

Poverello News

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THANKFUL TO CALL HOME...HOME

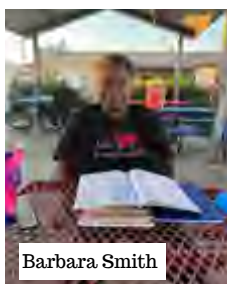
Being housed after being homeless is “like seeing a rainbow after a storm,” said Barbara Smith, a recently housed client. Sometimes that storm lasts a long time. Lisa Watkins, for example, has been experiencing homelessness since 2000. This Thanksgiving, however, she is thankful that she has a place to call home. Shelly Forrest experienced a great amount of trauma while spending over 10 years experiencing homelessness. This Thanksgiving, she will be doing her favorite activity: cooking a meal for herself. After numerous years of living on the streets of Fresno, Charles will be biking to work from his home. He will also be able to pursue his passion for exercise.

Barbara, Shelly, Lisa, and Charles were housed through Poverello House’s emergency shelter programs. From January 2022 to August 2022, Poverello House provided over 30,000 nights of shelter through the Village of Hope and Naomi’s House. Everyone in the Village of Hope or Naomi’s House is assigned a case manager. The case manager creates a plan for supportive services and permanent housing. Lisa is grateful for her case managers, Anthony Derr and Harold King, because “it’s only because of them I was successful in housing.” She also thanks Village staff member Jeff Moore for making her stay at the Villages “great.” Shelly is looking forward to working with her Housing Stability Case Manager, Elaine. Weekly, Elaine will visit Shelly to ensure that she has food to cook, crafts to do, and access mental health services to address her trauma.

Poverello House is thankful to be able to share these amazing stories of success and hope of people who have worked their way out of homelessness. The journey out of homelessness, however, is a community effort. These stories are possible because of support from the City and County of Fresno and people who generously donate to Poverello House. We cannot be more grateful for this support, words of prayer and encouragement, and local funding. Without this partnership, Shelly, Lisa, and Charles would not be home with their families, sharing a meal and becoming thriving members of our community. Thank you for working with Poverello House as we continue to enrich the lives and spirits of all who pass our way.



Shelly Forrest



Barbara Smith



Salvador Taha



Gloria Palacios



Charles McNeil



Lisa Watkins



Jose Aguiniga

HAPPY
Thanksgiving

Village of Hope and Naomi’s House clients that have been successfully housed through Poverello House case management.

MEMORIALIZING THE LEGACY OF “PAPA MIKE” MCGARVIN



A Rendering of the Papa Mike Memorial Piece

As you may know, in 2023, we will celebrate 50 years of Poverello House’s existence. This is a truly incredible milestone. However, the heart of compassion and service of Mike McGarvin is why we are here today. The simple act of service through peanut butter and jelly sandwiches has flourished over the decades. As Mike would lovingly become “Papa Mike” through his work with those experiencing homelessness in downtown Fresno, he made indelible impacts on countless lives. It is essential to us that his story, work, and spirit are never forgotten.

Next year, we plan to unveil a memorial on our campus for “Papa Mike.” The memorial piece has been in the works for many months, with the help of “Mama Mary” and Clare McGarvin in developing the details. This memorial will feature a fountain and a glass mosaic of a moment captured during Mike’s work on the streets of Fresno and a prominent display of his story and character. It will be a beautiful way for us to make sure that “Papa Mike” is never forgotten in our community.

We need your help to build this project, and the projected costs are about \$150,000. If you are interested in purchasing a customizable memorial tile (on the retaining wall of the fountain) or making a special gift to support the overall project, please contact our CEO, Zack Darrah, at zdarrah@poverellohouse.org. We appreciate your consideration of carrying on the legacy of “Papa Mike,” who will continue to inspire us all to enrich the lives and spirits of all who pass our way.



OUR FIFTH ANNUAL GIFT OF HOPE GALA WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY EVENT!

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS, SUPPORTERS, ATTENDEES, VOLUNTEERS, AND STAFF THAT MADE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE. WE ARE INDEED SURROUNDED BY A GENUINELY SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY.

Gift of Hope
A Gift-Bearing, Friendly House

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Zack Darrah,
Chief Executive Officer

A Heartful Thank You

Much of what you will read in this month's edition is about giving thanks for all you do so that this work can continue. Our mission statement includes words about our stewardship responsibility and reliance upon "Providential and community support." If you are reading this, you are included in the very mission of Poverello House! This is in our mission statement because we can look back for nearly 50 years and give thanks to God and you. Poverello House does not go beyond the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches Papa Mike and Mama Mary gave out in China Town without you and your support.

Many of you will never know the specific impact your support has on the life of someone you will never meet. Regardless, you continue to faithfully give from your heart

because you believe as we do in the dignity of every person. You carry forward the spirit of Poverello House through your generosity.

There are not enough newsletters, thank you notes, or social media posts that could thank you enough. However, the countless times I think of you, I can only thank God. I pray with joy that He will bless you immensely and that you will know that your gifts matter. Thank you for being here with us, supporting us through the most challenging times and beyond. May your Thanksgiving season be filled with love, joy, and peace beyond measure.

With gratitude,

Zack



HOW TO MAKE WARMING KITS

Warming Kits are distributed to the unhoused community through HOPE Outreach and the Poverello House courtyard. Warming Kits are essential during winter weather.

Please NO paper bags;
Gallon-sized zip lock bags preferred

Warm Apparel
Coats / Jackets / Poncho
Beanies / Socks
Gloves / Hand Warmers

Sleeping Items
Sleeping Bags / Blankets / Pillows

Travel Size Toiletries
Shampoo / Hair Conditioner / Body Soap
Toothbrushes / Toothpaste
Deodorant / Razors / Shaving Cream

Other Materials
Chapstick / Lotion / Cup of Noodles
Emergency Blankets / Water Bottles

Donation Drop-Offs
Warming Kits can be assembled from home and dropped off at our donation lane!

Monday – Friday
8 am – 5 pm

Saturday – Sunday
8 am – 1 pm

412 F St. Fresno.
Donation lane is located on G Street.

Thanksgiving Dinner

WE WELCOME ANYONE IN NEED LOOKING FOR A DELICIOUS THANKSGIVING MEAL

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2022

4:00 PM

MENU: BRINED TURKEY, COD WITH CRAB STUFFING, ROASTED ORANGE CRANBERRY GLAZED PORK, MASHED POTATOES, CROSS CREEK STUFFING, GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE, SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE, SALAD, ROLL, & PIE

ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT POVERELLO HOUSE AT 559.498.6988

MEN'S RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM 2022 FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL

