



Poverello News

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

SO MUCH MORE THAN A PAIR OF SHOES

It truly is the little things in life, that feels like the biggest.



Marcus and Mary of the Poverello House

Marcus was homeless for 23 years. After high school, Marcus became dependent on drugs and lost over 100 pounds. While living on the streets, he had been arrested multiple times. Change happened for Marcus in 2016, when he experienced several health crises that scared him, including an inability to walk due to severe leg cramps and improper shoes. Providence came through in the form of Poverello House's Multi-Agency Access Program (MAP), a service provided through Poverello House that links people to medical care, supportive services, job opportunities, substance abuse programs, and housing.

Along with receiving MAP services, Marcus was welcomed into Poverello House's Village of Hope, where he developed relationships with other clients who inspired him. During this time, he obtained a bike for which he used to get himself to work and back. With the help of his case manager, Marcus moved into his own apartment and is currently is part of the maintenance team there. After saving up his earnings, he purchased a car.

While most would assume his pride would be symbolized in his car, it came in the freedom of purchasing a pair of shoes. "It feels good to be able to buy a new pair of shoes," he says.

Marcus has big plans for the future - such as owning a business and maybe someday, a Harley. He knows that he'll get there with time, motivation, and small steps. "Blessings," says Marcus. "I can see the blessings now. I have a girlfriend, a job, and I want to help people."

He explains that homelessness ends with motivation. "You have to want it," he explains. "And I wanted it."



In Remembrance of Anna Saladino

We would like to remember a friend of Poverello House, Anna Saladino who recently passed away. Poverello House would like to thank the Saladino family and their friends for their recent gifts in Memorium of her life. Thank you to Anna and the Saladino family, for carrying on the spirit of Papa Mike and giving back to our homeless community.

A COMMUNITY HELPING OTHERS

Our 2019 Turkey Drive was a success! Through your generous donations, we were able to collect **1,450 turkeys!** These turkeys were used at our Thanksgiving meal and were given away to families who received a food box. The turkeys will also be used for meals throughout the year. A big thank you to Pittman Farms, Covered California, St. Paul Catholic Newman Center, and Table Mountain for their large turkey donations this year.

Through our generous donors such as Kaiser Permanente and Dutch Bros, Poverello House was able to give out **450 Thanksgiving boxes** this year to families and individuals in need! Boxes were given to families living in Raisin City and throughout Fresno County. The spirit of Papa Mike was truly felt all around with numerous generous donations.



JANUARY WISH LIST

Poverello House

Ground Coffee

Packaged men's underwear
(medium, large, X-large)

Packaged men's T-shirts
(large, X-large, 2xl)

Gloves and beanies

Disposable shaving razors

Toilet Paper

55-gallon garbage bags

Gallon size zip-lock bags

Travel size hygiene products
(toothbrush, toothpaste, lotion, conditioner, shampoo, deodorant)

Art supplies

Notebooks

No-Slip socks

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



Zack Darrah, Chief Executive Officer

ZACK'S 2020 MESSAGE

Fresno is a special city. I have personally seen the community come together to meet the many needs that so many face on a daily basis. You are receiving this newsletter because you have selflessly done so and do so even now. Mother Teresa once said, "I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things." I am looking forward to the great things this community will do together in 2020. However, this will not be possible on my own, or Poverello House on our own, but it will take all of us to overcome the challenges of our community together.

I want to thank you all for your warm introductions as I have settled into my new role as CEO at Poverello House. I continue to be inspired each day that I am here. While I did not know Papa Mike personally, I can feel his spirit everywhere. His spirit lives on from the support from our community, the work of the staff at Poverello House, and in our clients whom we have the honor to serve each day.

There is so much work to be done and it would not be possible without your partnership with us. I am sincerely looking forward to our fresh

new vision that will come to fruition in the upcoming year. Your support will be needed more than ever, but I know that we are up to the challenge in order to serve the hungry, homeless and hurting in our community.

With great anticipation,

Zachary D. Darrah



UPCOMING EVENTS

Papa Mike's Cafe

January 8

Fresno-Madera Homeless Point In Time Count

January 28th-30th

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