



Poverello News

(559) 498-6988 • www.poverellohouse.org

POVERELLO HOUSE: EMPOWERING WOMEN, CHANGING LIVES



Tahitian Dance Fitness class for the ladies at Naomi's House



Abigail & Nyree having Fun with Sidewalk Chalk in the Courtyard

When we see a homeless woman on the street, we often forget that she is someone's grandmother, mother, aunt, sister, or a treasured friend. Poverello House recognizes that a woman experiencing homelessness has unique situations that require specialized care. For example, in 2002, Poverello House and other community members saw the need for a shelter for single homeless women. Identifying this need was the catalyst for the establishment of what we now call Naomi's House. Naomi's House has grown from providing 24 beds to now providing 42 emergency shelter beds for women every night. It is still the only low barrier shelter for single homeless women in Fresno County. Naomi's House offers women a refuge from the streets and a pathway out of homelessness. Every woman at Naomi's House is assigned a case manager responsible for linking them to supportive services and creating a permanent housing plan. While at Naomi's House, the women can take classes that focus on sobriety, mental well-being, self-esteem, financial literacy, and physical health. Naomi's House empowers women to take the lead in their own journey out of homelessness.

Women experiencing homelessness who do not utilize Naomi's House can still access services that accommodate their needs. For example, Poverello House provides daily showers, laundry, and feminine hygiene products for women. They can also access the classes that are offered at Naomi's House. Women also can access emergency shelter at the Village of Hope. The Village of Hope was recently renovated last year to now provide shelter that includes heating, air conditioning, lighting, and other amenities (as opposed to Tuff Sheds). Poverello House provides the women a chance to become a superhero for themselves and their families. We believe at Poverello House that when women thrive, our society thrives. Thank you to the countless volunteers, donors, partners, and other supporters that have sustained Naomi's House for almost 20 years.

MEET TAMARA THOMAS: DIRECTOR OF WOMEN AND FAMILY SERVICES



Naomi's House is pleased to announce that we have hired a new Director of Women and Family Services, Tamara Thomas. Tamara comes from a background in team management and operations management in the corporate sector. Wanting something different in her career and an opportunity to assist women, Tamara jumped at the opportunity to work at Poverello House. She has enjoyed seeing the ladies at Naomi's House grow and live up to their full potential. "I am lucky to work with a team that is dedicated to helping women transform their lives," said Tamara. When she thinks of Naomi's House, she thinks of EMPOWERMENT. "Empowering women at the shelter and the staff at the Naomi's House is a win-win for everyone", says Tamara. "Together, we can make lasting change for women who are experiencing homelessness."

MEET THE NEW DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Poverello House is excited to announce that we have a new Director of Administration, Lynn Boyd. Lynn is a veteran of the United States Air Force. After leaving the armed service, Lynn began a 27 year career in the field of Radiation Oncology. She found great fulfillment in working directly with patients battling cancer. Lynn has developed an interest in the non-profit sector and serving traditionally marginalized populations in her community. Lynn has big plans for streamlining processes in our administrative department and the overall enhancement of Poverello House. She will ensure that the organization can best serve our clients in a way that restores dignity. She says that in her role she will make sure to, "catch someone doing something right." We look forward to all that Lynn will add to the team!



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MARCH WISH LIST

- Sugar • Toilet Paper • Reading Glasses • Gallon Ziploc Bags
- 12 OZ Bottled Water • 55-Gallon Trash Bags
- Large Adult Disposable Briefs
- Spices: Pappy's, Garlic Salt, Oregano, Thyme, Cumin

Naomi's House

- Women's Shoes • Shampoo & Conditioner
- Hair Gel • Hairbrushes

Donations are Accepted

Monday - Friday
8 am - 5 pm
Saturday - Sunday
8 am - 1 pm

412 F. Street, Fresno

Donation lane located on
G Street between
Ventura and San Benito

WOMEN'S RESILIENCE: A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION AND PURPOSE



Sara Mirhadi,
Chief Programs Officer

Being a woman in our society can be complicated. We are mothers, daughters, sisters, employees, employers, and leaders. We must juggle careers, our families, and our well-being. Our society has made great strides in promoting equality for women in the workforce and our home life. Sexual

harassment and inequality are no longer acceptable practices. These changes, however, do not apply to women who are experiencing homelessness. Every day homeless women fear that a stranger, friend, or partner will physically and sexually assault them. Physical and

sexual violence is so common that women accept it as part of "being homeless." One time I talked to a homeless woman, and she said to me, "If I act really crazy sometimes, so they get scared and leave me alone... It only works sometimes." When I talk to women with black eyes, busted lips, and bruised faces, they tell me, "it's not too bad because I didn't die." Violence upon women should not be tolerated or accepted, even if that woman is homeless. When I came to work at Poverello House over seven years ago, I found my purpose in life; helping those women who do not have a voice and giving them the ability to find their strength and voice. Their voices and experiences resonate with all women. Every woman deserves the right to feel safe from physical violence and unwanted sexual contact. I am blessed to work for an organization that champions all women regardless of their circumstances.

HOUSING BRINGS HOPE



"It's hard being homeless, especially when you are in a wheelchair," said Aurora. Aurora and her daughter have been homeless off-and-on since 2019. In January 2020, she and her daughter came to Poverello House's Village of Hope. Aurora and her daughter secured

permanent housing through Poverello House's Rapid Re-housing program. This program helps those that need assistance with security deposits, rental assistance, and more to enter into stable housing "I am grateful that I have a safe home with my daughter and dog. The future now looks bright for us."

BRA DRIVE AT POVERELLO HOUSE



**support
our women.**
(in more ways than one)

DONATE NEW AND GENTLY USED BRAS, SPORT BRAS
AND CAMISOLES IN ALL SIZES

Donations accepted
Monday – Friday
8am – 5 pm
Saturday – Sunday
8 am – 1 pm

412 F Street, Fresno
Drive thru donation
lane is located on
G Street between
Ventura and San Benito



Just some of the WONDERful women staff at Poverello House