

Poverello News

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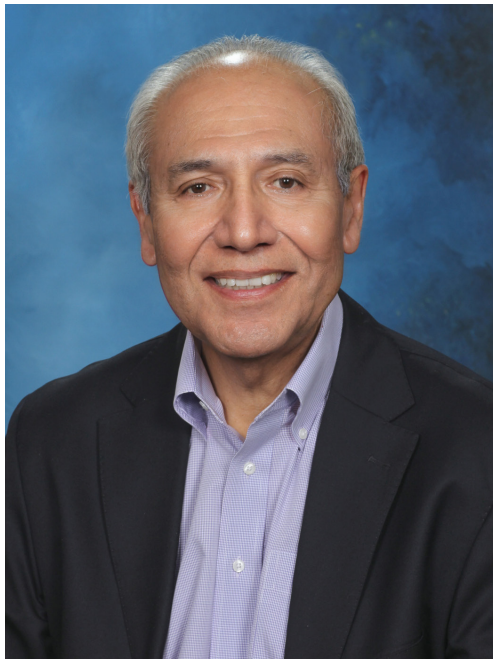
EXITING OFF THE FREEWAY: PROJECT OFF-RAMP



When driving on Fresno's freeways, it is not uncommon to see numerous tents on the embankments. Some structures lean precariously close to the edge, tilting into the highways. We see a large amount of trash accumulating and smoke from the campfires. It is a dangerous environment for both motorists and for the people experiencing homelessness. One of the unintended consequences of COVID-19 is the build-up of homeless encampments on the freeways. The lack of resources, high unemployment rates, and housing shortages have pushed many people to call the freeways their home. We forget as we drive past these encampments that actual people are living in these tents. "I feel safer here than anywhere else...it's harder for the drug dealers and the pimps to find me," said one young woman to a Poverello House outreach worker. Poverello House, through the HOPE Outreach

Team, is working with the City of Fresno and other community-based organizations to move people experiencing homelessness off the freeways. "The purpose of this project is not only to find those living on the freeways shelter but to restore their dignity and hope," said Zack Darrah, CEO of Poverello House. "We could not do this without the Poverello House," said Mayor Jerry Dyer. "They're the ones who have provided the outreach workers who had personal contact with every individual experiencing homelessness." Poverello House is grateful to partner with the City of Fresno, Fresno Housing Authority, Kings View, Turning Point, Caltrans, CHP, and The Fresno Mission to bring people off the freeway and into emergency housing.

INTRODUCING NEW BOARD CHAIR, VICTOR SALAZAR



Victor Salazar,
Poverello House Board Chair

An attorney and former county employee, Victor Salazar has been a resident of the County of Fresno for over 60 years. He graduated from Reedley High School and continued his education at Fresno State University. He furthered his educational pursuits at Washington State University, and later earned a law degree from the San Joaquin College of Law.

Victor Salazar first learned about Poverello House in 2000. He and his wife became dedicated volunteers for many years. Both were involved with the Amici Guild and were advocates for the men's rehabilitation program. In 2012, Mr. Salazar was given an opportunity to serve on the Poverello House Board of Directors. He often refers to his service at

Poverello House as one of the most rewarding parts of his life.

In retirement, Mr. Salazar serves on the board of Proteus, Inc. and the Central California Employment Round Table. He is also currently enrolled in the State Bar's Pro Bono Program and volunteers at Central California Legal Services. Mr. Salazar sits on the California Commission on Judicial Performance. The Fresno County Bar Association acknowledged his contributions by presenting him with the 2019 Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award.

Victor says that, "Poverello House provides a wonderful service to the neediest amongst us, and when we help others, we are lifted." We look forward to another successful year at Poverello House under his leadership of the Board of Directors.

FEBRUARY WISH LIST

Pasta

Pasta Sauce

Canned, Dry,
and Frozen Foods

Twin Sheets

Towels

Blankets

Travel-Size
Hygiene Items

(razors, shaving cream,
shampoo, conditioner, lotion,
bar soap, toothpaste, tooth-
brushes, combs, lip balm,
cotton swabs)

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

CHAIR

Victor Salazar

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Curtis Davies

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Prashant Patel

SECRETARY

Paula Capozzi

TREASURER

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A. Thomas Ferdinand

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Constance Jones

Adam Mendes

Tim O'Neill

John Pardini

Andrew Slater

James Walls, Jr.

Rob Veneski

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Zack Darrah,
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Partners,

Greetings! Here at Poverello House, 2021 is in high gear and whirring right along. We are already in February. As I write this, trees are beginning to bloom. Spring is upon us, and the promise of new life is ahead. It reminds me of the hope we offer to the hungry, homeless, and hurting that we serve daily at Poverello House. The hope that the hungry can be fed, the naked can be

clothed, the addicted can recover, and that the promise of a new life can be ahead for anyone who comes through our doors. While our Spring in Fresno is often short-lived, the season of hope and new life is always in-season at Poverello House!

Last month, I shared that I would share some of our new initiatives for 2021 in this month's edition of our newsletter. The Board and I have worked together on the strategic plan for this year. There is much to look forward to! This year, we will establish the Family Hope Shelter

(through the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund support) and the new family services program. We will continue renovating our facility through completing a renovation of the dining room, client bathrooms, rehab program aftercare house, the shower/laundry facility, and the Naomi's House bathrooms. We will also break ground and finish the construction of our 903-panel solar project before the hot summer months. There is plenty more ahead at Poverello House, but these are few of those priority items you will see updates on soon.

As I close every newsletter article, I want to share my gratitude for what you make possible at Poverello House. The hungry, homeless, and hurting rely on your generous support! All of the plans that are ahead are only possible through your partnership with us. Any success is our success together with you. Any celebration is our celebration alongside you. Every great story only happens because your support allows for that story to unfold. Thank you for ensuring a bright future for those we serve at Poverello House!

Humbly,

Zack

POVERELLO HOUSE LAUNCHES RAPID REHOUSING PROGRAM



In December, Poverello House launched a Rapid Rehousing Program. A Rapid Rehousing Program provides direct support for clients to secure housing. This can include security deposits, rental assistance, payment of PG&E arrears, and more. After being awarded this grant by the City of Fresno, we began to match individuals to our program through the Fresno Madera Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry System. A match occurs based on a person's vulnerability and needs, and history of homelessness. Our two case managers, Mat Michel and Valerie Gonzalez make up the Rapid Rehousing case management

team. This incredible duo works tirelessly to help clients obtain stable housing by identifying housing locations and providing case management. Since the inception of the program, Mat and Valerie have completed twelve assessments, enrolled nine individuals, and successfully housed seven households into permanent housing.

