



# Poverello News

(559) 498-6988 • [www.poverellohouse.org](http://www.poverellohouse.org)

## WE'RE SEEING A NEED FOR READING GLASSES



Mary McGarvin,  
co-founder of  
Poverello House

It has been two years since I started working at the Poverello House Contact Office. Working at the Contact Office, I see firsthand the needs of our

homeless clients. Clients come to the Contact Office requesting clothes, shoes, blankets, their mail and candy. I like giving out candy because of their smiles and seeing their eyes light up with joy. One of the most common requests we get is for reading glasses. If you wear glasses, you know how difficult it is to go without them. As our homeless population ages, the need for glasses increases. On average, I used to give away about 15 pairs a month. In July we gave away 34 pairs of glasses. We are in need of reading glasses with a strength of 1.50 to 3.75. So if you are looking to donate any items to Poverello House please consider donating reading glasses. Thank you so much to our donors who make life a little more bearable for our clients.

## FINDING A WAY HOME A GRANDMA'S JOURNEY

Billie unlocked the door of her new apartment. As the keys turned, she held her grandson tighter and breathed a sigh of relief.

She was home. Tonight they would not have to sleep on the hard sidewalk in a nylon tent, fearing for her life and the safety of her grandson. Tonight she could close her eyes and sleep peacefully knowing they would be safe. Because, after a year of living on the streets of Fresno near the Poverello House and along Blackstone Ave, Billie finally had a place to call home.

The journey toward finding housing is not easy for homeless families and individuals. Homeless families often have experienced a long history of housing instability. Billie and her grandson, for example, frequently went from living with family or friends for several years. Eventually Billie found herself homeless with her young grandson.

Billie was found several months ago by Poverello House family case manager, Leticia Martinez who was conducting homeless outreach around G. Street and Ventura Ave. Leticia was determined to help find Billie a home. The journey out of homelessness, however, is not easy. There is a lack of shelter beds, especially for families, in Fresno County. Many times families have to wait months for affordable housing. Despite these obstacles, Leticia was determined to help Billie and her grandson. As soon as she could, she enrolled Billie in Poverello House's Emergency Motel Voucher Program for families. While in the Motel Voucher Program, Leticia worked tirelessly to get the family into housing: She obtained all of their basic documentation such as identifications, birth certificates, and any other necessary documents. Finally, despite initial setbacks, Leticia was able to find the right program for the family. When Leticia told Billie that she would have a permanent home Billie said to her, "You kept to your word and followed through....thank you."

Poverello House is dedicated to helping homeless families find a place called home. In the 2019 homeless Point in Time Count more than 80 families were identified as homeless. Out of those households, 154 are children. Our donors provide support for our Emergency Shelter Motel Voucher Program and for case managers such as Leticia so we can help homeless families find homes and become thriving members of our community. To find out how you can support programs and services like these please contact Sara Mirhadi at [mirhadi@poverellohouse.org](mailto:mirhadi@poverellohouse.org) or (559) 498-6988.



Billie and her Grandson entering their new apartment.

# CHEF EMERY BISH

## A PASSION FOR GIVING HOPE ONE MEAL AT A TIME



*Chef Emery Bish, preparing dinner for homeless clients*

When Poverello House Chef Emery Bish started in October 2018, he had a goal of providing restaurant-quality meals to those in need. "I want Poverello House to be known for its great food," he said. Chef Emery has more than 40 years of experience as a chef. He also has 13 years of experience in teaching culinary arts. "It is my mission to teach the residents in the rehabilitation program to appreciate the art of cooking and at the same time, to give hope to those in need through good food," he said. "Nothing warms my heart more than a client returning his or her empty plate with a smile." Chef Emery loves to try new recipes, but the client favorite is his Southern fried chicken. When he and the residents cook the chicken you can smell it throughout the campus. We are all hoping that someday he gives us the recipe.

### OCTOBER WISH LIST

Coffee

Spices (Seasoning salt, pepper; garlic salt; lemon seasoning; Italian seasoning)

Powdered Parmesan cheese

Chicken base

Juice pouch drinks

Razors

Lotion

Toilet paper

Cleaning supplies (sanitary wipes, bleach, floor cleaner, disinfectant spray, kitchen scrubbing pads, oven cleaner, degreaser, latex gloves, insect spray)

33- and 50-gallon  
garbage bags

Men's underwear

Donation hours are

7 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays  
and 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekends.

## POVERELLO TURKEY DRIVE



November marks the kickoff of our annual Turkey Drive. The goal is to collect 2,000 turkeys before Thanksgiving. These turkeys not only serve Poverello House clients on Thanksgiving Day, but also will be used to feed families in rural communities, and throughout the year to provide a valuable protein for Poverello House meals.

**November 1 through November 28**

**Weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
and**

**Weekends from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**412 F. Street, Fresno**

Donation lane located on G Street  
between Ventura and San Benito

# UPCOMING FOOD TRUCK EVENTS

Poverello House Mobile Cafe is more than just a source of hot, nutritious meals, it travels throughout Fresno County with the Multi-Agency Access Program (MAP Point) to link people to the resources they need.



## EVENT LIST

- October 3** • 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. • 2316 S. Elm Ave, Fresno CA 93706
- October 10** • 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. • 1655 Thirteenth Street, Firebaugh CA 93622
- October 15** • 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. • 730 Recreations Ave, Sanger CA 93657
- October 31** • 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. • 100 N. East Avenue, Reedley CA 93654

**COME CHECK US OUT!**

# THANKSGIVING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Poverello House is in need of volunteers on Thanksgiving Day to help prepare and serve our annual Thanksgiving meal. Below are the shifts that are available for volunteering:

**5 a.m. to 8 a.m**

**8 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

If you are interested in volunteering on Thanksgiving Day, we will be taking sign-ups for the day starting November 4th. Please contact Cory Amoroso at (559) 498-6988.



*Volunteer serving on Thanksgiving*

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Hello,

*My family would like to make this donation for Naomi's House. We recently worked with Rosemarie, who went above and beyond to help our loved one. She talked to us and went way beyond just doing her job. She showed our loved one that someone truly cared about her and wanted to make sure she was safe. We have worked with a number of homeless programs in California and with various churches but have never encountered this type of compassion for another person.*

**Thank you and may God bless your mission**