

## Inspirational!

The FIT board created the designation of Board Member Emeritus at the January 2024 meeting. The designation is given to former board members who have rendered outstanding service and support to Family Integrity Training during their tenure. At the meeting, three people were nominated and approved for this designation. We hope that you will find their example an encouragement to you in your service to this organization.

### Ed White



Ed's involvement with FIT began in 2004 when he was 70. Finally considering retirement, he was moved by a newspaper picture of a Broward County Deputy checking with released inmates living in a tent city under an I-95 bridge. He said to God, "That shouldn't be so." God said, "So what are you going to do about it?" Soon, he received a call from the Department of Corrections asking if he could meet with the Chaplain. While there, the Chaplain asked if he could create a 100-hour curriculum for the inmates. He replied that he couldn't, but would try to find a writer.

When he got back to his office his first phone call was to a local pastor in Bradenton. At the end of the phone call, Ed asked him if he knew of a curriculum writer. The pastor replied that one just moved in and was on his staff. Ed invited this man, Don Pratt, to come to his office in Lakeland to be on his Prison Committee. When Don arrived, it was just Ed and Don! Reacting to Don's shock, he explained that they were just getting started. He asked Don to write a faith-based 100-hour recovery course that would be used in the state prison system. At that time FIT did not even exist. Ed initially started the FIT organization and turned it over to Dr. Pratt a year later. When the curriculum was written, Ed, Fred and Don, the first FIT board members, traveled all over the state early on for several years training people, including the Department of Corrections Chaplains in Tallahassee. A board member remarked that Ed's passion for the FIT ministry was apparent from the start through his words followed by his actions. Ed is truly, a son of God.

Another board member first met Bro. White when he came to the panhandle. One of the prison team leaders saw an advertisement on-line and said this may be something they would be interested in doing. They took a group and went to hear about FIT. That was in 2009. That grew to FIT classes in eight prisons, a jail and halfway house. Ed was so inspiring and made you want to follow his lead. It was his faith that captured our attention.

This story will always be a major part of our history and a living testimony to a servant that followed his spiritual guidance through prayer and discernment.

## Joe Sheehan



Joe Sheehan was not only great a board member, but a gifted author. He has written two of our books, *Starting Over* and *Change of Heart* and co-authored the *FIT Practical Parenting Facilitator Guide* and *Group Member Guide*. Joe has participated in the FIT Curriculum Committee and Policy Committee. He has had a tremendous impact on the success of this ministry as a board member, curriculum writer; but most importantly, bringing the lost into a living relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus. One inmate said, “Mr. Sheehan dug me out of my own grave, one class at a time. I am blessed to have Joe as part of the tapestry of my life.”

John Woods met Joe Sheehan around 2013, while participating in a Prison Ministry program called Walk on Water (WOW). Joe and John were part of the volunteer team going into the prison. Joe talked to him about his work with FIT and encouraged him to get involved. John came on board in 2014.

Dr. Sheehan was trained by Elena Bozzi in St. Augustine, Florida, on May 18, 2013. He recruited new members for the board and conducted training sessions for new facilitators who lived in his area and as far away as Jacksonville. After moving to another state in 2023, he made sure that the other board members in the Pensacola area, Tim Linn and John Woods, would continue to provide classes and train leaders there.

When another board member met Joe, it was evident he had a strong work ethic. He had connections with some dedicated ministers that he influenced to help start a second class at Blackwater Correctional Facility. While doing work there and in Century Correctional Institution, he started writing a new curriculum called *Starting Over*. He was always eager to get our feedback on the material he was writing. That book is now in print and used in many prison settings. Good work Joe!

## Helen Campbell



Helen Campbell joined the board early on and was very active. We were all sad when she became ill and missed her when she moved to North Carolina. She is still with us supervising those doing FIT in North Carolina.

Helen became a member when she was trained in St. Augustine in 2007. Since that time, Helen has been an active member and has been one of our longest serving board members. She has been particularly strong in ministering to women in prison or recovery. She travelled great distances to hold weekly meetings in women’s prisons and work camps. Helen worked through many formidable obstacles. She was responsible for FIT’s strong presence in women’s prisons in Florida and is now supporting work with women in a recovery house in North Carolina.

A board member met Helen in 2013. His first observation of Helen was that when she spoke, her words carried much wisdom. People listened to her foresight and well thought out reasoning. Helen is the perfect ambassador for FIT. She has personally conducted over 30 training sessions at several different men and woman’s prisons. She expanded the FIT program into other states and has traveled many miles for this ministry. Helen is true ambassador, a woman to emulate in many ways.

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The Family Integrity Board of Directors wish to thank you for your generous donations to our Spring Fundraiser. Our goal of \$7,000 was exceeded by \$1,260 for a grand total of \$8,260! May you be blessed by your generosity!