



October 2018 Newsletter

www.familyintegrity.org

FIT Online Fundraiser November 27!

The Need Fit depends almost totally on donations to operate. Our clients are for the most part in jail or prison or recovery and cannot afford the quality books we are known for. Our facilitators and board members all work for nothing and pay their own expenses. Because of our biblical approach we cannot receive government funds. This is our last fundraiser of the year, and without a substantial response, we may be forced to cut back on the books and services we provide to our facilitators and clients. This would be a shame as our course graduations in the last quarter (June-September) were the highest of any other since we started keeping records over ten years ago. See next page for an example of the impact we are having.

Because of your support, we can train facilitators and provide course books and certificates in many locations and settings

You can Help! Your gift matters. Slowly, the number of supporters has moved beyond donations mainly given by board members. It has already made a difference. Though tight, we were able to weather the storms this summer of having our bank account compromised, complete loss of our main computer, as well as other equipment failures.

Before Nov 27

- Ask your friends to give on Nov 27
- Add to our Matching Funds Pool. Currently we have \$2,000. \$1,000 pledged from President Don Pratt who has already given \$6,305.81 this year and \$1,000 from Vice President Ed White who has given \$1,800. We will let you know in our next news letter how much matching funds we will have. Call the office at 941.799.4975 if you would like to help.

On Nov 27

- Give online at our website at www.familyintegrity.org.
- Consider a large one-time gift though all gifts of all sizes are appreciated.
- Bless us even more with a monthly commitment. Choice of amounts starting at \$10.

News and Announcements...

Ed White recently conducted a leader training session at St. Petersburg, FL and another one in Sebring last month.

Next Leader Training classes are

Saturday, November 3 at Bradenton, FL and
Friday, November 16 at Lakeland, FL

See our website at www.familyintegrity.org for more details

We get Mail: from Chaplain Sheetz at Taylor Correctional Institution at Perry, FL

Dear Dr. Pratt:

I'm writing today to share with you the impact that FIT programming is having on our inmate population here at the Taylor Correctional Institution at Perry, FL. The men who are participating in your program, with the able assistance and ministry of Chris Christiansen and Helmut Seidenberg, consistently report that FIT courses are among the most valuable and relevant programs offered in the Florida prison system. Importantly, we are seeing the priorities and thought patterns of certain participants shift in a positive direction – a clear result of God working through FIT's ministry.

As you may be aware, Taylor CI launched a Faith and Character Based Program at the beginning of this year. The program involves 72 men in a common housing area who are participating in programming intended to reduce recidivism, enhance their community functioning, further develop their personal faith, and provide participants with solid guiding principles for their lives, both during and after prison. Program participants are required to obtain 1220 hours of programming across seven functional domains which align nearly perfectly with the FIT mission.

To that end, we have begun to fully integrate the FIT curriculum into our Faith and Character Based course offerings and, absent a significant faith specific objection, the majority of our program's participants will complete at least five of FIT courses. In the fourth quarter of this year, half of our participants are enrolled in one or more of *Anger Dynamics*, *Coping the with Losses of Life*, or *Godly Parenting*. Naturally, these courses will only be facilitated by the men who are already certified by FIT to do so.

Our Faith and Character Based Program relies almost entirely on donations of programming and volunteer-time in order to function. We are supplying paper to our participants so that they can do their FIT homework while preserving the course workbooks for use by the next class. However, some books do get lost and we cannot necessarily expect that outside ministries will continue to pay for new books for our participants to use.

Don, the FIT curriculum that you have developed is singularly effective in delivering content, values and a faith-formation experience which has the ability to help men change their lives. We are grateful for all of the effort and resources that you have put into making this available. We are making FIT a centerpiece of the work we're doing here to help men get a second chance at a meaningful life.