

Saying Goodbye to Tamar's Center

After consideration and discernment, the Franciscan Ministries Board, in conjunction with the Congregational Leadership of the Franciscan Sister of the Poor, have decided to close doors of the Tamar's Center program.

Tamar's Center, Franciscan Ministries' program for women who are victims of sex trafficking in Cincinnati, was launched in 2009. In 2022, Tamar's was forced to relocate from our successful location in Over-the-Rhine (OTR), due to the sale of our building. Finding a suitable alternate location in our core service area of OTR proved challenging during a period of renovation in the area.

Ultimately, Tamar's relocated to Lower Price Hill recognizing it as an area of need. Over time, it became clear that the same needs did not exist at our new location and it was too far for the women we previously served to easily reach us. The staff and the Franciscan Ministries Board worked to develop alternative programming, but found our offerings were not a good fit for the community's needs.

This is a closure that comes with considerable sadness. Tamar's was a unique and important resource in Cincinnati, offering personalized care and attention to a vulnerable population of women. At the most basic level, Tamar's was a day shelter that provided a safe place to sleep, eat, and shower for women who were unhoused and subsisting on the streets. Beyond the basics, Tamar's connected women to partner services for medical, mental health, rehabilitation, and housing services.

In our years of operation, we helped over XXXXX women affected by sex trafficking, homelessness, and substance use issues. Tamar's was a place they could go for help and be treated with dignity and love.

We are grateful to those who made Tamar's possible: the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor (our sponsor), community partners, donors, volunteers, and our dedicated staff. Finally, we appreciate that for the years of operation, Tamar's Center made a difference, and we were privileged to have the opportunity to serve.

