

# Poverello News

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## “I KNEW THIS WAS THE START OF THE REST OF MY LIFE.”

*Gavin Larson: Veteran, United States Marine Corps and Administration Specialist, Poverello House*

Substance abuse can wreak havoc on a person’s life: It destroys families, ruins relationships, and may lead to death. The Men’s Residential Rehabilitation Program at Poverello House is designed to bring hope for a new beginning for the men suffering from addiction. One of the devastating consequences of addiction is the loss of faith and trust for the person. According to Daniel Maldonado, former resident, and Poverello House Case Manager, “I knew it was time because I was losing the trust of my family because I couldn’t be there for them.” How does one go from a place of distrust to a valued staff member? According to David Knoy, Rehabilitation Program Director, “When we start a person in the program, we start from a place of trust and integrity. We have them work at various jobs on campus and see how they do with the responsibility.” The men in the residential rehabilitation program work in various positions on campus, such as the kitchen, the warehouse, groundskeeping, and security. Once the men completed the program, many of them want to remain connected to Poverello House and give back the hope that was given to them. “When I started the program, it was a rebirth of hope. I want to do for other people what Poverello House has done for me,” said Charles McCall, Poverello House Accounts Receivable Specialist who graduated from the program in 2018. Poverello House appreciates the talents and the life experiences that the graduates bring to the organization. Currently, 23 out of 46 staff at the Poverello House are former residents of the rehabilitation program. They work in client services, facility management, warehouse, and finance department. Gavin Larson, an Administrative Specialist, and former resident, reflects the sentiment echoed by many of the former residents who work at Poverello House; “I am blown away and happy to work at the place where I finally got it right and that has faith in my success.”



# PAUL STACK: CELEBRATING 25 YEARS AT POVERELLO HOUSE

Poverello House congratulates Paul Stack for his 25 years working at Poverello House! Paul is the Chief Operations Officer and supervises all operations, including the Men's Residential Rehabilitation Program. "What impressed me most about Paul is his can-do attitude, and he was always calm even under the tensest of



circumstances," said Jim Connell, former Executive Director of Poverello House for 23 years. Paul's wife had read about the organization and they had planned to volunteer alongside Papa Mike McGarvin after relocating to Fresno from Southern California. Upon arriving in Fresno, Paul began looking for employment and noticed a job announcement at Poverello House in the Fresno Bee. Once Jim Connell interviewed Paul, he knew they had the opportunity to hire an exceptional individual who embodied the organization. As they say, the rest is history! While working at Poverello House, Paul has embraced its mission for providing services to those in need. "Paul is a blessing to me and to countless others," states Zack Darrah, CEO of Poverello House. As for Paul, he says, "I am looking forward to continuing to work at Poverello House and see all the exciting changes." Thank you, Paul, for your years of service! We look forward to your continued leadership at Poverello House for years to come.

## JUNE WISH LIST

### Poverello House

Canned, dry,  
and frozen foods

Granola Bars

Bottled Water

Disposable Razors

Men's underwear

Men & Women shoes

Socks

Silverware

Twin Sheets

Towels

### 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



**MAP (Multi-Agency Access Program)  
at Poverello is now open Saturday and  
Sunday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm**

## POVERELLO HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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James Walls, Jr.



**Zack Darrah,**  
Chief Executive Officer

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

During the COVID-19 crisis, we have continued doing everything we can to meet the needs of the community while keeping everyone as safe as possible. However, as the shelter-in-place order is lifted, the restrictions of the State of California are eased and things attempt to get back to normal, we know that there are many challenging days ahead. Poverello House was already serving more people than ever before the crisis began. We are seeing incredibly high unemployment rates and many economists are predicting economic impacts that will rival the Great Depression era. While the COVID-19 crisis feels like it may be behind us, there is also a crisis ahead of us. Just as we served the hungry, homeless and hurting on the front lines during the COVID-19 crisis, we too, will do whatever we can to serve the community throughout whatever might be ahead.

While we have spent countless hours as a team on our COVID-19 response, we have also been preparing the future. We have been working on several new projects and I will have some very exciting news for everyone by the time the next newsletter is sent out. I know that all of the Poverello House family will be proud of how we are carrying forward our mission together. There are many exciting days ahead for our community as Poverello House envisions the future of providing services to everyone who comes our way.

I think about you, our supporters every single day at Poverello House. Your generosity is what allows so many to find hope during their greatest time of need. I have seen this through my first six months through the holiday season and now through the COVID-19 crisis. As we transition from one crisis to another, I am confident that you will continue to selflessly support the most vulnerable in our community and we will get through it together. You have done so now for nearly 50 years! I am eternally grateful for you and I am looking forward to what we will do together in the future.

Humbly,

Zachary D. Darrah  
Chief Executive Officer



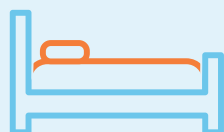
### DURING COVID-19 (MARCH 20TH-MAY 20TH)



**119,655**  
Total Meals



**6,413**  
Emergency Food Bags



**5,944**  
Total Nights of Shelter



**2,293**  
Clients served at MAP Point

*“If it were not for our Poverello House meeting the needs of those individuals  
I don’t know what this city, this community would look like”*

– Mayor-Elect Jerry Dyer

We are truly grateful for our community, the five generous business leaders, Mayor-Elect Jerry Dyer, and Terra Brusseau for coming together during an uncertain time. Thank you all who donated to the Give Help Now campaign. Poverello House received more than \$203,000 to support our work with the hungry, homeless, and hurting during the COVID-19 crisis.

