

Update on Washtenaw County FCCFC:

We began in August 2011 with our first meeting. Katie Page Sander was our speaker and she explained the purpose and goals of the Faith Communities Coalitions.



Our second meeting was held in October. We had a panel of five young people who are either in foster care, in an independent living program, or were in foster care. Emotional stories were shared, and all who attended were heartened by the hopes and dreams of the young people who spoke. To date, each of those five young people have received some kind of assistance to thank them for sharing that night.

So far, one congregation has begun a relationship with one of the private agencies in Washtenaw County. They are doing used furniture collecting/delivery for teenagers in independent living, Christmas gifts and birthday gifts for I.L. kids, as well as starting a fund to be used for direct child needs that are not covered by the state.

In addition, we were inspired at the youth panel to come up with mentors, particularly for youth about to age out. Since there is only one mentor program we know of in the State of Michigan that is only for foster children, we are in the beginning stages of starting one. Fostering Futures, an agency in Ypsilanti, is the driving force behind this effort, along with some volunteers from the Faith Communities Coalition. Already, three different faith communities are interested in this mentoring effort.



Our meetings in 2012 will be: Jan. 26th, April 26th, July 26th, and Oct. 25th, all Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at St. Luke of Ann Arbor, 4205 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor. The meeting on January 26th will include a panel of foster parents to speak of their experiences. All are welcome! For more information, please contact Katie Page Sander at kpage@umd.umich.edu, or Rev. Laura Speiran at laura@fumc-saline.org.