



# Poverello News

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

## NAOMI'S HOUSE: THE HEART OF HOME



*PamElla, Cynthia, Helen pictured from left to right*

Cynthia was not always homeless. Before coming to Naomi's House, Cynthia was the Women's Home Director at Teen Challenge. Cynthia said she hesitated to seek services because she felt hopeless, ashamed and her pride did not want her to come to Poverello House. When she arrived, the first person Cynthia met was Helen. Through tears, she told Helen, "I can't do this, I can't do this." to which Helen replied, "Yes, you can." Helen's words sparked a light in Cynthia. Her "I can't" changed to "I can."

Cynthia and Helen bonded over their relationship with God. Cynthia started a Bible study with Helen, PamElla, and other ladies interested in attending. They are currently studying the book of Ruth which inspired the name of Naomi's House. Cynthia believes that Naomi's House represents confidence, strength, and independence. Cynthia asked to have a bell installed at Naomi's House because in the movie "It's a Wonderful Life," an angel gets its wings every time a bell rings. Every time a woman leaves Naomi's House to her own home, a bell will ring as she gets her "wings of independence."

Helen was homeless for over a year in the Los Angeles area. Her family abandoned her because of her sexual orientation and mental illness. Forced to fight alone, she became self-destructive. Helen said, "I didn't want this path, but it's

the cards I was dealt." A friend in Fresno invited Helen to stay with her, but that did not work out. Helen searched online and found Naomi's House. The first time Helen saw PamElla she said, "I thought we would clash because we are both intelligent, and I didn't know if I could trust her, but I had to get over myself." While painting Christmas ornaments and singing karaoke, PamElla and Helen learned they had many things in common. Helen said, "My moods were still stabilizing, but PamElla never judged me. I had been abandoned in the past because people couldn't handle that side of me, but PamElla understood. Now I can fight for my mental health." Helen added that PamElla and Cynthia care about her, giving her "hope and something to live for."

Before coming to Naomi's House, PamElla attempted suicide. After her suicide attempt PamElla "Came to believe that a Power greater than herself could restore her to sanity." PamElla realized that God was putting people in her path for a reason. After her suicide attempt, she became homeless. Once in Naomi's House, her primary goal was to get a job. PamElla said she kept her distance from the other women because of her history of codependency. PamElla became friends with Cynthia and Helen, and they started sharing their traumatic experiences and their hopes for their future. Together they prayed that all the women at Naomi's House would be housed. PamElla said that "There is hope and help here, and God put us here for a reason. We can learn to love each other and allow other people to love us." PamElla believes that the Heart of Home is "Love and a choice you make to serve each other. It's the gratitude of serving." PamElla stated, "We are bonded for life and inseparable. We are family." For Cynthia, The Heart of Home means that "Empowered women, Empower women." Helen shared that the Heart of Home is to "Trust and to be able to share the broken parts of me and be accepted and loved." Naomi's House is not just a homeless shelter for women but a place where women can find their true Heart of Home.

# WELCOME BOARD CHAIR AND NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Curtis Davies,**  
Board Chair

Curtis Davies is the Vice President at Ashwood Construction. He has been part of the building community for the past 17 years and offers a wealth of experience in business relationships and industry knowledge. Previous to his time at Ashwood, he held several positions at JP Lamborn Co., a national manufacturer of flexible air ducting, including Manufacturing Operations Manager, Plant Manager, Staff Manager, and Safety

Coordinator and Inventory Control Officer. Curtis received his Bachelor of Arts in Communications, with an emphasis in organizational leadership, from California State University in Fresno, CA. He and his wife Lane have three beautiful daughters Tinsley, Piper, and Sydney. Curtis shares that The Heart of Leadership at Poverello House means that “You don’t always need to be right, but you need to do what’s right. The Heart of Leadership at Poverello House means to communicate and appreciate.” At the Heart of Leadership is a talented group of individuals that comprise the Board of Directors. As Board Chair, Curtis would like to take this opportunity to introduce our three newest board members who began serving in January 2022, Ken Ramos, Marc’ Bady, and Rebecca Garth-Nelson.



**Ken Ramos**

Ken Ramos is the Executive Vice President, Market Executive at Central Valley Community Bank (CVCB). He has nearly two decades of bank leadership, agribusiness, and commercial banking expertise. Mr. Ramos oversees CVCB’s Southern Region encompassing Fresno, Madera, and Tulare counties. He received his B.S. in Agricultural Business, Finance from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and is a Banking and Finance Program Graduate from Pacific Coast Banking School. Mr. Ramos is a financial advocate who truly cares about his community.



**Marc’ Bady**

Marc’ Bady serves as the Chief Diversity and Human Resource Officer for Fresno Housing. Mr. Bady has served in a variety of roles over the course of his career while working at various colleges and universities. He received his Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science from Austin Peay State University and his Master’s degree in Education Administration from Bowling Green State University. Mr. Bady is in the final year of his Ph.D. program at the University of Southern Mississippi



**Rebecca Garth-Nelson**

Rebecca Garth-Nelson is a professional counselor and social worker who provided direct client services for Fresno County’s public mental health system for over 26 years. After retiring in 2008, she returned to work for several nonprofit treatment programs for seven more years. Ms. Garth-Nelson also worked for Exodus Recovery at the acute psychiatric unit. Rebecca has long admired Poverello House’s work with the most difficult to serve, conducted with an attitude of warmth and respect.



## POVERELLO HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>CHAIR</b><br>Curtis Davies                      | <b>SECRETARY</b><br>Paula Capozzi   |
| <b>FIRST VICE PRESIDENT</b><br>Prashant Patel      | <b>TREASURER</b><br>Hank Bennett    |
| <b>SECOND VICE PRESIDENT</b><br>Charles Farnsworth | <b>PAST CHAIR</b><br>Victor Salazar |

- |                      |                  |                 |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Adam Mendes          | Constance Jones  | Nick Amendola   |
| Andrew Slater        | James Walls, Jr. | Robert Veneski  |
| Rebecca Garth-Nelson | Ken Ramos        | Stephanie Negin |
| Christopher Hansen   | Marc’ Bady       |                 |

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



## The Heart of Relentless Hospitality

This year, our theme at Poverello House is “Relentless Hospitality.” I have learned that hospitality is the real “business” that we are in here.

Whether it is a shelter bed, a hot meal, or a hot shower, the roots of our work began with being friendly

**Zack Darrah,**  
Chief Executive Officer

to those that were experiencing homelessness. Conrad Hilton (founder of Hilton Hotels) believed that “it has been and continues to be our responsibility to fill the earth with the light and warmth of hospitality.” That is well said, and we feel that it is our responsibility to do so here in our community!

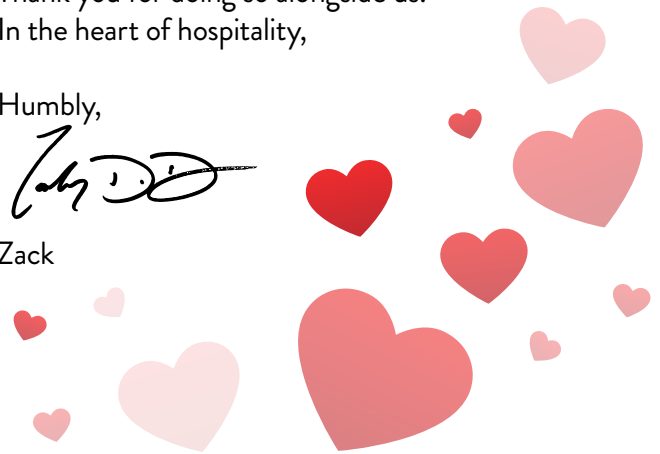
I was recently reading about the Greek word “philoxenia.” This word’s literal translation is “love of a stranger” or “friend of a stranger.” In fact, in Greek culture, relentlessly being courteous to strangers is still deeply rooted in daily life. In ancient Greece, it was expected that one would greet a stranger or guest with the necessities of a delicious meal, something to drink, and a safe place to

sleep. All of this was granted to a stranger without any conditions or questions! It was widely believed at that time that there would be punishment from the gods for not showing relentless hospitality for all who came their way. The heart of hospitality begins with the belief that every person is highly valued and deserves dignity. The response to that belief should result in a hospitality that leaves people feeling deeply loved—this is our calling at Poverello House. The heart of hospitality began with serving sandwiches out of Papa Mike’s car nearly 50 years ago. We will relentlessly pursue that heart of hospitality this year and beyond as we love every stranger who passes our way! Thank you for doing so alongside us.

In the heart of hospitality,

Humbly,

Zack



*In the Spirit of “Relentless Hospitality” Free Client WiFi Coming February 2022!*



## Free WiFi Available



**Poverello House**

Daily  
7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**NETWORK NAME**  
**POVERELLOFREEWIFI**  
(NO PASSWORD NEEDED)

## FEBRUARY WISH LIST

Salt, Pepper, and Cooking Spices

Pasta Sauce

Towels

Blankets

Disposable Coffee Cups

Coloring Books and Crayons

Reading Glasses

### 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