

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 9, 2017

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Poverello House representatives and project partners are available for interviews

POVERELLO HOUSE READY TO “RAISE THE ROOF”

Capital campaign will help enhance client services and operations

Poverello House announced today the launch of a \$2.5 million “Raise the Roof” capital campaign to fund a new food storage warehouse, operations center and community housing improvements at its downtown Fresno campus at 412 F. Street.

Construction is set to begin March 1 and be completed in October 2017.

“We can no longer postpone the need for a new warehouse,” said Poverello House Executive Director Cruz Avila. “The structure was originally built in 1945 to house salvaged auto parts. Despite several quick fixes over the years, it’s fallen into major disrepair, with a rotting wood frame and leaky roof.”

Poverello House provides more than 1,600 hot meals every day of the year. That’s about the equivalent of one meal for each person at a sold-out Save Mart center concert. The lack of usable storage space and proper insulation and temperature extremes in the warehouse are making it a challenge to meet that mission.

The new 19,000 square-foot warehouse is being designed by the Valley’s leading architecture, construction, food-processing and transportation experts.

It will feature an all-metal, insulated building; on-site commercial-grade refrigeration and freezer units; ample space for two-way industry-standard forklift traffic; new rack and shelving units; turnaround space for large tractor-trailer deliveries and donations, and an easily accessible public donation drop-off point.

The project also includes improved and consolidated Village and Community of Hope housing sheds with added lighting and permanent restrooms and showers to replace existing portable toilets. The agency’s new Multi-Agency Access Program (MAP) Point at Pov, which links clients with housing programs and behavioral, social and health care, will be expanded and relocated to a more accessible campus location as well.

“We are much more than a soup kitchen,” said Avila. “The face of homelessness and hunger in the Valley are changing and we don’t turn anyone away.”

“We’re only able to provide these services because of the generosity of our local business community, loyal supporters, faith-based organizations, and civic and professional groups.”

Poverello House was founded in the early 1970s by “Papa” Mike McGarvin, who started helping the homeless and hungry by distributing peanut butter sandwiches to homeless individuals. Today, Poverello House offers access to social services including: overnight shelter for men and women, men’s residential rehab programs, health & dental care, showers, laundry, and clothing distribution.

For more information about the project or to donate, visit www.poverellohouse.org/RTR or call [498-6988](tel:498-6988) ext. 103

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