

Franciscan Ministries | 3rd Quarter 2023

Program Updates

The Community Garden

The gardening season is starting to wind down. Gardeners are asked to have their plots “put to bed” by mid-November. We have two Work Days left for the year. Once the garden is put to rest, 2024 paperwork will be created to be ready to be sent out before year end. We had a few water repairs over the last few months – caused simply by wear and tear over the years. Similarly, we are starting to research for grants to replace the existing fence, which has also seen better days. To assist with these ongoing needs, we are also creating an informal Faucet and Fence Fund. We are still planning on slightly raising the plot rental rate for next year as it has not gone up in over five years. Once we hit December, we will be approaching Rachel about returning as In Garden Manager.

Haircuts from the Heart

No major changes in the mobile program – the schedule is still full with new locations inquiring frequently. We have requested funds in the 2024 budget to allow for the addition of a part-time stylist. We are currently strategizing about how potential practical ways to engage volunteer stylists / barbers within the mobile program to meet the needs we are identifying. Side note, we will most likely need to purchase new tires for the van by next summer.

Our voucher program continues to be gaining speed. A few distributing partners have been added over recent months, and we are in discussion with Sports Clips regarding a possible partnership.

No changes on the mini-salon front - The Mary Magdalen House salon is still unused at this time – however, holding a license for it remains necessary as this allows for the mobile program to be licensed through it. We continue to hope that we can set up a partnership to utilize this space and serve the clients at MMH.

Tamar's Center

'During the months of July through September, Tamar's has provided services to a local “tent community” of women by providing necessity items, such as food and drinks, bug spray, sunscreen, and clothing. Bus passes were also given to several women who attend the methadone clinic, in order to stay clean from street opiates.

Tamar's also bought 2 large boxes of summer sandals at a discounted price from One Source, and a new pair of summer shoes was given to every woman who came to Tamar's, in addition to every woman staying at the tent community. Two women from the tent community have attended Tamar's to shower and eat.

Several women have found housing, and Tamar's has been able to assist them with rent and utility assistance from the PNC grant.

The transition of the reduction in staff has been smooth, as volunteers have stepped in to help serve the women, including Sr. Giannica. Outreach efforts have increased to more and more women in the neighborhood, in the hope that they will come to Tamar's for additional services.

Tau House

Tau House hosted 80 people in three groups over the 3rd quarter. These groups came from Ohio, Illinois, and Wisconsin; they ranged in size from 18 people to 36 people – all three were repeat groups from past years. They served across eleven different agencies during their stay.

Sr Giannica's presence over the summer months was a delight! Hopefully, we can continue this in 2024.

This fall, we are having a separate electrical circuit added to the 2nd floor and to the 3rd floor at Tau, and we plan on purchasing a standing AC unit for each of these floors to continue to address the summer heat. Work is being done by at St Clement parishioner.

Development

Continuous work within FR 50 database with entries, record reviews, and updates.

Acknowledgments of donations are sent with a second letter asking donors if they are willing to receive a thank you letter via email—no response to request to date.

Third-quarter donations totaled \$21,505.53. The coordinator is still learning how to run reports for statistical and financial record keeping.

The Summer 2023 Newsletter was published and distributed. Tau House was highlighted in this issue. A Fall edition of the Newsletter is being prepared for release. This issue will highlight the Community Garden.

Six grants have been researched and one application has been submitted. As of this writing, Franciscan Ministries has not learned of an award.

The coordinator has investigated how Franciscan Ministries can participate in both #Giving Tuesday and #Cincinnati Gives. These 2 platforms are similar however, will reach different audiences. It has the potential to add new donors and allow people to learn more about FM.

A calendar timeline of events and publications has been created for the remainder of 2023 and 1st quarter of 2024. It will be reviewed in the next quarter for implementation.

Submitted by Marci Peebles
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