

Franciscan Ministries | Executive Director's Report | 3rd Quarter 2021

Centennial Barn and Outsourcing Status

Centennial Barn continues in its busiest period since the pandemic. Our temporary director, Nate Pucke, resigned to take a job with Marriott just as the surge of events began. Several part-time helpers left for better, more steady job opportunities or were no-shows. Booked events are being managed through the group efforts of Marci Peebles, Renee Sales, and me. We have received assistance from HR, family, friends, Don Evers, and one part-time staff person.

Funky's Catering has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) indicating their intention to enter into a management arrangement with Franciscan Ministries. We've stopped taking bookings for the remainder of 2021 and for 2022 and are taking contact information for follow-up by Funky's Catering, set to begin in mid-November. Work is underway on a full-fledged contract for 2022.

Tamar's Location Search

Search for suitable locations for Tamar's Center has continued with several buildings visited, but not meeting our requirements, based on size, cost, or condition. A new possibility has arisen, that was a building visited several years ago. The building is a shell, but the cost of the property has decreased. We are considering this space as a possible base in partnership with Welcome Collaborative. Zoning is conditional use and is being investigated further.

Haircuts Hiring

After our one remaining stylist quit in the summer over concerns with the increasingly aggressive clientele, we considered options for increasing safety of stylists. Mary Magdalen House has agreed to make changes in the sign-in procedure. They will check in Haircut clients on our behalf. Using the VESTA system, they will determine if a client is eligible for a haircut. (A month is required between haircuts and this is sometimes a point of contention). This will allow the stylist to focus on cutting hair, rather than managing a group of people who want a haircut before their turn. Also, we looked into the possibility of hiring a barber who might better be suited to an almost all male clientele. We were successful in this, and have hired Dan Pedigo who starts this month. Dan has a dual license as a cosmetologist (stylist) and a barber.

Tau House Rebounds Gradually

Good news for Tau House—groups have begun to return this summer, though bookings were down considerably. Bookings for 2022 seem to be improving.