



128 West Main Street Mountville PA 17554 www.faithfriendship.org

February 19, 2024

Dear Faith Friendship Family and Community of Friends,

Justice is rarely ever a single event. Often, it is a series of things that happen to make things right or as right as possible. On February 16, in a Lancaster County courtroom, justice began for our residents. Former caretaker, Jim Zook was sentenced to state prison and will be required to participate in a prison rehabilitation program for violent sexual predators. Watching him walk out of the courtroom in handcuffs brought both relief and deep sadness. He and his entire family need our prayers.

During the hearing, Judge Reinaker acknowledged the potential for catastrophic impact. He said we may never really know the actual effects, cost, or damage of these insidious actions on the victims or Faith Friendship Villa. He said that organizations like FFV can do all the right things and still be a victim.

We have strengthened our protections to prevent recurrences of abuse:

- *through the newly established Resident Council,*
- *routine impromptu meetings by executive leadership with residents to gauge satisfaction and hear concerns,*
- *by the continued development and customization of the highly recognized leader in sexual abuse prevention program in partnership with Prasadeium,*
- *and providing increased training for staff on detection and prevention.*

Our residents were brave and told their stories, and FFV needs both time and money to survive this crisis alongside them. We are calling upon your support. It is critical that our residents and staff have access to services and resources that will help them begin their healing journeys. Over the past eighteen months, our donors have stepped up, and we are grateful; however, there has been loss too. Today we have a severe cash flow problem caused by this crisis. A variety of factors are involved; however, what remains clear to me is that if FFV is forced to close, our residents will lose their homes and housemates who have become family.

In addition to our efforts to avoid revictimization, our immediate goal is to raise the funds to preserve our residents' housing, at least 40K per month. We believe this need is short-term until we can restabilize our various funding sources and also meet with staff from Governor Shapiro's office asking for support. **We ask your help to endure this crisis and provide stability for our residents.**

- 1) Join us in fasting and praying, asking God to reveal potential donors and strategies.
- 2) Give if you can.
- 3) Ask your church or business to protect the residents by donating or sharing other resources.
- 4) Reach out to your elected officials and ask them to help keep the Villa open to preserve housing for our residents and preserve jobs and not punish the residents.
- 5) Call the Governor's office at 717.787.2500

Please send a message through his contact portal <https://www.governor.pa.gov/contact/>



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- 6) Call your State Representative or Senator and tell them to take action to keep FFM open. *This link will help you identify who serves your area.* <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/> or do a Google search using *Find My Legislator*
- 7) **Invite them to contact me and tour the Villa and hear the story firsthand**
- 8) Invite them to contact me for a tour but ultimately ask them to provide the funds we need to recover.
- 9) Contact me if you are interested in being part of a short term committee to advocate for preserving our residents' homes.
- 10) You can tag the Governor or (any elected official) in any post or video you create on FB – X (former Twitter) and Instagram.

FB: type: Office of the Governor of Pennsylvania
X: type: @governorshapiro
Instagram: type: @governorshapiro
LinkedIn type: Office of Governor Josh Shapiro

- 11) Start a social media campaign to let your friends know what is happening. Use the hashtag **#savefaithfriendship**

Our message is simple, whether to our elected officials, churches, or community. Fourteen residents of Faith Friendship Ministries were abused by a former employee who was trusted, loved and respected by all who knew him. As soon as an allegation was known FFM took immediate action to protect the residents and seek the truth. It was because of FFM actions that thirteen more victims came forward which resulted in over 662 felony counts of sexual abuse.

The Villa is their home along with 53 others who are low income and have complicated and persistent mental illness. None of them should have to pay for what the abuser did. They should be able to keep their housing and services they rely on with those they have come to call family.

I will be in touch with any updates as soon as possible. We love you. We love God. We love each other. We love our residents, who have become family. Thank you for sharing this burden and being such a warrior for the vulnerable and precious children of God. Please contact me directly if you have any questions.

In humility and faith,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "Tammi", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tammi Morris
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82:4: Rescue the weak and needy. Deliver them out of the hand of the wicked."