



(Interim) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

BOARD MEETING – July 28, 2025

Board & Governance

- We welcome Marie Giffen to Franciscan Ministries' Board of Directors!

Staffing Changes

- Smiley Christman (licensed barber) was hired for the Mobile Program, and she started on June 1.

Strategy & Planning

- Aspects of the Strategic Plan first year have begun with Sr Marilyn meeting individually with FM staff for conversations regarding their time and experience with the organization.

Development

- Fundraising activities YTD include the following:
 - 2025 General giving, appeals, tributes: \$ 13,690.07
 - Including memorials for Sr Karen and a \$700 donation for vouchers from a Tau group
 - \$85k Gift to Tamar's Center from Estate of Paul Wenzel (unrestricted within Tamar's)
 - The Peddler Thrift Store
 - Q1 - \$10,382.42 • Q2 - \$14,306.04
 - \$6,000 – sale of Chrysler Town & Country van
 - \$ 405 - Piggest Raffle 2025
 - \$8,150 - Grants Received:
 - \$4,500 grant - Church of the Incarnation - the student voucher program
 - \$1,900 raised - SeedMoney campaign - Garden fence and faucet fund
 - \$1,750 grant - Archdiocese of Cincinnati, CRS local funds – water costs for Garden
 - Outstanding Grants:
 - Applied – awaiting response:
 - Church of the Incarnation – \$5,000 submitted for the Haircuts student voucher program for 2026. Additional in-person presentation made by Marci Peebles to the Social Action Committee. We have received funding from this source in the past for vouchers.
 - Dater Foundation –\$12,000 submitted for the Haircuts student voucher program.
 - Denied:
 - The Lawrence Foundation –\$5,000 submitted for strategic planning.

General Update on ED / Interim Period

- On June 2, Marci notified Michael and Sr Marilyn that she was not interested in the full-time ED position.

General Information / Upcoming Considerations for the Board

- On July 17, it came to the attention of Renee, Don, and Marci that property taxes on the Hatmaker location are delinquent to the amount of \$10,587.47. After talking to the Auditor's office, we found that Evette (with SFP in the New York office) paid in January of 2022, but there have been no payments since. From what we can tell, the billing address on file is incorrect. Evette is out of office until July 29, so we have not heard back from her. We notified both Sr Marilyn and Michael – they were both also present at the closing on the building. Sr Marilyn reached out to Sr Mara to make sure SFP Finance is aware of this issue. Don's inclination is to pay the amount as soon as possible once we hear from Evette and then to figure out next steps from that point.
- Despite a handful of requests, we still have not received the new agency insurance rates for the 2025-2026 term from Evette. Hoping to receive these upon her return – we will keep asking!
- The Audit is complete, and our 990 has been submitted. Our auditor did mention to us that we are currently at 40% for the Public Support Test for nonprofits:

What does public support percentage mean?



The simplest definition of the IRS public support test states that **at least 1/3 (33.3%) of donations must be given by donors who give less than 2% of the nonprofit's overall receipts**. Exceptions include any gifts received from other donative public charities and/or a government source, such as a state or federal grant. Jun 6, 2025

The main driver for this lowered percentage is the rising amounts we receive from the Foundation, the St Elizabeth Fund, and The Peddler.

- Jennifer Maslyn (HR) is gathering information about FM joining Christian Brothers health insurance so that it and Anthem can be assessed and compared for possible shift in 2026. We would join in January (ending the Anthem policy early (May is usual renewal)). We would need to notify Anthem upwards of 60 days in advance.
- There has been an ongoing credit card complication ever since Sarah Wagner resigned. When we (Renee, Holly, Marci, Don) went and met with our USBank rep to add Holly James to the card upon her hire and update cards We discovered that the credit account we use is not usually used for non-profits. As it was set up, Sarah was still connected to the account in such a way that we could not remove her without completely closing the account, and we could not add anyone to the account without her signature. To close and reopen a similar account, someone from FM would have to sign on as "owner" so to speak. Don discouraged this option, and no one at FM felt comfortable taking on this role. We applied for a non-profit account that does not have this signatory requirement. We were denied (from what our rep can determine) due to the fact that our past 990s reflected that we operate at a loss (much in part due to the \$100,000 cap we maintain). We have been revisiting this regularly trying to submit updated numbers to see if we now qualify to shift. The most recent 990 is now in play.
- Marci will be out of office starting on either August 4 or 7, and she will return August 25. (She will be out of state August 9-20).

PROGRAM REPORTS

BOARD MEETING – July 28, 2025

The Community Garden

- Things are growing at great speed with the heat, humidity, and rain in the garden – including weeds and volunteer trees in the plots and pathways! We are full, with a 15-person wait-list. We are still planning on having conversations are planned with Heartfelt Tidbits to continue to improve the overall function and experience of the Community Garden – these have been delayed due to the increased workload for HfTb due to recent political actions.
- We have only been able to have three Work Days so far this year due to weather and, in June, a concern for safety when suspected ICE vehicles were spotted on campus. The July Work Day had an extremely low turnout, most likely due to the heat. Sheryl from Heartfelt Tidbits did not think it had anything to do with safety concerns. We began the attack on the volunteer trees that have sprouted in the Garden, but were limited in our success due to a shortage of adequate tools. **If any Board members have a battery-operated saws-all that we can borrow for a while, it would be greatly appreciated!**
- Mills Fence did our fence repair on the section along Compton Road. Mills was chosen as they were willing to simply repair the area of concern, Eads Fencing, who originally installed the fence and did our expansion, was unwilling to work within our budget and limit their scope. Costs fell within what we had collected and set aside for this work.
- The water pressure that comes into the Community Garden from the road is extremely high. Over the years, this has often resulted in some of our Garden faucets needing regular repairs. Fortunately, these are relatively easy and inexpensive. We have one particular faucet that sits at the end of the line that tends to get the brunt of the force of the water and is our usual culprit for needing to be fixed. Unfortunately, upon assessment of the most recent leak, the usual fix was not going to be sufficient, and the entire faucet had to be replaced.

Haircuts from the Heart

- Despite a false start in May, we were able to hire a licensed barber for our Mobile Program. Smiley Christman started June 1st. She has been well accepted so far and is enjoying herself and the position.
- We are trying to find a few more mobile sites to add to our rotation – this would shift Smiley to full-time.
- Operations at Mary Magdalen House (MMH) continue. The partnership with MMH remains strong, and the staff is very supportive of our efforts and generous with their space. We continue to tweak the process here and there to best serve the clients at MMH without imposing on the MMH staff or adding work to their plates.
- The voucher program has had (expected) low numbers in the early months of the summer, but we anticipate a substantial increase as the back-to-school season starts.

Tau House

- It was a long, HOT summer at Tau. The House is already a heat factory, but two of the three AC units that are in place went down over the course of late May – July. Difficulties with St Clement's maintenance set-up (or lack thereof) delayed purchase and install of new units. It was only mid-July that one of them was back in place, and we are still waiting on the other. Marci had a conversation with the parochial vicar, and he shared his frustration at state of disarray/disorganization that he inherited upon his assignment at St Clement. He assured Marci he will try to help facilitate and expediate any of our needs as tenants moving forward.
- July will end with an additional 58 people from three groups having stayed and served with Tau House.
- Numbers have come in from the busy season, and food costs have increased approximately 15% from last year.

Tamar's Center

- The Hatmaker house is closed to all activity. Leadership will discern about the program in September. Conversations and situations are continuing, and the situation is still currently in flux. More details will be known and can be shared / discussed at the Board Meeting.