

Sponsorship Board Report November 2023

One of the Sponsorship Committee members presented at each of the Fall Candlelights.

Josh Carr secured a \$1000 donation for the Pilgrim scholarship fund and we have initiated a conversation about how to grow this fund with Mark Niethammer, Board Treasurer. This will be presented for discussion at the Board meeting Nov. 7, 2023. We plan to discuss:

1. Setting up guide lines (not hard and fast rules) on how to handle pilgrims and team members that can't afford pilgrim and team fees.
2. Establishing the "board Sponsorship fund" as a safety net rather than a go to.
3. Proposing it would be used when lay directors and their teams cannot shoulder the cost of a pilgrim or team member who is in need or where there is an overwhelming number of needy team or pilgrims on a particular walk.
4. Proposing that the walk LD, the Treasurer and Community LD or Community ALD could collaborate on when to use the safety net funds. Another possibility might be requiring a short written letter supporting the need for assistance for a pilgrim or team member. Just as a simple formality to hopefully deter anyone from trying to take advantage or abuse the fund.
5. Although we see the fund as a safety net at present, it has been suggested that we consider the pros and cons of sponsorship agape in the form of not requiring any pilgrim to pay for their walks, funding all pilgrims through donations and team fees— In other words, a sponsorship fund for all pilgrims.