so that Shoshana can contact JCC.

Baking as an Entrepreneur for the Cottage Industry. The state has a class designated as such. There is training available (for free and online), but it is in English and not mandatory.

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/food-dairy/michigan-cottage-foods-information>. If Nagham is interested, this can be arranged through the person who gave her cake decorating lessons (Kegan) since this has already been paid for in advance. There was also discussion of using the incubator kitchen at Project Hope and getting her on the JFS waitlist for the Microenterprise program. Nagham has the forms for these but has not filled them out. Amanda will follow-up.

Here is an example of a label that should help Nagham for her own labels:

MADE IN A HOME KITCHEN THAT HAS NOT BEEN INSPECTED BY THE
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
& RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Chocolate Chip Cookie

Artie Pinkster

123 Foodstuff Lane

Casserole City, MI 82682

Ingredients: Enriched flour (Wheat flour, niacin, reduced iron, thiamine, mononitrate, riboflavin and folic acid), butter (milk, salt), chocolate chips (sugar, cocoa butter, butterfat (milk), Soy lecithin as an emulsifier), walnuts, sugar, eggs, salt, artificial vanilla extract, baking soda

Contains: wheat, eggs, milk, soy, walnuts

Net Wt. 3 oz (85.05 g)

Shoshana located bakery bags with labels 9.99 for 200 and is happy to take care of that if things move forward for AAH.

Finances- In previous discussions, JCOR agreed to keep the current budget for this family between \$10-12,000 dollars. Kelt reviewed this history of our agreement to this. Despite the original discussion of co-sponsorship being up to 20,000, it is the preference of JFS that we set this lower budget limit due to concerns of equity for other refugee families. Families also receive \$1275 per person from JFS and federal funds. Amanda will share the particulars with Jeff related to JFS financial commitments to JCOR 2 family

Driving lessons Per Amanda, it is otherwise very uncommon (to non-existent) for families to have resources provided for automobiles or driving lessons. The car donation included up to \$5000 in additional expenses that we budgeted to cover - driving lessons, licenses, a maintenance check, car insurance and potential repairs. Discussion ensued on whether to fund additional driving lessons for Nagham, which would put us over \$12,000 by a bit more than we currently already are (\$12,641.27). Additional lessons for Nagham would cost approximately \$700. It was explained that she has a job at the mosque cleaning and that Suhaib is currently leaving work on break to drive her to and from work. Nagham could take a bus, but having a license would allow her to drive herself and be easier for her since she plans to take the kids with her on the job.. Amanda suggested that Suhaib could give Nagham lessons, as she has a temporary permit and he is a licensed driver. She indicated that is how most families have done this. Midge will find out the exact cost of the lessons. Jeff will discuss with the family if they would prefer to use the flexible monies we have left in our budget to pay or cost-share the lessons with JCOR or hold off using these JCOR funds in case of an emergency.

Additional Amanda Follow-up: Amanda will follow-up with the family about the \$500 payment, orthopedic consult if needed for Nagham and continuation of DHHS benefits receipt.

JCOR 3.0-Ketl and Rita have been discussing how to move forward most effectively as we mature as an organization. They have sent out an anonymous survey to members. PLEASE COMPLETE THIS BY WEDNESDAY, August 14 noon. They plan to form a subcommittee based on a member's indication of interest on the survey to discuss improvements in the organizational structure for JCOR3. Questions the subcommittee will be tasked with addressing based on survey questions include:

- We currently seek consensus, should we instead vote on critical issues?
- If we have a formal vote, who gets a seat at the table?
- How best to conduct meetings to be most efficient?

- What do the surveys say about what we are doing well and where we can benefit in terms of improvement.

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There will be either a Zoom or in-person meeting (preferred if possible) to discuss survey results and recommendations made by the subcommittee.

Next meeting- August 28. This will permit time for the subcommittee to review and formulate recommendations to share. If anything emergent occurs, we decided that we can email each other and plan to have a meeting on the 21st..