



BINGO & GAME NIGHT  
AT VILLAGE OF HOPE

POVERELLO NEWS - MAY 2022

POVERELLO HOUSE CELEBRATES OUR  
ASIAN-AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER STAFF

May is Asian-American and Pacific Islander heritage month. Poverello House celebrates this month by recognizing our staff who represents this diverse community. Each staff member brings their unique culture and traditions to Poverello House that benefit our staff and the people we serve. David Bouttavong, Lao HOPE Outreach Specialist, is proud to have been born in a country with many privileges and rights. David stated, "I can fight for the liberties of those who do not have them, such as my refugee parents and people experiencing homelessness." Jordan Piceno, a Client Services Specialist, embraces his Hawaiian and Filipino culture by embracing his heritage's spirituality and community's communal spirit. Jordan was taught by his father to surf, play ukulele, and live by the expression of Aloha, which means "presence of breath or breath of life." Jordan also practices self-care by reading his Bible and reflecting on the blessings of his life. "Every morning, I gaze toward the sky, breathing with deep gratitude and appreciation." Living between two cultures leads to a unique childhood. "Learn your roots, then you can choose who you want to be, and I will be there to support you," these are the words MAP Point Navigator, Pheng Khang's father used to say to her. Pheng, who is Hmong, remembers as a kid celebrating Hmong New Year, family barbeques, and eating at McDonald's. Lucky Siphongsay is Lao and serves as the Director of Mental Health Services. Lucky honors his culture by wearing "salongs," traditional pants that come in various colors for important events, ceremonies, and sometimes contests. Lucky expressed that Lao people are kind, hardworking, loving, family-oriented, giving, and peaceful. From his childhood, Lucky fondly remembers Buddhist ceremonies for weddings, blessing someone for good health, honoring the dead, and engaging in spiritual meditation.



For Lucky, Pheng, Jordan, and David, their food traditions are essential to their culture. David shared that "sticky rice is life." Pheng eats a traditional Hmong chicken soup with herbs that restore health and vitality, especially for women who have just given birth. Lucky, a self-proclaimed lover of food, enjoys: "Mok Pa" steamed fish, "Laarb kuay" minced chicken salad, "Som Tam" papaya salad, and "Kao poon" chicken curry soup. Jordan's favorite food consists of garlic fried rice and a snack called spam musubi, a Japanese-Hawaiian food which is seaweed wrapped around fresh rice, and a slice of spam. Poverello House considers itself blessed to have Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders staff, who are an integral part of the team delivering services to those experiencing homelessness. We celebrate the beauty and richness of all cultures, beliefs, backgrounds, and of course, incredible cuisine!





**THE VALLEY CATS**

*Fig Garden VILLAGE*

**FIG GIG** TIME FOR MUSIC+DANCE  
Thursday, May 19  
6:30PM to 9:00PM

Benefitting:  Sponsored in part by: 

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER




**Zack Darrah,**  
Chief Executive Officer

### Diversity as a Foundational Value

For over five years before I began my role at Poverello House, I worked with a diverse team from over ten countries, serving refugees and immigrants from over twenty countries. I had the humble opportunity to learn about people's cultures through countless potluck meals. I learned that sharing a meal at a diverse table is about the mutual sharing of culture, building trust, and showing loving hospitality. The diversity of these moments was beautiful. I passionately believe that our community's ethnic and cultural diversity is a gift and asset to all of us. Papa Mike began this work by sharing his love for those on the streets over peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. The very culture of Poverello House was established on building relationships over a meal. We will continue this legacy while sharing the love with our community through the beautiful and rich diversity of those on our team each day.

I have had the blessing to carry this belief to Poverello House, where I believe the diversity of our staff gives us the ability to serve best those experiencing homelessness in our community. The foundational belief that we hold as an organization is to be able to see staff at all levels of leadership. Our team comes from countries such as Laos, Mexico, Egypt, the Philippines, Cambodia, and Iran. Our diverse team ensures that those we serve are provided services in a manner that helps them feel as comfortable as possible. The staff is a blend of skin colors, religious beliefs, sexual orientations, gender identities, lived experiences (related to the organization's work), and other backgrounds. I know that this is a component of our work that allows us to build rapport and trust, which is essential to enriching the lives and spirits of all who pass our way.

Humbly,



Zack



**SAVE THE DATE**

**POVERELLO HOUSE 2022**

— EIGHTH — ANNUAL **(5K)** WOODWARD PARK FRESNO

**RUN FOR MEALS**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2022**  
**7:30 AM**

VISIT [RUNSIGNUP.COM](https://runsignup.com)  
FIND RACE: POVERELLO HOUSE  
RUN FOR MEALS  
OR VISIT  
[WWW.POVERELLOHOUSE.ORG](https://www.poverellohouse.org)



**THANK YOU!**  
**WITH THE COMMUNITY'S**  
**GENEROUS SUPPORT**  
**WE RAISED**  
**\$100,000!**




### MAY WISH LIST

- Bottled Water • Combs
- Hair Ties • Lip Balm
- Notebooks • Pens
- Crayons • Men's Pants

**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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