

## **Franciscan Ministries | 4th Quarter 2023**

### **Program Updates**

#### **The Community Garden**

The 2023 season is officially over, and paperwork for 2024 has been sent out. The decision has been made to raise the plot fees for the coming year. Fees have not increased in the past five years, despite water costs rising an average of 20% each year since 2014.

Franciscan Ministries was awarded a \$5,000.00 grant from the Wohlgemuth Herschede Foundation. This grant will help fund the replacement of the Community Garden fence. Additionally, an online crowd-funding campaign in connection with SeedMoney was able to raise \$3,000 towards the new fence. Other grants are being researched in hopes of funding the entire project (cost quoted at \$15,000).

We have approached Rachel about returning in 2024 as our In Garden Manager, but she has yet to commit. Rachel experienced a series of health related issues this past year and is still considering our invitation.

The Garden was included in a feature in the publication Edible Ohio Valley – this can be found linked on the Board page on the website.

#### **Haircuts from the Heart**

Funds have been approved in the 2024 budget for an additional part-time person to provide services in the program. We have begun the interview process, and hope to have the position filled early in the new year. It is very likely that this position will spend the majority of their time on location at Mary Magdalen House. We continue to strategize about how potential practical ways to engage volunteer stylists / barbers within the mobile program to meet the needs we are identifying.

A unexpected donation was received – earmarked for new tires for the van for the mobile program. This came as result of Marci going to Incarnation Parish in Centerville as one of the initial steps in applying for a grant from them for the voucher program. Marci mentioned in passing that it was an upcoming expense and one of the individuals present ended up sending us a check.

Our voucher program continues to be gaining speed. A few distributing partners have been added over recent months.

In January we will be applying for a barbershop license for the MMH location – this would allow either a licensed cosmetologist OR a licensed barber to operate out of the location.

#### **Tamar's Center**

Tamar's has been seeing an increase in women who are housed, but barely able to make ends meet. The women in this neighborhood are coming to Tamar's for rent, utility, and food assistance. They are women who have experienced trauma, sexual abuse, and domestic abuse. The PNC grant has allowed us to assist them to stay in their homes by paying a portion of their bills, or by assisting them with gift cards to ease the burden of rising food prices and reduced food stamps. We do continue to serve the "tent community", as well. We continue to offer hot meals, and the meals on Tuesday are still cooked by volunteer cooks and are "extra special" on those days!

## **Tau House**

Tau House hosted 33 people in three groups in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. These groups came from Ohio and Indiana; they ranged in size from 10 people to 12 people – all three were repeat groups from past years. They served across four different agencies during their stay.

The maintenance manager St Clement left his position early in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, so the intended electrical work at Tau has been put off. We hope to still be able to identify someone to assist with this at a reduced cost.

## **Development**

Work has continued 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. I have not received any response and have dropped the campaign.

The Fall 2023 Newsletter highlighting the Community Garden was published and distributed. The first edition of the 2024 Newsletter is being prepared for release. This issue will highlight Haircuts from the Heart.

Year-end receipts are being prepared and will be mailed to the monthly donors and any others who have requested a year-end receipt for tax purposes.

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A request has been made to JPMS (John Paul Mitchell Systems) for new capes and aprons for the stylists of the Haircuts from the Heart program. I have received an email stating our request is being reviewed. A formal grant was not required.

Franciscan Ministries had a presence in this year's #GivingTuesday effort. Unfortunately, we did not have any donations made on this platform.

2023 Year End Giving – Annual appeal – This year's Annual Appeal was completed in-house. With the help of Sr. Ann, Marci, Renee, Margarita, and volunteers (Zack, Marci's son, and Heaven, Margarita's daughter) the mailing was prepared, stuffed, and mailed on time. 574 appeal letters were mailed December 1<sup>st</sup>. As of this writing, we have received 47 donations totaling \$7,481.00.

Compiled / Submitted by Marci Peebles  
10.17.2023