



Poverello News

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BRIGHT HOPE FOR WOMEN

On a gray, cold, depressing January day in Fresno, the cheery yellow and white Naomi's House on the Poverello House campus is an uplifting sight for homeless single women such as Alisia. When she first signed in, Alisia remembers, "I was given a hot meal and a safe place to rest." This is similar to thousands of other women since Naomi's House opened in 2002. Alisia's bed was one of 28 overnight beds at the only low-barrier safe haven for homeless single women in Fresno County. According to the last Point in Time Count there are over 700 women homeless women living in Fresno County. Naomi's House provides that beacon of hope. Besides shelter, meals, showers, and clothing, offers, according to Alisia, "Naomi's House offers opportunities to rehabilitate from feelings of loss and loneliness." Case managers help women find housing, access mental health services and make positive life choices to achieve self-sufficiency. "Case management professionals like Rosemarie were very helpful, friendly and supportive. She understood my situation as well as my needs," says Alisia. "I was able to find suitable and more-permanent housing arrangements" and help with travel costs to attend meetings and keep appointments. Alisia says, she was provided "resources and materials that I desperately needed to ensure a healthy well-being for myself."

Rosemarie, a case manager at Naomi's House since 2014, says, "When Alisia began to see the light at the end of the tunnel, I could see the positive change in her. As a case manager, that is very fulfilling. What is rewarding for me is the day I can see the smile on my client's face as she walks into the new happy chapter of her life."



Generous donations from the community with gifts of money, clothing and other wish list items are part of the hope at Naomi's House. With hope restored, Alisia plans "to continue to seek advocacy, advice, and support from the staff, who make things a little easier when life seems to be moving at a rapid pace."



WE'RE ALL POVERELLO

For more than four decades, Mike McGarvin was Poverello House to the community.

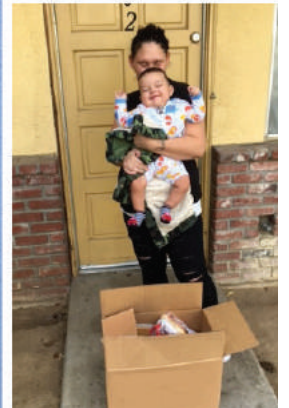
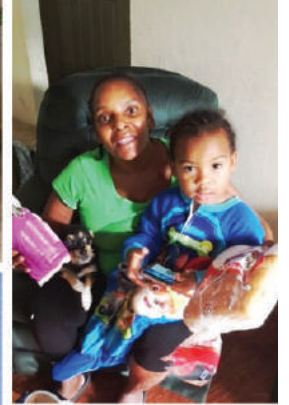
Even before Papa Mike's passing in 2017, thousands of others had become Poverello -- selflessly dedicating whatever they could – their time, their treasure or their talents – to helping transform lives, build futures, provide shelter and food and offer hope.

The dedication and sacrifice of so many allow Poverello House to go well beyond feeding the hungry. To Fresno's homeless, Poverello House is a place to shower, launder clothes, secure dogs, sleep safely and receive medical, dental and mental health care.

Because people are Poverello, Fresno's homeless get help to find employment, housing and clothing, collect earned benefits, learn interpersonal skills and get job training.

Because so many are Poverello," Papa Mike's legacy has become an essential, multiservice center like no other in the region, enriching the lives of all who pass Poverello House's way.

Learn how you can be Poverello yourself at poverellohouse.org/donate.



FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Tom Ferdinandi is the current Board Chair of Poverello House, having served on the Board since 2012. When asked what makes Poverello so unique, Tom's answer is clearly stated; "There is no organization quite like Poverello House that most directly touches those with the greatest of need in our community. What started with the simplest of responses – Papa Mike handing out a smile and a sandwich – Poverello is now responding in so many other ways, including rehabilitation services, emergency shelter, and case management. And through all these interactions with our Poverello clients, I am even more impressed with the compassion and dedication of our staff, donors and volunteers. It is truly an honor to be part of the Poverello House."

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT OF GIVING



We are grateful that your generosity in 2018, especially during the winter holiday season, supported Poverello House and its programs providing hope to the homeless.

Whether it's the bleak midwinter days, summer's scorching heat or a perfect day in spring or fall, hundreds of people depend on Poverello House on a daily basis.

We hope your New Year's gift-giving resolutions again include supporting Poverello House services throughout 2019.

FROM THE DESK OF CRUZ AVILA



During the New Year, we always make resolutions. We promise to lose weight, connect with our inner mind, body, and soul and connect more with our families.

During the holiday season, Poverello House is thankful for the many volunteers and donors that enable us to fulfill our mission. As the season of giving ends and the winter gets colder, the homeless are still living on our streets; We must remember that the spirit of giving and caring about our community should continue throughout the year. Homelessness does not go away after the holiday season. We must resolve not to be okay with people sleeping on sidewalks because the existing shelters are full. I resolve that as CEO of Poverello House that together we will find a way to provide additional shelter and services for those people who lack a warm bed, shower, medical care, food, and most of all hope for a better future. Together, this year we resolve to continue to enrich the lives and spirits of those who pass our way.

 Cruz Avila, CEO

WAYS YOU CAN HELP THIS MONTH

VOLUNTEER AT POVERELLO HOUSE

Volunteer orientation dates are listed on our website poverellohouse.org.
For more information call us at (559) 498-6988.

JANUARY WISH LIST

Travel Size Toothpaste • New Men's Underwear
Warm Gloves and Beanies • Coffee • Salt • Pepper



“If I were to ever wander across the donors who made this building possible (Mike McGarvin Jr. Village of Hope) I would thank them. I would shake their hand and thank them.”

- Mark, Former Poverello House client.

Poverello House - A place that provides services without barriers, so that the hopeless become hopeful.

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