



# Poverello News

(559) 498-6988 • [www.poverellohouse.org](http://www.poverellohouse.org)

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO WELCOMING 2021



**Zack Darrah,**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! As we look forward to all that 2021 has in store, it is important to also look back at 2020. Last year was an incredibly challenging time for Poverello House. COVID-19 made our already challenging work, even more difficult. We served more people than ever before in our nearly five decades of operation. We did not close

our doors for even one second. You and your support helped us get through 2020. I believe that without you, Poverello House would be in a much different place after facing the hardships of last year.

While last year was filled with challenges, there were some incredible moments as well. We replaced the Tuff Sheds with Pallet Shelters and redesigned the entire Village of Hope program. I am pleased to say that those we serve have been in their heated, enclosed, and comfortable living space throughout this winter. Many have also been housed by our new Navigation team. You may have also heard the news about Poverello House receiving a \$2.5 million contribution from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund to launch the Family Hope Shelter and our new Family Services Program. We opened a brand-new Client Services Building to streamline and consolidate our case management resources all in one place. These are merely a few of the incredible moments that happened last year!

I am pleased to share that Poverello House has much in store for those we serve in 2021. As we look ahead, there is much to look forward to. In the upcoming year, we plan to launch our Family Services Program, finish construction on our 903-panel solar project, complete a renovation of our state-of-the-art shower and laundry facility for clients and plenty more that is still in the planning stages. All of this is to say that the future is bright for Poverello House and those we serve. I believe that this community depends on us to further our work, our reach, and our mission. I am excited to share our vision for 2021 in the next newsletter.

Absolutely none of this work would be possible without your support. That is what makes Poverello House so special. You have walked alongside us through many challenges and now, have walked alongside us through a worldwide pandemic. This organization and our work belong to this community. All of the exciting work ahead will only happen through you, your generosity, and your belief in our mission that begins with “believing in the dignity of every person.” I cannot say thank you enough times to reflect the gratitude I have for your partnership. You inspire me and our team daily to keep moving forward for those we serve. May your New Year be filled with blessings beyond measure and may we all look forward to days on the other side of this pandemic.

Humbly,

Zack

# IN MEMORIAM OF JAMES “JIM” CONNELLY



Jim was born in Bakersfield on February 4, 1941. He served in the United States Marine Corps and later became a Certified Public Accountant. Jim’s most personally meaningful work was born in 1973 when his friend Mike McGarvin founded Poverello House, a non-profit, nondenominational shelter that provided food and other essential services to those in need. He remained an active member until well into the late 2000s. Charles Farnsworth long time board member said, “Jim was a great board member, and I feel the Poverello House was blessed to have his experience and knowledge for all the years he was on the Board.” John Frye Jr. Past Board Chair remembered that James provided meaningful counsel and financial insight which guided how the services were offered to individuals experiencing homelessness. “Jim was a friend to many and will be missed but not forgotten.”

## JANUARY WISH LIST

Men’s & Women’s  
Underwear

Men’s & Women’s  
Winter Clothing

16oz or Smaller  
Peanut Butter & Jelly

16oz or Smaller  
Pasta Sauce

Travel Size  
Hygiene Items

Dry Pasta

Blankets

### 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

## POVERELLO HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# MIKE GOMEZ: CHANGING YOUR DESTINY BY CHANGING YOUR LIFE



"Guard your thoughts because your thoughts will become words. Guard your words because your words will become actions and guard your actions because your actions will become your destiny." This was one of Mike Gomez's favorite sayings he used to say to his daughter. Mike, however, was destined for a life of gangs, drugs, and violence. For 24 years, he spent in and out of prison until April 2020, when he decided to go to the Men's

Residential Rehabilitation Program at Poverello House. Once in the program, he found safety, acceptance, patience, and integrity. Despite the odds and COVID-19, Mike finished the program. "It was my family and the program that kept me moving forward away from my troubled past." Mike, who has seven grandchildren, is eager to find a job as a truck driver or as a drug counselor. Mike has changed his destiny for a positive future.



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Thank you to Price Paige & Company for sponsoring January's edition of the Poverello House newsletter. If you or your company is interested in sponsoring Poverello House's monthly newsletter, please contact Kristina Flores at [kflores@poverellohouse.org](mailto:kflores@poverellohouse.org)

# POVERELLO HOUSE TOY GIVE AWAY 2020

