



Poverello News

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EXPANDING PROGRAMS FOR SUCCESS: THE MEN'S RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Men's Residential Rehabilitation program started when a one-eyed man named "Pirate" came to Poverello House and asked Papa Mike if he could sleep on campus. In exchange, he would stay sober, help with passing out food, and keep things clean. Soon, other men came by asking for the same arrangement, and the Men's Residential Rehabilitation Program was born. The program has gone from men sleeping on the floor in the dining room to a one-of-a-kind program that offers a unique opportunity for men to learn to live life clean and sober. This year, Poverello House received funding that expanded the services provided in the program. The program added a job developer responsible for soft-skills job training, resumé building, and developing job opportunities for men who graduate from the program. The program added an additional case manager, who regularly meets with the men and implements their case plan. The plan includes linking them to medical care, supportive services, and a housing plan before leaving the program. Another crucial addition to the program is that men can receive mental health services through The Enrichment Center. Abusing substances is a way to numb the effects of trauma, anxiety, depression, and unresolved mental health issues. Through The Enrichment Center, the men in the program can explore these issues through group and individual therapy. They learn coping skills and strategies to overcome challenges associated with their addiction in a therapeutic environment.

The Men's Residential Rehabilitation Program is exceptional because it provides "real world" experiences without the crutch of a substance. Every resident, while in the program, interacts with staff, volunteers, and individuals experiencing homelessness. They work in the kitchen, provide security, and keep the campus clean for everyone. They also can experience serenity, peace, and

fun without drugs or alcohol. Recently, the residents had an opportunity to spend a weekend in the mountains at Montecito Sequoia Lodge. They visited the Cat Haven, went fishing, and enjoyed nature. Wayne, a resident, stated, "I had been camping before, but I never got to appreciate the beauty around me because I was always under the influence. It was wonderful. I could relax without using substances." These opportunities are instrumental in providing the residents an example of how to live life without drugs and alcohol. The purpose of the Men's Residential Rehabilitation Program is to provide the men an opportunity to move past their addictions, heal, and become the best versions of themselves. By providing mental health services, job opportunities, case management, and meaningful experiences, the men will gain the tools to thrive in our community.



*Men's Rehab Program Staff:
Christopher, Gavin, Cecilia,
and David*



Men's Rehab Trip

MEET THE NEW CHEF DE CUISINE JAZMIN WALKER

Poverello House is excited to introduce the newest member of our culinary team, Chef Jazmin Walker. Jazmin has eight years of experience in the culinary field, including cooking for large organizations. When asked why she wanted to work at Poverello House, she said, "I like the idea of working in a place that has my values, and I want to give back to the community." Jazmin has already received rave reviews for her food.

Chef Walker will be at the forefront of cooking and designing menus for the food services program. At the August "Papa Mike's Café," many clients commented on the excellent seasoning used in the food. Jazmin worked tirelessly with our Director of Culinary Services, Chef Emery Bish, to get it just right! One client stated, "This meal put a smile on my face."

We are looking forward to seeing more smiles that Jazmin's cooking will bring. Welcome to the team!



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PROJECT OFF-RAMP UPDATE

Poverello House's HOPE Outreach Team, in partnership with the City of Fresno, Turning Point, Fresno Mission, Kings View, and Fresno Housing Authority, has relocated 423 people experiencing homelessness living on the freeways into a shelter. Once in shelter, they have an opportunity to get the services and permanent housing they need to end their homelessness. During the State of the City address, Mayor Dyer presented two "Homeless Hero Awards." The awardees were Sara Mirhadi, Chief Programs Officer of Poverello House, and Jody Ketcheside from Turning Point. The success of Project Off-Ramp would not have been possible without Sara's and Jody's dedication and hard work. We are grateful for everyone's partnership in this project that enabled many people experiencing homelessness to take an off-ramp out of their homelessness.



SEPTEMBER WISH LIST

- Rice • Oatmeal
- Men's and Women's Clothing (Size XL-4XL)
- Men's and Women's Underwear • Socks • Disposable Razors
- Travel Size Shampoo and Conditioner • Towels

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

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

LEGACY GIFTS AT POVERELLO HOUSE:

MAKING AN IMPACT THAT CHANGES LIVES



Zack Darrah,
Chief Executive
Officer

At Poverello House, the idea of legacy drives our work daily. Nearly 50 years ago, a man named Mike McGarvin began handing sandwiches out of the back of his car to help those on the streets of Fresno. It was that act of love and compassion that was the very heartbeat of what Poverello House is today. Though "Papa" Mike has not been with us for over four years, his legacy continues to make impacts that change lives. His spirit, life of service, love, and compassion for those in need continue to be at the forefront of our work. His legacy has and will continue to change lives forever.

The legacy of "Papa" Mike reminds me of a quote by the famous American civil rights activist and poet Maya Angelou. She said, "If you're going to live, leave a legacy. Make a mark on the world that can't be erased." Our founder certainly lived a life in that manner, and what he did will never be forgotten!

Like "Papa Mike", you too can leave a legacy at Poverello House that will change lives and make a lasting impact. This can be done through making a legacy gift in your estate or planned giving for the work that happens here every day. These types of gifts allow us to make dramatic impacts in the lives of those we serve. One example during my tenure was a generous legacy gift that allowed us to replace the "Tuff Sheds" with Pallet Shelters in the Village of Hope. This gift provided shelter with A/C, heat,

electricity and restores dignity for those experiencing homelessness for decades into the future. Many lives have been changed in the new Village of Hope because of legacy gifts.

We have made this process as easy as possible with our partnership with Freewill.com. This is a free platform for making a will and gives many options for making a legacy gift to Poverello House! There is more information about how to do so in the graphic below. If you are interested in creating a legacy gift, donating stock, making Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs), or have any other questions regarding legacy giving at Poverello House, please do not hesitate to contact me directly! I can be reached at (559) 498-6988 or at zdarrah@poverellohouse.org.

Let's "...make a mark on the world that can't be erased" together!

Humbly,

Zack

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August Papa Mike's Café