



Poverello News

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

PRIDE AT POVERELLO HOUSE

Poverello House's mission begins with "believing in the dignity of all people" regardless of race, color, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religious affiliation, age, or disability. As we reflect on Pride month, it is important to understand how the struggles of homelessness profoundly impact the LGBTQ+ community. In fact, according to the National Coalition for the Homeless, 30% of clients engaged on the streets and 30% of clients seeking housing services (amongst service providers nationally) identified as LGBTQ+. According to a recent University of Chicago study, LGBTQ+ youth had a 120% higher risk for homelessness nationally. These staggering statistics reveal that Poverello House is working with the LGBTQ+ community daily. We believe strongly that representation amongst our staff is an asset that allows our services to be provided in the most compassionate manner possible. Our team spans a wide range of ethnicities, languages, lived experiences, backgrounds, and sexual orientations. This month, we highlight several of our staff who identify as LGBTQ+ and provide incredible services for those experiencing homelessness in Fresno.

David Bouttavong is an Outreach Specialist. He celebrates Pride daily by showing up as his authentic self in all spaces he occupies. Although David thinks being LGBTQ+ "is just a label" because he is "human and normal just like anyone else," he will wear affinity pins, pride buttons, or clothing to show visibility. When asked about his experience at Poverello House, David shared, "I am accepted, affirmed, and feel supported," and while we have room for growth, we can do so together. David wants any young person struggling with their identity to talk to someone, reach out to the community for support, and know they are loved and sacred. Gordie Ochinerio is a Client Services Specialist. She describes being a part of the LGBTQ+ community as being authentically herself and unashamed of who she is. She shares all of herself with others and encourages "all souls to always be themselves no matter what that looks like." Gordie shared that those that identify within the LGBTQ+ community are the most resilient and bravest people and are exactly who God designed them to be. When asked about her experience at Poverello House, Gordie said, "I feel accepted and loved just as I love and accept everyone. It's a diverse environment." Another staff member on the Outreach Team celebrates Pride with other LGBTQ+ community members and supporters during Pride Month. She would like people to know that "everyone is entitled to their own opinion as long as hate is not promoted. Her advice to young people struggling with their identity is: "Do what feels comfortable for you; sometimes it is easier to be yourself when you are a more established adult. Be open and honest when you are ready." Poverello House is proud of our diverse team, which provides representation for all people throughout the community!



DAYMON KLASSEN: A STORY OF TRANSFORMATION



Daymon Klasen

Daymon Klasen knew a life of drug addiction and parental absence early on in his life and was forced to grow up quickly. His older sister often served as Daymon's parental figure, and without structure and positive relationships at home, he struggled in school. He dropped out of his junior year of high school and began to struggle with both alcohol and methamphetamine at eighteen. In 2007, Daymon thought his life was turning around for the better. He became a father and married the love of his life. However, his addiction did not waiver. He knew it was beginning to be too much to keep his life on track. Two years later, he moved his family to Oklahoma for a fresh start and remained sober for three years. In 2014, Daymon and his family moved back to Fresno, and his life became unmanageable for the next four years. Unfortunately, this

life lead to Daymon going through a divorce with his wife and the loss of custody of his three children. Once this happened, he did whatever he could to feed his addiction. This lifestyle ultimately lead to multiple incarcerations. Daymon was determined to get clean and sober and was ready to leave a life of drugs and crime in his past. In December 2020, following incarceration and a brief stint at another rehab program, Daymon entered Poverello House's Men's Residential Rehabilitation program. Since graduating from the program, Daymon gained partial custody of his three children, is in a healthy relationship with his girlfriend, and was employed at Crown Royal as a driver! Daymon says, "the program at Poverello House helped me to become the man before you, a better and consistent father, and a hard worker." Daymon was a standout graduate in the program and was highly recommended as a candidate for a new opportunity with Poverello House. We are excited to share that he has been hired as our first Solar Panel Cleaning Technician! He is eager to continue his new life as a sober and successful father through this new chapter of joining the Poverello House team.

JESSE DARRAH: FROM PITCHING TO PANEL CLEANING



Jesse Darrah

Jesse Darrah has been a Fresno resident for over twenty years and is a proud graduate of Fowler High School, where he played baseball. Jesse went on to have a successful career in both collegiate and professional baseball as a pitcher. After four seasons in the Arizona Diamondbacks minor league system, Jesse suffered a devastating injury that ended his playing days. He honored his love for baseball by becoming the Head Varsity Baseball Coach for Minarets High School and led them to two Division 5 Valley Championship games. After finishing his coaching career, Jesse moved on to the solar and green energy industry. He began his work for a local company, Bland Company. He oversees sales and operations in the Fresno market for Bland Company and has also managed solar panel cleaning operations. Jesse is excited to share his knowledge and skill in solar and solar panel cleaning to begin an exciting new venture at Poverello House. He will join Poverello House Enterprises as the Solar Division

Coordinator. He looks forward to hearing from you soon to help your solar panels stay clean while supporting life transformation for men graduating from the Men's Residential Rehabilitation Program (just like Daymon!).

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Zack Darrah,
Chief Executive Officer

Introducing Poverello House Enterprises

I am excited to announce our first social enterprise business at Poverello House: Poverello House Enterprises. This new venture will operate as a social enterprise within our organization. A social enterprise is a business venture that has a central mission at its core that has a positive social benefit to the community. The

social enterprise generates revenues that support the mission. Any “profits” are reinvested into the growth of the social enterprise to further that identified social benefit.

Poverello House is starting a Solar Panel Cleaning service. Market research indicated a need for cleaning solar panels, and few companies were providing this service. Men who graduate from our substance abuse treatment program are able to apply for technician positions and receive competitive wages. It allows men with a history of incarceration, substance abuse, and homelessness an opportunity for gainful employment and a fresh start. Daymon, will be our first Solar Panel Cleaning Technician. He is the exact type of person that we are excited about

providing opportunities for in our social enterprises. He was a standout during his time with us. Through Poverello House Enterprises, we are going to provide more opportunities than ever before for men pursuing a new life through sobriety and transformation.

This venture will only be successful with your help! Do you have solar panels on your residence or business? Please become one of our very first customers. Your partnership with us supports jobs for men who are rebuilding their lives that were impacted through their struggles with substance abuse. Your business will be part of transforming the future for individuals just like Daymon who are great assets to our community. I can also guarantee you will be satisfied with what I know will be the best solar panel cleaning service in our community! Please consider following the instructions in this newsletter on how Poverello House Social Enterprises can be your go-to solar panel cleaning service. Thank you for your continued partnership with us and I am excited about the impact this new venture will have.

Humbly,

Zack

POVERELLO HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIR

Curtis Davies

SECRETARY

Paula Capozzi

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Prashant Patel

TREASURER

Hank Bennett

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Charles Farnsworth

PAST CHAIR

Victor Salazar

Nick Amendola	Rebecca Nelson	Andrew Slater
Mar' Bady	Tushar Patel	Victor Thao
Christopher Hansen	Ken Ramos	Rob Veneski
Constance Jones	Mickey Sachdeva	James Walls, Jr.
Adam Mendes	Manavjeet Sidhu	

July *Wish List*

- Bottled Water
- Bath Towels
- Twin Size Sheets
- Men's and Women's Underwear

Donations are accepted Monday - Friday 8 am-5 pm and Saturday - Sunday 8 am - 1 pm at 412 F St Fresno. Donation lane is located on G Street between Ventura and San Benito.

Got Dirty Solar Panels?

Poverello House now has a solar panel cleaning service through our social enterprise division. Not only do we provide exceptional service, but every time you hire us, you provide a person an opportunity to transform their life. Your partnership enables us to provide high-quality jobs for men who complete our substance abuse program and are dedicated to improving their lives.

Contact us today for an appointment to clean your solar panels!

Call for a Quote Today!



**Poverello House
Enterprises**

559.205.0304
412 F St
Fresno CA 93706

