



Questions and Answers Concerning OLW Transition

What is the Mission of the Franciscan Ministries?

Inspired by the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor, Franciscan Ministries (FM) is a non-profit, human services 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.

What considerations factored into your decision to close our Lady of the Woods?

One of the determining factors leading to this decision was the Board's recognition of the critical need to focus resources on programs that most align with FM's mission of addressing unmet needs in the community. Our Lady of the Woods was founded 27 years ago to address an unmet need in elder care. Since OLW's inception, the array of elder care options has grown immensely to include programs and settings that address the full spectrum of older adult needs.

Along with significant increases in the types and number of elder care options, models of care have greatly evolved. This has resulted in the availability of services and facilities that now surpass what is able to be offered by OLW. After a thorough review, the Board determined that it simply is not feasible to transform OLW in a manner that will allow it to match and keep pace with the ever advancing best practices in the field.

The decision to close OLW, and the factors involved in it, are not a reflection on the staff who have so diligently served the residents for the past 27 years. The board and leadership of Franciscan Ministries recognizes and greatly values the quality care that has been provided and the high level of dedication and commitment that has been shown by the staff of OLW.

What is the process you are using to transition residents and employees as a result of your plans to close Our Lady of the Woods?

We will do whatever it takes for a smooth transition for our residents and staff. Our total focus is on the "human" aspect of this transition. Until that is completed we will not focus on the property. We are committed to staying open and providing our services and support until all residents have been transitioned. We will deal with the building and property after all aspects of the "human" side of this transition are addressed.

As it relates to our employees, our HR Director will work with our employees to provide adequate severance and assist them in finding new employment once the needs of residents are addressed.

We will work with residents, family members, and residents' case workers to find the best home to meet the individual needs of each person. The assessed needs and wishes of each resident will be key factors in finding their new home.

What is your timeframe for the transition of residents and staff?

Our goal is for a successful transition of the residents and staff by September of this year. However, we are committed to remaining open until all residents have moved.

How does the planned closing of Our Lady of the Woods affect the other programs and their services provided by Franciscan Ministries?

There is no impact on the services provided by our other programs. The remaining five programs will continue addressing basic human needs in our community:

- Haircuts from the Heart- provides haircuts for people in need who cannot otherwise afford this basic service
- Tamar's Center-serving women suffering from addiction who are exploited through human trafficking
- Community Garden-one of the largest community gardens in Ohio hosting local and refugee gardeners
- Tau House- a mission and retreat house that cultivates volunteerism in our community by youth and young adults
- Centennial Barn-a gathering place for special events that gives back with proceeds supporting our programs for people in need