



Poverello News

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

POVERELLO HOUSE NAVIGATION SERVICES: FINDING THE WAY HOME

It took some time before Sara Mendoza, her husband, and her four kids could open the door to her new home. After getting evicted from their apartment, Sara knew it would be difficult to find housing for her family. She went to the Multi-Agency Access Point (Map Point) at Poverello House to get navigation services. Navigation is defined as the “activity or process of finding the way to get to a place.” A navigator is responsible for assisting the person find their way to supportive services and housing they need to end their homelessness. Sara, for example, needed a housing plan, landlord advocacy, and additional services to ensure her and her family’s success. “Staying connected to my navigator allowed me to finally securing housing and the supportive services”, said Sara. Her navigator spent countless hours with agencies, landlords, gathering paperwork and getting furniture for her new home. The goal of the navigator is to walk alongside the client as they find their way home.



GARY DOESEKLE

#1 VOLUNTEER

Gary is often referred to as the #1 volunteer because of his love of Poverello House and his dedication to the legacy set forth by Papa Mike. Gary's family relocated to Fresno from Bakersfield in 1983. His family fell on hard times and often ate at Poverello House. Gary decided to volunteer at Poverello House as a way to give back. While serving meals at Poverello House, Gary met Mike "Papa Mike" McGarvin. Papa Mike quickly became fond of Gary and his love of helping the homeless during mealtimes. Gary often refers to Papa Mike as a mentor and a grandfather figure. To this day, Gary still regularly volunteers, multiple days a week going on donation pick-ups, serving meals, and slugging it out in the warehouse by cleaning and organizing the donations.



AUGUST WISH LIST

Rice

Oatmeal

Toilet Paper

Travel-Size
Hygiene Items

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

Nail Polish &
Nail Polish Remover

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

amazonsmile

SUPPORT POVERELLO HOUSE

When you shop at smile. amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

POVERELLO HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIR

Stephanie Negin

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Victor Salazar

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Curtis Davies

SECRETARY

Paula Capozzi

TREASURER

Hank Bennett

PAST CO-CHAIRS

A. Thomas Ferdinandi & Rob Veneski

Nick Amendola

Charles Farnsworth

Christopher Hansen

Constance Jones

Tony Mehrtash

Adam Mendes

Tim O'Neill

John Pardini

Prashant Patel

Andrew Slater

Stacy Vaillancourt

James Walls, Jr.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Zack Darrah,
Chief Executive Officer

I hope that this newsletter finds you doing healthy and well as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. It has been inspirational to see our incredible staff, volunteers, supporters and partners come together during such a challenging time. In the beginning of this pandemic, we thought that this would be a three-month challenge. However, we are preparing to operate within the context of COVID-19 as the new

normal moving forward. Our new normal looks like staff and volunteers wearing masks on campus at all times, a regular testing regimen for staff and clients, screening everyone on our campus for symptoms, sanitizing the facility, carrying out COVID-19 safety protocols and much more. The new normal also includes Poverello House seeing more people seeking services than ever before in our nearly 50-year history.

The reality for Poverello House is that the community has carried us since the earliest of days. Whether it was

donated day-old bread that Papa Mike used for peanut butter sandwiches, or handmade blankets to keep those on the streets warm in the winter, or a generous financial gift from one of our local businesses; this special community always found a way to make sure that Poverello House was a place of hope for those in need. I am confident that your support will continue ensuring that we continue “enriching the lives and spirits of all who pass our way” even in the midst of the new normal of COVID-19.

While the times may be new, our mission remains the same. Our reliance on this special community also remains the same. Thank you for upholding us during this time and always! May you be richly blessed for your generosity and partnership in serving the hungry, homeless and hurting during this new normal and beyond.

Humbly,

Zachary D. Darrah
Chief Executive Officer

SIERRA SUN FRUIT FEEDS THE COMMUNITY



underserved areas. Poverello House thanks Sierra Sun Fruit for giving people the opportunity to benefit from our Valley's fresh products.

When COVID-19 hit in March, many food distribution sites closed for safety reasons. The demand for emergency food bags dramatically increased. Sierra Sun Fruit, a local grower, and distributor stepped up to the challenge and partnered with Poverello House to provide boxes of fresh fruit to people in need. “We really wanted to work with a local non-profit to give people access to our fresh products,” stated Dylan Luallen, the son of the founder of the company. “We are a local company, and we want to help local people.” In March, Poverello House distributed 708 food bags; in May, however, 3,793 bags with boxes of fruit were given out to people in need. These included farmworkers living in rural Fresno County and families living in

VOLUNTEER SHOUT OUT



In times of great uncertainty, we only need to look to the heart of our volunteers for inspiration. The individuals that give of their time to make sure we stay open for our clients are true heroes to us! Volunteering makes a difference. It is a real, tangible way to give back to the hurting in our community. Thank you for your hours spent making sandwiches, chopping vegetables, and folding clothes. Without you, we simply would not be able to carry out our mission. You bring joy to Poverello House everyday with your selflessness and commitment to serve.