

Fall 2021 Newsletter

Celebrating 20 Years of Ministry!

In April 2021, Faith Friendship Ministries joyfully celebrated 20 years of ministry. Since its beginnings in 2001, countless men and women have found a home and a family at the Villa on Main Street in Mountville. Our mission continues to be to care for the marginalized in our community, according to Proverbs 31:8-9 — "Speak up

themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." We give God praise for leading us through the past 20 years, even bringing us safely through a pandemic!

Family members, staff, and board members heartily celebrated on April 1st by having dinner together at Golden Corral

restaurant. We also sadly said goodbye to our Executive Director, Gwen Didden, and staff members, Ann and Kirk Linn.

But turn the page to see some new faces on staff at the Villa.



Let's Welcome Our New Executive Director!



We are pleased to announce the hiring of Tammi Morris to the position of Executive Director, beginning September 20th.

Tammi knows firsthand the effects of poverty and mental illness, having grown up in the projects of Syracuse, NY with an afflicted parent. Her faith and reliance in Christ have empowered her to overcome those circumstances, and she now dedicates her life to serving the marginalized, as the Word of God calls us to do.

Tammi has over 28 years of experience in leading non-profit and for-profit organizations.

She is committed to continuous improvement and learning so that she can represent Jesus Christ in excellence in all she does. Tammi enjoys working alongside those who share her vision for serving others in the name of Christ and enjoys the diversity in talents and unique approaches each person brings to the team.

As a York County resident for 23 years, Tammi was most recently the Executive Director of York Habitat for Humanity. She brings a wealth of knowledge in development and leadership to Faith Friendship Ministries, and is excited to be joining the ministry team.

We enthusiastically welcome Tammi, and look forward to working with her and seeing how God will use her to lead FFM into the future! Who are we? Faith Friendship Ministries was founded in 2001, with the mission of providing housing and support services to adults of low income, particularly focusing on those with mental illness, regardless of their ability to initially pay for services. We strive to show the love of Jesus through service and support for our "family members."

What we do - The Villa is a 74 bed, state licensed personal care home. Over 85% of our residents have an income well below the poverty line.

The question has been asked...

"What would the community do without Faith Friendship services?" For many of our residents, hospitals, shelters, living outdoors and in some cases, jails, would become their housing alternatives, becoming costly to the community at large. We are one of the largest personal care homes in the state of Pennsylvania to accept low income residents. The housing and support services Faith Friendship provides is an invaluable and needed service in Lancaster County.





ABOVE: Harry Yoder, our Interim Executive Director, has been keeping the Villa running smoothly during the transition between Gwen and Tammi. Thank you, Harry, for your leadership and heart for the family and staff!

RIGHT: A big welcome to our newest staff members: Cindy Troublefield and Tamir Rios. We also welcome back Pat Weaver, who came out of retirement to help us fill staffing needs.



What an improvement!

John Stout, building manager, and his assistant, Evan Hartranft, have been busy fixing and updating the Villa, and the family members and staff are grateful. Here is a look at just some of their amazing handiwork.









Before Demolition

After

Before Demolition

After

A Big Thank You...

to this year's donors of time, money, and/or goods, who helped make these improvements, and the general workings, of Faith Friendship Ministries possible:

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We apologize for inadvertently omitting any donors.



Dusty Mendez, our fabulous cook, makes tasty, fresh, and nutritious meals for our family members—much of it from scratch, and at very low cost!





128 West Main Street PO Box 567 Mountville, PA 17554 Return Service Requested



Pictured at right are Millersville University students who helped clean out our cluttered attic on United Way's 2021 Day of Caring.



Check out our website at **faithfriendship.org** and follow us on **Facebook**

Sale of Two Nehemiah Houses



If you are entering The Villa as a volunteer, visitor or essential worker, you first must STOP, MASK, and take and record your TEMPERATURE. Please disinfect your hands with the hand sanitizer provided. At this time, there are outside areas provided for visiting. Additional inside visits must be scheduled through Dusty Mendez, the **Director of Community** Life. She can be reached by calling (717) 285-5596 and asking for her by name.



Being a landlord is not part of Faith Friendship's core mission. The management and upkeep of these houses detracted from the focus on residents' needs at the Villa. Thus, the Nehemiah houses at 56 and 58 E. Main Street were sold this year. All NH residents successfully obtained other housing. Three men still reside in the Nehemiah house containing the FFM office, which is next to the Villa.