

Program Updates

The Community Garden

The Community Garden is flourishing despite the heat. Water costs have been very high so far this year, but fortunately we have received a Catholic Relief Services grant to assist with these expenses. We are also planning on slightly raising the plot rental rate for next year as it has not gone up in over five years.

Currently we have 105 plots, including 3 Community Crop Plots grown solely for donation, and an SFP plot.

Haircuts from the Heart

Our mobile schedule is completely full – serving at 30 different locations with 26 different organizations. We have a handful of sites within this schedule that could easily benefit from a second stylist / barber during their scheduled spot. Additionally, we have had a handful of new organizations inquire about our services. However, Margarita's schedule is at full capacity, so we are unable to assist.

Our voucher program continues to carry along offering an opportunity for services to children and youth through partnerships with area salons, shops, and schools.

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

The Tamar's Director resigned at the end of April, and a Peer Support Specialist was hired and also left during this time period. Our Case Manager and Shelter Manager remain and are doing a wonderful job.

Tamar's enjoyed a visit with Sr. Licia in April.

Thrive was here and completed a three session series with several clients. They worked with the ladies on self-empowerment, self-reflecting and self-awareness activities. They also worked on physical self-defense. Tamar's also had yoga for the women with a community partner.

Outreach efforts increased in June, and we have reached many women on the street, and numerous meals, underwear, clothes, bus passes, drinks, first aid supplies, and summer items were given away.

June was a month of transition, but we have succeeded in reaching many women with both house and outreach efforts.

Tau House

Tau House hosted 60 people in four groups over the 2nd quarter. These groups came from Ohio, Tennessee, and (two from) Illinois; they ranged in size from six people to twenty-nine people; and they served with eight different agencies, including food pantries, housing rehab, and an urban farm.

We have been blessed this quarter with the addition of Sr Giannica's presence to the program starting in June. She has been cooking the welcome meal for our groups, volunteering along-side them once a week, and with her assistance, we have been able to resume having the groups come to the convent to spend some time in fellowship and learn about the Sisters.

The heat at Tau House continues to be a struggle, but we are attempting to address it in conjunction with St Clement Church who owns the property.

Development

Work within the FM database continues with donor entries and an overall review of records.

Acknowledgments of donations are being sent with a second letter asking donors if they are willing to receive a thank you via email. It is explained that email will help cut the cost of postage and eliminate the possibility of letters getting lost within the postal system.

Donations totaled \$11,145.74 during this time period. When time allows the Coordinator will continue to learn how to better use the database to report statistics that are important to finances and fundraising.

The Spring 2023 FM Newsletter was published and distributed with Tamar's Place highlighted in the issue. The Summer Issue of the FM Newsletter is in process with Tau House as the focus.

A review of grants received was done and accountability reports were completed. It has been decided that FM grant research will continue when a specific need is determined. No new Grants have been received.

Submitted by Marci Peebles
8.1.2023