

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION
MEETING MINUTES FOR 12-4-2007

The meeting began at 1p.m. on 12-4-2007. All officers were in attendance for the meeting.

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The first order of business was to introduce guest speaker Reverend Dave Smith. Reverend Smith is the Executive Director for the Good Shepherd Mission in Huntsville, TX. He came to the meeting to discuss volunteer opportunities for members of NTSO, services offered by the mission, and what the mission is all about. The Good Shepherd Mission provides food, clothing, and temporary shelter to locals and transients by:

- Serving two hot meals daily,
- Operating the local food bank,
- Offering two Thrift Stores for low cost shopping or vouchers for free clothing.
- Also available is free counseling,
- Additionally serving as the Information Hub of Walker Co. for Human Services (www.walkercohelp.com).
- Providing limited prescription and travel-aid vouchers.

Also, the mission serves over 1,000 hot meals each month, gives groceries to 120 households each week, has over 250 beds used monthly, and gives out over 5,000 articles of clothing, coats, and household items each month. An average of 1,400 meals are served monthly at the Good Shepherd Mission. Each day of the year hot meals are served at 12:00 PM and 6:00 PM. Anyone may eat, but all are required to help clean up (as they are physically able). For lodgers - breakfast begins at 6:00 AM. The Good Shepherd Mission also has a food bank which serves an average of 120 households per week which adds up to 75 tons of groceries per year. Groceries are distributed at the food bank window on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9a.m. until noon with a voucher, but emergencies are handled as necessary. For longer term help or monthly repeated request by the same household, other primary sources are required as well as food stamp verification from the Department of Health and Human Services. Letters from churches and service organizations are also sources of verification. The elderly (over 60) or severely disabled, may receive groceries twice a month. The Good Shepherd Mission also provides clothing services which include:

- Over 4,500 articles given per month.
- Emergency clothing distributed as needed.
- Regular request or long term, same requirements as food bank.
- Clothing vouchers awarded: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday from 9 AM until noon. Winter coats available (over 200 given annually).

The Good Shepherd Mission also offers medical services which include: insulin, cardiac, antibiotic, anti-seizure prescriptions. Dental assistance is rarely available, but occasionally, as funds permit, and a dentist is available. Traveler's aid is also available at the mission: gasoline for transients; local citizens of Walker County may get a voucher for hospital trips to Galveston or other area medical facilities. Bus tickets are for disabled, or medical needs, or women with children. For more information you can visit the Good Shepherd Mission website at <http://www.walkercountyonline.com/org/mission/index.html>.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The second order of business was the discussion of finding new officers for next year. If anyone is interested in running for an office, then please post your "bio" over the listserv early during the Spring 2008 semester. We will be conducting the elections in early April, and our April meeting will be an introduction to the new officers for the next year. Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Vacation! We look forward to seeing all of you back in the New Year for more fun!

Typed by: Charity Moore, NTSO-Secretary