

## Jackson Township Trustee's- SWOT

### Summary

#### STRENGTHS

- Communication with clients in understanding their situation and providing the right services
- Creativity and innovative solutions, caring
- Networking with service providers, contractors, non-profits, other trustees

#### WEAKNESSES

- Only 31K for Township assistance to cover support for food, shelter, transportation, medical, utilities, emergencies
- Homelessness – no county resources. Do not know the extent of the problem. County citizens given a lower priority for housing assistance available in other counties.
- Only 5 days financial support available to meet temporary housing needs.
- Non-Profits that can provide support are understaffed and getting older (aging); succession planning

#### OPPORTUNITIES

- Program support from the Brown Country Leaders Connecting Leaders
- Leveraging the network with fellow trustees
- Improving access to local foods – A delivery service is a critical need

#### THREATS/CHALLENGES

- Not being able to adequately meet the needs of citizens

### Additional Information

**Example of a service.** Support for a person released from jail on probation that is now homeless. **(Weaknesses/Challenges)**

Individual is mentally challenged and the probation officer and I had to get her shelter so she wouldn't walk the county in this heat and sleep outside in this heat. I, personally, know of several homeless in Jackson Township who are probably sleeping outside, (and not comfortable camping), in the back woods of the parks. It scares me and I can only do so much. But if the probation officer and I helped one last week we know we did all we could. What is she going to do Monday????????? We don't know. We do know she needs to be in Meadows Hospital, in Bloomington, and then in Stone Belt so she can move on with her life with this disability. **(I thought this would be a good example of Weaknesses/Challenges for you.)**

Just like you heard me in the Commissioner's meeting last week. I am here for my citizens of Jackson Township, (which in that case was the town/village, community of Helmsburg}. Can I fix all their problems? "NO", but if I can assist to make it manageable, I will; or help them with the direction they either need or should go, I will. Unfortunately I have to be bias and not one sided. As I always say there is two sides to every story. **(Is this an example of Strengths and Opportunities?)**

Two weeks before I had a woman referred to me that was not in my Township and she was in Brandon's/Washington Township. She was "success" story for DCS from Franklin and needed help relocating from our Women's Shelter to an apartment at Forest Hills. I know Brandon and myself, as Trustees, could not help her but since I knew Brandon worked during the weekday I took it upon myself as a Trustee to get her help from several private organizations here in Brown County so she would be ready when her children came back to live with her at the end of this month. Also, I directed her to the School Corporation for a job because she is worthy of a good job and can work a good job. She is capable of making more than minimum wage and hopefully she will fulfill schooling through the CRC too. Now she knows to call Brandon if she does need future help but hopefully myself and Linda Welty will get her on Section 8 Housing and Energy Assistance this winter to get her settled in the next 6 months. **(I believe this is SWOT all wrapped up in one, because there is going to be ups and downs as she progresses.)**

#### **SWOT:**

Keep in mind, when reading my experiences that we/BC are/is "Rural", even though Nashville is its own Town/Village. Brown County does not compare to Monroe, Morgan, Bartholomew, or Johnson Counties. Our 4 Townships do not compare to each other. We don't even compare to other rural counties, with our Federal and State Parks and Nature Preserves/Land, in acreage.

**Strengths:** In the rural areas we are there for our local citizens who just don't get engaged in the local politics, whether they are not educated in that manner, or who just don't want get involved. (I truly believe that most of the people who talk on FB don't want to be seen, but we can talk about that later.) We can help those who help themselves but get caught up in despair at times. (Let's face it we all have our moments even if we don't ask for help.)

**Weaknesses:** As I have said before, it only takes one person to ruin it for everyone. If you are having a rough time don't dip into what is not yours personally, or put your problems on a billboard so everyone knows you could possible mess up.

Also, don't let those who will not take care of themselves and want to just piggy-back off organizations and local government to live their day-to-day lives. This just doesn't go for personal clients, (such as Township Assistance, in my case), but Volunteer Fire Departments. They have formed their organizations for a purpose and need to also help themselves. If they know the tax payers money is there they need to use it wisely.

**Opportunities:** For the local citizens of a Township the opportunities for help are there when really needed. (For example I had a cancer patient who would not ask for help. I didn't only have money to help bills but different outreach opportunities to help him when/ and if he needed it before, during, and after his treatments. He lived alone and whether he thought he was going to need it or not he would need help with recovery, whether it was financial or physical.)

My little "hoarder" just needs company so if there is an opportunity for him to engage in local activity I let him know. I have several mentally challenged clients who love helping with events when they can.

**Threats (Challenges):** As I have been brought up, and I have brought up my children, you make your own challenges. The "Threat" is how you meet a challenge and work through it, whether it is with how you work your position, (as an elected official), or personally.

**The rewards for me is to be able to help those who really do help themselves.**