



Saint Martin's Ministries

Fighting Poverty on the Shore
for over 30 Years

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Dear Friends of Saint Martin's,

It has been five years since I joined the Ministries in April 2010. One of the things I did in the first few months on the job was to use the energy and enthusiasm for change that often comes with a new job to generate a list. The document is titled "Quick List of Ideas for SMM—Strategic Plan, Goals and Funding." It resides on the desktop of my home computer and periodically I review it as a check-up to see whether the goals are still viable and what progress has been made.

Two years ago when I assumed the position of CEO I was given responsibility to implement the Board approved strategic plan of 2012. The major goals of that plan have been accomplished. Sister Patricia continues to support the Ministries as Executive Director, *Emerita*; Deb Vornbrock will be in place two years in August and each month we make some progress in building a full development function for St. Martin's; we continue to work on Board development and examine our governance structure. Financial support from key donors allowed us to make this expensive transition; a transition that the Board believed critical to ensure the long term stability of Saint Martin's.

I believe the Board was correct in its decisions of 2012-13 and that St. Martin's is now positioned for the next phase in its role of fighting poverty on the Shore. So I have returned to the list I made five years ago and I know now that it is still my vision for St. Martin's and the work we need to do. But we will need your help and financial support to accomplish that next phase.

There are 21 items on the list and it was just a quick list – no underlying planning or cost analysis, just ideas or things that clearly needed to be done. It's interesting how we can forget parts of goals when one piece is accomplished. Many of you heard me and our Arts committee fund raisers talk about the Barn doors. We achieved the goal of new safer exit doors in 2013. But my list says "short term capital improvements to the barn – doors, floors, programmable thermostats and ceiling fans." A good reminder that the job isn't finished!

Several items on the list speak to programming improvements in Saint Martin's House. Our cover story introduces you to Linda Pangalos. Hiring a person with Linda's skills and experience is key to several items on the list. Linda will continue the evidence based programs introduced in the Fall of 2014, lead a group and oversee case management. Linda's presence and the adoption of evidence based tools and practices are aiming to make SMH the premier transitional residence program on the Shore.

An often discussed and at least twice rejected goal on the list is opening a child care center. Benefits of a SMM childcare center include providing a quality child care choice for families, offering employment and training for women living at SMH, providing a needed service within the community and hopefully generating an income stream. We will look again at the start-up capital and business expectations for a child care center. It is a natural fit with the House program.

Space in this newsletter does not allow me to write about all 21 items on my list. If you would like to know more about this vision, please call or email me. I would love to share with you. Please consider giving to SMM. The enclosed envelop suggest ways that your gift can be used. As Sister Patricia always says, we are good stewards of your gifts, ensuring that money is used for families in need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean Austin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jean Austin, CEO