

Franciscan Ministries' Tamar's Center
106 W. McMicken St.
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Goal

To be **frontline** support for women who are victims of sex trafficking and addiction.

Key objectives

1. Provide a safe haven (shelter) where the women can meet their basic needs for food, safety, rest, and hygiene.
2. Provide crisis intervention.
3. Build trusting relationships to help the women identify action steps, assisting the women in accessing needed services.

Philosophy and Approach

The service is free and offered to women without regard to race, religion, age, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability. Our approach is client-centered and focused on helping clients identify goals and facilitate work toward those goals. We provide services that are holistic taking into account the wide-ranging and unique needs of each woman. We believe Tamar's Center space should be non-judgmental, calm, respectful, and safe.

Description of services

Our shelter is open 8:00 AM to noon, Monday through Friday. Case management and supportive services occur Monday through Friday, from 8:00 to 5:00.

We provide first response care to women who are addicts victims of sex trafficking. We are a place of safety and an entry point for intervention. In the array of intervention services in the community, Tamar's Center is one of the few programs working with women who are actively trafficked and addicted.

Level 1 services - providing a *shelter space*

- Providing a haven of safety
- A place to rest
- Light meals
- First aid
- Advising
- Initial Intake/triage – assessment of urgent needs

Activities within **Level 1 services** address the individual's most basic and presenting needs. Through this interaction staff get to know and develop trusting relationships with clients.

Level 2 services – serving as a *connector and advocate*

- Transportation
- Advocacy in securing services from drug rehabilitation to housing
- Medicaid enrollment

Activities within **Level 2 services** include helping the client identify short term goals. These can be: obtaining identification, help accessing health coverage, search for housing, gaining entrance to a detox programs, emergency medical service, ongoing medical service, mental health intervention, and advocacy in criminal justice system.

Staffing

A fulltime director, fulltime licensed social worker, a part-time shelter manager and seven part-time volunteers.

Partners

Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health, Lighthouse Youth Services, Salvation Army Human Trafficking, Women of Alabaster, Cincinnati Police, Off the Streets, Freestore/Foodbank, Talbert House Deaconess Clinic, Caracole

Client Profile

Clients are women ranging in age from 18 to their 60s. Most clients are addicted to heroin and are trafficked by a male controller for money and drugs. Many are homeless and find shelter in abandoned buildings, tents, and drug houses. Most have experienced multiple physical assaults and have no form of personal identification. Many describe a history of abuse often stemming from early childhood. Mental health issues, including post-traumatic stress, are common.

Metrics

125 clients (unduplicated)

150 client visits per month

870+ interventions/connections to services per year

About Franciscan Ministries

Inspired by the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor, we are a non-profit human service organization that addresses the unmet needs of people who are underserved, vulnerable, and overlooked. We are a presence of healing, respecting the dignity of each person through a personal approach and diverse services.

Sr. Grace Pleiman, SFP, founded Tamar's Center in 2010. She and the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor recognized that there was a need in downtown Cincinnati for basic care and a safe place to rest for women victims of addiction and sex trafficking.