



# POVERELLO NEWS

AUGUST 2024

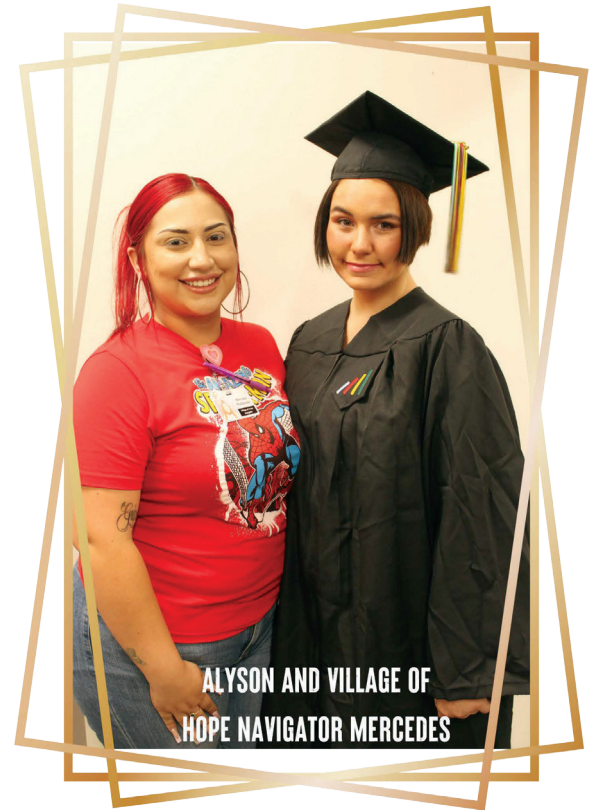
## FROM HOMELESS TO HOPEFUL

Alyson's world was turned upside down the minute she was placed in a mental health hold at a local hospital in Madera. She was allowed to return home after several weeks. However, there was no home for her to return to. Alyson was both a minor and homeless. The hospital had to release her to an emergency shelter for adolescents experiencing homelessness.

Alyson left the shelter on her own after turning 18. She began sleeping in a tent at Roeding Park. She shared that she was quickly taken advantage of after leaving the shelter. The environment of the streets exposed her to many temptations. She used drugs and alcohol to numb herself to ease her depression. Alyson did not want that for herself. She did not want to fall into addiction. She knew she needed to keep moving forward.

The HOPE Outreach Team found Alyson while she was sleeping in Roeding Park. They began working with her to secure shelter at Poverello House. She was accepted into the Village of Hope. Her Navigator would be Mercedes Maldonado. A Navigator is a person who walks alongside those transitioning out of homelessness. Mercedes went above and beyond for Alyson. She even drove to Madera to receive Alyson's birth certificate and social security card from her father! The courts mandated that Alyson move from Missouri to California with her father when she was just 12 years old. She lost contact with her mother and sister in Kansas City.

Alyson decided to download Facebook and reach out to her mom while at the Village of Hope. Her mom told her that she had been waiting for Alyson to come home. Her mom booked a flight to California right away. Alyson was reunited with her mom. Alyson walked across the stage and received her high school diploma on June 1st. She would fly back home with her mother on June 4th! She is already enrolled in a cosmetology school in Kansas. Alyson's journey is just beginning. Poverello House is honored to be part of her journey. We look forward to all that Alyson will achieve in her future endeavors!



ALYSON AND VILLAGE OF  
HOPE NAVIGATOR MERCEDES

**DON'T EVER GIVE  
UP ON  
YOURSELF.  
DON'T FALL INTO  
A NEGATIVE  
MINDSET -  
ALYSON**





# BEST PLACE TO VOLUNTEER



**SMALL ACTS,  
WHEN  
MULTIPLIED BY  
MILLIONS OF  
PEOPLE, CAN  
TRANSFORM THE  
WORLD.  
-HOWARD ZINN**



We are thrilled to share the exciting news that Poverello House has been voted the Best Place to Volunteer by The Fresno Bee's Best of Central California once again! This marks the third consecutive year that we have received this incredible honor. We could not be more grateful.

This achievement would not have been possible without our amazing volunteers' unwavering support and dedication. Their selflessness, compassion, and commitment to serving those in need have made Poverello House a beacon of hope in our community. Each volunteer's efforts may seem minor. However, every volunteer who serves contributes to the positive impact we make together. We celebrate this milestone together. We also extend a warm invitation to those who feel called to serve. Volunteering at Poverello House is more than just giving time. It is about making a difference in the lives of others, building meaningful connections, and being part of a community that cares. We welcome you to join us in our mission to uplift and support those who need it most.

Thank you again to all our volunteers! Your hard work makes the work we do possible every day. We look forward to another year of service. We will continue making a difference together. Sign up to volunteer today to be a part of something extraordinary!

## FOUR STEPS TO VOLUNTEER

### 1

#### VISIT OUR WEBSITE POVERELLOHOUSE.ORG

Create a CERVIS Account to become a Volunteer!

### 2

#### REGISTER FOR A SITE TOUR!

Volunteer Site Tours are nearly every day at 10 am. Sign up for the date that best works for you.



### 3

#### LOOK AT OUR OPPORTUNITIES

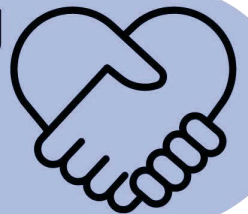
Daily from 6:45 am to 5:30 pm.

\*Ages 7 - 16 must have a guardian

### 4

#### SIGN UP FOR WHAT FEELS LIKE YOU

Papa Mike's Café Support, Clothing Closet, Donation Warehouse, Kitchen and Meal Preparation, Campus Beautification, Enrichment Activities, and Special Events!





# Papa Mike's Café

WHERE DIGNITY IS THE MAIN COURSE

# DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

Papa Mike's Café is a reflection of the foundation which Papa Mike built Poverello House upon; that every person has dignity, value, and worth.

Papa Mike's Café is a no-cost, full-service restaurant serving three made-to-order meals for anyone in need in our community. At Papa Mike's Café, we are on a mission to offer more than just meals. We are dedicated to providing a restaurant-style experience for all individuals in our community. With a warm ambiance and attentive service, our goal is to make every visitor feel at home.

## Lennar is Generously Matching Every Donation, up to \$100,000!

In 2024, Poverello House began this journey, but we need the community's support! It costs \$5 per meal and over 50 volunteers a day to run Papa Mike's Café.

## PRESENTED BY LENNAR®



## \$100,000 GOAL

## 40,000 MEALS PROVIDED

Donate Now and Make Twice the Difference!



Meals Per Day  
**1,000**

Cost Per Day  
**\$5,000**

Grateful Hearts  
**Unlimited**



DONATE TODAY!



August 1 - October 31







Poverello  
House

A MEAL. A BED. A PLAN.

**IMMEDIATE HELP.  
LASTING SOLUTIONS.**

DONATE OR VOLUNTEER AT

**POVERELLOHOUSE.ORG**