

\$16,000 Grant Approved

A \$16,000 grant has been approved from a foundation to "provide funds to help compensate key volunteer-leaders for travel and to equip its representatives and institutions with new printed material, including Spanish course books, and presentation packets to reacquaint FIT program and services throughout the state".

This grant addresses the need for FIT to re-establish itself in jails, prisons, and recovery and half-way houses where operations were shut down for two years by COVID. In that period, FIT lost members, donors, and opportunities to serve. Now, with all of these facilities opening up to us, we are scrambling to regain and expand our offerings, train more volunteers, and improve supervision and coordination with our host institutions. Also, our large contingent of inmate facilitators need to be better supervised and supported by our FIT leadership. All of this requires additional funding as well as time and dedication.

Looking to the future, we are already making changes to make sure that our valued volunteer leaders have the resources and support they need to be effective. To that end, we have initiated the following initiatives:

FIT Expands Office Operations



Karen Campbell Hired

We have hired Karen for five hours per week. Right now she is being trained by Betty who works 20 hours per week. At least that is what it says on paper. In reality, both of these ladies regularly volunteer several more hours per week to meet the demand. Because of the grant, we are planning to expand their hours as well as the hours that the office is open. This is a long-time need to handle all the work that is required to keep the organization going. President Don continues to donate all of his time.

Infrastructure Changes

Hiring a second office worker was long overdue, but it also required infrastructure support. We had to buy a new computer, software to go with it, monitors, and networking equipment. We also had to purchase online capability for both Betty and Karen and I to access the financial accounting system at the same time and to make backups. We are also upgrading our database systems that have been our mainstay for all these years in record keeping, data analysis, and the basis for keeping track of every client in every course and the basis for our printing our individualized computer-generated certificates for both clients and facilitators.



3 Workstations

Inventory to Support Growth

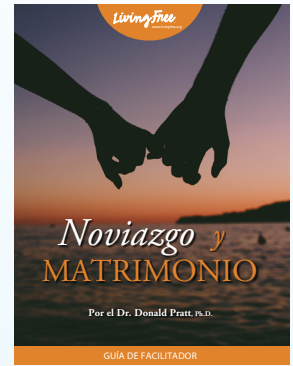
The reopening of the facilities along with the faithful, die-hard efforts of our facilitators has resulted in a big restocking drive. During the pandemic, not much restocking was done.



Spanish Translation of Dating and Marriage is now Available

Call the office at 941.799.4975 for more information on how to order

Our own Norine Hodder has translated our English version and adapted it for Spanish audiences. This includes more recognizable Spanish names and English phrases which would not be understood in a literal translation into Spanish. This work is a translation of Don Pratt's original Dating and Marriage book and both are now being published by Living Free of Chattanooga, TN.



Also available in Spanish: Insight, Free to Grow, and Anger Dynamics

FIT Expands Field Operations

All Prisons and Jails are Reopening to Programs

Vice President John Ringleb and Board Member Norine Hodder will represent FIT at a church conference in mid September. They will be recruiting volunteers to be trained as well as donors to support the program.

John is also making a number of trips from Lakeland to the FIT headquarters in Bradenton in order to coordinate with the office the preparation of presentation kits, books, and materials for presentations to chaplains around the state. He is also working with Don to upgrade the technical aspects of our operation such as website and pamphlet design. Our leadership is working with our certified trainers to conduct regional reviews and supervision of our inmate facilitators.

Demand is Up but Donations are Down

COVID and inflation has affected all of us and FIT is no different. Not only did we lose many of our dues-paying members but we also lost some of our donors as well. Inflation has hit us hard with everything costing us more. Notably, mailing costs have hurt us because we are constantly sending out books and certificates. Counting labor, materials, and postage, it now costs as much as \$5 to send out ONE certificate. We cannot sustain our efforts to provide all the services that we have provided for the last sixteen years without your financial support. Please don't forget us.

HELP Please!

Your donation means more than you think. We have a distinct and important niche to fill but it is a very challenging one financially. We depend on a mixture of dues, donations, grants, and sales to fund our operation. Most of our clients are in prison or jail and not allowed to purchase our course books. Most of our facilitators donate large blocks of time and cannot afford to pay about \$200 to supply all the books for their class.

Please consider a sizable gift today. Help us even more by becoming a sustaining member where you give a given amount each month through your bank. You can give at our secure website <https://familyintegrity.org>. Show your support for our office staff, our program and our dedicated and hardworking volunteers.

