

Franciscan Ministries, Inc.
Executive Director's Report | - Quarterly Report
May 15, 2020

Pandemic Impact at Franciscan Ministries

As described in my March 30th update, most of our services have been closed since the shutdown order in Ohio. The exceptions are the Community Garden which allows for outside, low contact activity, and Tamar's Center which closed the day shelter and switched to providing emergency food and hygiene supplies to women on the streets.

Five staff were furloughed: two hair stylists, two cleaning staff, and Tamar's Shelter Manager. The search for a new Barn Director was suspended. With the exception of two Tamar's staff, who continued working, the remaining staff began working from home.

As we begin the process of re-opening, each program is developing its own plan. The status as of today:

Centennial Barn- The Barn remains closed to activities and classes. There have been many cancellations. We have tried to reschedule when possible, but have had to refund many customers. Event venues have received very little guidance from the CDC or state, and we are mostly relying on standards described for bars and restaurants. One standard is regular cleaning, and we have lost both of our cleaning staff. Reopening is complicated and large social events, by their nature, are high risk. A plan has not yet been developed, though we hope to offer outside happy hours in the summer to help with our finances and provide a place for people to gather safely.

Community Garden- The Garden is actively operating though we have cancelled group work days in an abundance of caution. We have implemented safety features for high touch areas like the water spigots. We've added hand soap, signage in English and Nepali, biodegradable dog poop bags to be used as mitts for handling the spigots. The portalet is open and has hand sanitizer available.

Haircuts from the Heart – The salon is reopening Monday, May 18. We have worked with Mary Magdalen House to confirm safety practices that include: temperatures taken at entry to the building, self-check of symptoms, face masks required on clients, hand sanitizer use before entering the salon, and only one client at a time in the salon. Our stylist will wear a face shield and mask. No smocks will be reused and disinfection will occur between clients. Mobile service remains closed as partner agencies are not ready.

Tamar's Center- In the past two months, Tamar's has provided over 500 bags of food and hygiene items to people living on the street. Also, we have delivered food to our clients who have housing, but lack the resources to buy food. Plans for slowly re-opening the shelter are in the works. New activities have included the installation of an

outside sink (provided free by CWW) to allow access to handwashing and we are working on the development of a private computer station so clients can attend telehealth appointments.

Tau House- Tau House has closed for the summer season. We have offered groups the option of rescheduling for next year, using their down payment as a donation, or receiving a refund. Most have rescheduled. The shared bedrooms, shared bathrooms, and shared meals make social distancing impossible in our retreat facility. Also, most of our non-profit partners are not ready to host volunteers. The short-term viability of Tau will need to be evaluated in light of social distancing and need for in-depth disinfection/cleaning. Our practice has been for cleaning to be conducted by each group as they depart.

Administrative Offices – Will open Monday, May 18 with staff working alternating schedules combined with work at home time.

Other News

OLW Building Sale – With approval from the executive committee and the building committee, a contract has been signed on 4/24/20 with buyer Marinko Gvozdanovic, to purchase the building “as is” for \$210,000 within 90 days.

Development – Emergency grant funding from Greater Cincinnati Foundation was secured in the amount of \$10,000 for our Covid response efforts at Tamar’s Center.

CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) – We applied for and received PPP loan funding in the amount of \$114,500. The funds were received May 8 and must be used within eight weeks for payroll costs (75%) and rent and utility costs (25%). Forgiveness of the loan is available, though the rules are complicated and still evolving. We are carefully tracking for maximum forgiveness. We intend to return any funds not “forgiven” as there is no penalty.