

Mid-Year Report

Grantee: National Church Residence

People present: Jim Zippay

Date: 9-16-21

Project:

What problem was being addressed? Bring pastoral care into PA communities

What actions have been implemented? Hired the regional director, got volunteers. Moved to paper and phone contact.

What went right? April did great job with memorials, calls and daily outreach, contacts with area churches.

What went wrong? April leaving. Need pastor as regional coord. Covid prevented in-person contacts.

What surprises did you encounter/what was serendipitous? Found ways to overcome faith differences to better serve all residents.

How are you measuring effectiveness? Count number of participants, outreaches. Testimonials.

What changes will you make in the remainder of the year? Focus on getting new coordinator, keeping volunteers engaged, more virtual activities.

Are there other ways FFA can support your efforts?

Notes:

Regional Director April is leaving—going to IT full time. Probably need time to define and search. J is connected with 13 of the volunteer chaplains, making a plan for covering until she is replaced. National Church made decision last month that all employees and volunteers must be vaccinated, more pushback than expected (6)—TX, PA. Daily devotionals, hotline, written devotionals can continue, but not activities inside. Best care is in-person.

Didn't make as much progress with tablets as hoped, as many residents are tech phobic. Properties do not have public wifi.

What do I do to keep staff and residents going? This discussion helped Jim shift his focus:

- 1- Engage volunteers in new ways- can't go into facility but can do phone calls, bible study group on phone... What can you offer to keep this ministry going?
- 2- I am not the administration. I want to keep this going. How are we together going to care for this flock? Steer away from vaccine argument.
- 3- Can a volunteer go back to church and ask for a volunteer for an 8 week group, not as large a commitment as currently asking.

- 4- Can communities get public wifi so residents can connect? Can you livestream services from partner churches?
- 5- Are there residents with unidentified leadership and community building capacity?

Jim was grateful for this time to discuss and explore new thinking. He plans to keep program going and to seek a new regional coordinator in a month or so, when he is clearer on options.