

GEPC Outreach Team (OT)

Minutes from Tuesday, 21 October 2025

Present: Debbie Failing, Joyce Grady, Lucy Hirsch, Mark Lancaster, Josh Lee, and Mark Johnson

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Meeting was called to order by Mark J. at 4:59pm, and then Mark led with an opening prayer. The minutes from our last meeting (9/16/2025) were reviewed and approved.

(1) We discussed the recent "Ministry Fair" (Sun, 12 Oct). Three of our OT ministries (Eleos, Resource Health and CUM) were there to participate. Mark L. was there to represent the schools that we partner with. It was disappointing that Ann Bruening from HH did not show up. Joyce is attempting to follow-up with Ann. We talked about the next Ministry Fair and the Team felt that once a year is probably best.

(2) Josh gave us an update on GEPC Soccer Camp which is planned for May 2026. The Team thought it would be best to pick a day (Mon, Tues, or Thurs) and run the camp for 4 weeks in a row. The kids will come from Gashland Elem. School (K-1st) and Clardy (2nd graders). Probably charge a nominal fee (\$5.00) at sign-up. Josh wants to get T-shirts. Joyce said she would donate to help pay for T-shirts, and other GEPC members would probably also be willing to donate. Each evening at Soccer Camp the kids will hear the Gospel. Recently we got word from Josiah D. that Jude Williams is really into soccer. Josiah felt that other teens might also be interested in serving with the little kids.

(3) We then discussed the "Vine." The most recent printed issue of "Vine" (10/19/2025) had three Outreach-related items:

a)-- OT Collection Effort = the current October OT Collection Effort is for Eleos. Many thanks to Joyce for coordinating this effort. The big Giveaway Day will be on Sat, 22 November. Joyce said that we are limited in how many volunteers we can bring (probably 7 or 8). We will discuss this further at our next meeting (18 Nov).

b)-- Outreach Service Opportunity = for anyone who likes to knit and/or crochet

c)-- Operation Christmas Child = which is being coordinated by Marlene Weatherford.

(4) We then spent some time talking about the Collection Calendar. Joyce recommends that 2026 should be similar to 2025. So, our future upcoming OT Collections will be:

Nov	Eleos
Dec	Hillcrest Hope (HH) – more discussion on December, see below
Jan	Resource Health (RH) – more discussion on January, see below
Feb	City Union Mission (CUM)
Mar	Hillcrest Hope (HH)
Apr	Resource Health (RH)

In December, in addition to our OT Collection (HH), it is possible that Mercy Team may once again decide to do the Angel Tree project. Also, Mark L. is planning to coordinate an effort to collect cash during the Sunday School hour, for paying off student lunch debt.

In January, in addition to our OT Collection (RH), Mark L. would like to collect cleaning wipes and other misc. supply items for the schools. This had been suggested in the past by Brittany when she was teaching. Also in January, Brittany is planning to invite Drew Thom (Fatherhood Coordinator at RH) to come and share a few words with us on Sunday morning. It would be best if he came on 18 January which is "**Sanctity of Human Life Sunday**."

(5) We then discussed the Eleos Fundraising Dinner which was on Sat, 4 October. Several of us from GEPC were there. The goal for that evening was to raise \$40K. Joyce recently shared with us an email update from Eleos which said that approx. \$26K has been given or pledged, and we praise God for that.

(6) Lucy brought up the matter of bedrolls (sleeping bags) which are made by the "Ugly Quilt Project." She is hoping that the bedrolls can be linked with the Eleos prayer-walks. More to follow.

(7) CarePortal Update: On Tuesday 23 September, Josh and Mark J. attended Courtney's quarterly meeting which is called "CarePortal Active Community (CPAC)." It was great to interact with Courtney, Jacklyn, and all the other people that are active with CarePortal in Clay/Platte Counties.

(8) We need to be in prayer for Josiah Heshion because he is going through a rough time right now. Also, we need to pray for Lucy as she recovers from her recent concussion.

(9) Mark L. said a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned 5:59pm. Next meeting: Tues, 18 Nov.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Johnson, Interim Chair & Clerk

Note:

(these minutes have been approved by the Outreach Team)