

**Foodnet Meals on Wheels  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Monday, September 8, 2008**

**Present:** *Board Members:* Joy Blumkin, Chris Decker, Loren Gardner, Eloise Green, Jim Henery, Bob Herdt, Sonya Islam, Lorraine Johnson, Mary Opperman, Elizabeth Schneider, Bill Tomek and Margaret Washington.

**Excused:** Melissa Gatch, Cathy Paddock, and Jim Pratt.

*Staff:* Carolyn Arnold, Steve Griffin, and Cornell Graduate Dietetic Intern Brianne Schmidt.

Vice-Chair Bill Tomek called the meeting to order at 6:15pm. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented. We welcomed Brianne Schmidt, Cornell Graduate Dietetic Intern, who will be at Foodnet Meals on Wheels this semester for the Community Nutrition Rotation.

**Minutes of the August 11, 2008 Board meeting:** Motion to approve by Sonya Islam, seconded by Bob Herdt and carried.

Mary Opperman joined the meeting and assumed the Chair.

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance/** Bob Herdt: Looking at the last of the three statements provided, Budget versus Actual performance, we are about \$100,000 ahead of projected income and about \$45,000 lower than projected year-to-date expenses. This is good, and we will need all of it.

2008 NYS Budget cut: The previously approved 2008 allocation from the NYS Office for the Aging to Tompkins County will be reduced by \$10,787 which is 6% of the 2008 base allocation. The Tompkins County administration has directed departments to honor the existing contracts, so Foodnet's 2008 funding should be safe. The lower amount of state funding is now our starting point for the 2009 budget. County and federal funds are estimated to stay the same as awarded for 2008.

**Development/** Loren Gardner was pleased to report that the Annual Fund has raised \$58,269 overall to date, compared to \$50,290 as of this time last year. We are ahead of last year by about \$8,000.

Wheel-a-thon de-briefing:

Special thanks go to Steve Johnson for bringing matches to start the fire and to Dan Decker for staying to flip chickens. We appreciate the help of these spouses of board members.

The Wheel-a-thon brought in \$13,620 less \$2,108 expenses for net proceeds of \$11,512. Participation and income was down from last year, as were expenses. It rained, and only 4 people in two vehicles went out on the poker run. The peak results for the Wheel-a-thon came in 2006, with \$17,385 grossed and several corporate sponsors recruited by volunteers affiliated with Merrill Lynch, and the highest attendance was 2007 when we sold out of 256 chicken halves. As we debrief and look toward a signature event for next year and beyond, we should keep the cost/benefit ratio in mind, and be sure we get a good return on all the labor put in by the volunteers. Loren Gardner said that the Wheel-a-thon is well worth doing, because it represents about 10% of the money raised in the annual fund. Lorraine Johnson reminded us that the purpose of a special event such as the Wheel-a-thon is to raise friends as well as to raise money, and that any evaluation of the Wheel-a-thon should include how well the event engages the community, new donors and volunteers. The event should be compelling and easy to understand. It's a good opportunity to increase public awareness, and engage donors and volunteers on a personal level. We generally agree that we should still have an event, but reconsider what kind of event, and we are open to suggestions about the date and venue as well.

The Wheel-a-thon committee will meet next week to discuss the results of the 2008 Wheel-a-thon, plan sponsor recognition, and gather suggestion for next year. The board expressed its sincere thanks for the work done by Chef Michael Jenkins of Cornell catering, who made Big Red cupcakes and par-cooked the chicken for the Wheel-a-thon. Chef Mike will be given a gift certificate for dinner and a movie for him and his family as a token of our thanks for his outstanding effort above and beyond what anyone would normally expect from a volunteer.

**Staff Reports:**

**Carolyn Arnold:** Carolyn is pleased to welcome Brianne Schmidt, the Cornell Dietetic Intern this fall, who is a Cornell Nutrition graduate who played on the women's hockey team and has volunteered at the Wheelathon for the last four years.

**Steve Griffin:**

- Steve attended the Meals on Wheels Association of America annual conference in Pittsburgh, August 26-28, on a scholarship from MOWAA for the registration. His membership is in the Development section. (Other sections are Leadership, Nutrition, Volunteer Management, and Marketing & Communications.)
- Foodnet is a finalist in the Computing Center's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary \$30,000 Technology Makeover Contest. If selected as the grand prize winner, Foodnet will receive a comprehensive analysis and plan for upgrading our technology by the Computing Center, a re-design of our website by Communiqué Design, web hosting, a new server and 8 desktop computers, a color laser printer and more, all customized to our agency's needs. The winner will be announced at an event to be held at the Johnson Art Museum on Saturday evening, October 4, 2008. Bill Tomek, Sonya Islam, and Mary Opperman volunteered to attend with Steve Griffin to represent Foodnet Meals on Wheels.
- The Ithaca Alternative Gift Fair will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2008 from 10am – 4pm at the First Presbyterian Church in Ithaca. Foodnet Meals on Wheels will participate and board members are invited to take turns during the event to represent Foodnet at our table.
- The Human Services Coalition of Tompkins County is sponsoring "Board Basics," a training for new and prospective board members at the Women's Community Building at 4:30pm on October 21, 2008.

Old business: none

New Business: none

A motion to adjourn was made by Bob Herdt, seconded by Chris Decker and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen Griffin