

U.S. GRAIL REPORT TO GRAIL NATIONAL COUNCIL

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Report Compiled by: __ Terrie Puckett

UPDATES: The Grail

- Per the September Actuals, our finances are 23% better than budgeted despite donations being down 26%. This team continuously monitors spending as evinced by several years now of being under budget at year end. We work from the 3 interwoven ideas: minimalism, finding opportunities, flexibility.
- This flexibility engaged 15 young adults in working with The Grail for 3.5 months, and six community events where exposure to The Grail's mission was about 5000 individuals (local, regional, state and international) (1500 at Amazing Charity Race and 2500 at Festival of Faiths alone—other events: Hometown History Sampler, Ohio Local History Alliance Annual Conference, World Peace and Prayer Day, and Loveland Art Show)
- Two of the summer workers have engaged their schools environment club to meet at The Grail once a month for service around the environment
- Well-tended relationships have led to nascent partnerships (SDG 17) with Girl Scouts of Western Ohio, Krogers (Cin-Day-Col region), and the Festival of Faiths. Each of these has required months of ground work to bring to a place where we can create a partnership that could find the way into all Grail communities. What Grail community does not also have a Girl Scout Troop? A Kroger? A Faith Community?

UPDATES: Cornwall

- Will be meeting with Rural Migrant Ministries during next CW trip on 11/12
- Have notified all other's interested in purchase that the vote to sell was no, leaving open the door for non-purchase options.
- Reached out to NY region based on a conversation at ARC about saying hi next time I was in NY. That group has decided that this means "let's discuss CW" and have only invited THAT group. I reiterated that this was NOT the intent of the meeting but to say hello and continue to get to know each other from ARC. They have not set a meeting time as of yet but I am there 11/5-11/15.
- Kathi Hurley informed folks (still do not know who all yet) that they should "come get their art/loved one's" etc. I found out because items were "missing" and we tried to determine if they were stolen or not. A note was sent to members that there is a process and to please contact me if they have art to reclaim. We will use the same process as we did at Grailville should we get to that point.
- On the next trip I will be stripping the office. We have already brought the financial documents and the archives, now to clean out the day-to-day and bring back the computers.
- We continue to take measures to secure The Grail property.

UPDATES: Grailville

- About 25 Loveland high School Seniors took part in their annual community service day. They worked on several projects including beginning the trash pile removal. The pile is in the conservation easement by the creek. Part of the

agreement we have in re the easement is to remove it. The agreement was signed in the 90's and so we are finally moving on this. It will be a multi-season task as it makes up a hillside, so need to have enough dry days for safety, but before ground freezes. The trash is being staged at a spot that is accessible by a local scrapper who will haul it away. Some of our dogwalkers have volunteered to help out in loading the trailer.

- The parable exhibit, alas, did not bring in many applications. Too few to move forward with the actual exhibit. We are following up to determine reasons so we can learn from the attempt. Grail member Rose Mary Clark DID submit an item, so we WILL display her work during the holiday season alongside the parable during the indoor labyrinth pop-up hours.
- Mary Lu Lageman and I have spent the summer sorting through all the equipment that remains on the southside. From her very detailed grid (and as reported earlier), we determined the only piece to keep was the Massey Ferguson 255 tractor (and its attachments) as this is the only piece that can mow the trails, the cemetery field, and the front fields if they grow too fast between regular mowings. She has been slowly selling off the remaining equipment. The shed behind the Oratory—as also earlier reported—was extended to shelter the tractor. Unfortunately, the cost soared as challenge after challenge was unexpectedly faced mid-project: underground heating oil tank changed the plans, back 1/3 of original shed slowly “landsliding” down the hill had to be shored up, entire structure covered in metal siding as the original shed had rotten wall sections, and the extra tall footers needed for a tractor that size. All in addition to the expected re-roofing.
- Oratory lower level lights were replaced by Curry Electric. They had not been updated since 1961 and many had failed. Because they are “strung together” if one fails in the string it causes the others to go. This was not a case of change out the ballasts (which we tried first). We took this opportunity to install LED for ongoing cost saving, and moved some of the layout to better illuminate the space (since originals were installed before “dividing walls” were added). The Archives team greatly appreciated the work as they determined they were unable to continue working in the archive area unless they were fixed.
- Tidings landscaping still has not occurred. Grinsted landscaping submitted a plan that was ok'd by Bonnie and Dan and Mary Lu for the use of native species trees and plants. However, with the dry summer and early fall, it was determined not to do the work until a time when they would have adequate rain. In the meantime, Brian is putting together an actual estimate of costs for approval. While this is not a “have” to do for safety type reasons, it IS what The Grail promised Bonnie and Dan due to the weird property lines and frequent but unintended incursions onto their land. Ideally, when the Tidings Landscaping occurs we would also do some general landscaping around Oratory (Mary Lu created a very nice plan that can be staged in using the same native species as at Tidings) Combining the two gives a cost saving as we would only need the landscaping crew once to prep and do the “hardwork” leaving the “fun work to the team Mary Lu is gathering from local members.
- Ballot for the school levy is Tuesday the 5th. Nothing more to report on that at this time.

Decisions Needed

- CW “company line”—I need to have from council what the parameters for the CW Team? I do not want to be firm about access/use to have that countermanded later. So a basic statement from Council to the CW team is needed BEFORE I meet with them.
- 2009 Major Maintenance Policy—attached—needs reviewed and updated. This is not how the process has worked in my tenure and is obviously out of date. Current MM portfolio for Grailville alone is at \$500,000.00 before the asset policy kicks in with the school sale because we have been diligent to NOT spend unless necessary. My ROUGH suggested revision is also attached.
- 2020 Budget—attached is the revised 2020 budget based on the October notes from Council. Please note that placeholder numbers were added for the WOC work (with facilitator) and ARWG initiatives. Also, missing is English-to-Spanish document translation which is charged by the word (not page or hour). For that project I would set a dollar threshold and see how far it goes. You will see where Kelly has noted at the bottom what was added and what was pulled out.
 - Please note that even if allll property went away today, and a mission fund was set up (run by volunteers digitally) and The Grail becomes a 501c7, The Grail would still run a deficit every year...because you do not have a source of income. You can fire a person once, you can sell a piece of land once, but unless you have an income source that is ongoing, you will run a deficit every year...and member donations are down 26%. So unless The Grail lays the groundwork for a NEW revenue stream (where non-Grail would donate or grants could be accessed) you need to be comfortable with the term “deficit spending.” NOTE on grants—as we all know, there is NO granting agency that will consider The Grail as a recipient at this time b/c they too can access our 990s and know we have the cash on hand.
 - This revised budget is a strict interpretation of “nothing unless Grail MEMBER led”...please note, this interpretation has repercussions: opens The Grail up to paying real property tax at Grailville, fires Mary Lu Lageman and all the emotions that entails, and truly calls in to question our legal status (are we out of “mission”). The initiatives removed were not only included in the staff goals you received last December (with an update in March and the attached October update) but served three purposes:
 - Keep The Grail legal by actually being of **public benefit** in re our mission
 - Lay the ground work/create a track record for other sources of income (including demonstrating that we put our money where our mouth is)

- Keep The Grail alive to non-Grail until The Grail determines its actual future (when you just might need the outside world to know you exist)