

Poverello News

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

WHY WE CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS

The holidays are a time for spending time with family and friends. For people experiencing homelessness, or addiction, it reminds them of the loss of family, friends, and home security. During this season, Poverello House strives to remind people suffering from addiction or experiencing homelessness that these circumstances do not have to be their entire life's story. Celebrating the season provides an opportunity for Poverello House and the community to see that they matter and are worthy of feeling hope and joy.

Every year, Poverello House hosts a holiday party for Men's Rehabilitation program and their families. The men pick out and wrap presents for their children. They sit with their families, share a meal and take pictures with Santa and their children. It is a time that the family members see their loved one hopeful and happy without using substances. It is a time when residents see the positive impact they have on their loved ones when sober.



Christmas Eve 2021

In our emergency shelters, the Village of Hope and Naomi's House staff decorate the shelters as if they are our homes. There are Christmas trees, snowflakes, twinkling lights, and presents. The goal is to provide them with home-like celebrations to encourage them to work towards providing their own festivities in their own home. The HOPE Outreach team provides warming kits, blankets, and items to combat the chilly, foggy night for those unsheltered during the holidays. The HOPE Team also provides a handwritten Christmas card with messages of hope and encouragement. It is to remind them that they matter no matter the circumstances.



HOPE Team giving out gifts to those unhoused in the community



Shelter Staff assembling gifts for clients at Village of Hope and Naomi's House

Poverello House also provides holiday magic for those families who cannot provide gifts for their children because of financial reasons. Every year, Poverello House gives out over 3,000 toys to children who may not be able to have a present on Christmas Day. We want every child to feel the holiday joy of unwrapping a new toy and snuggling with stuffed animals. While getting their presents, the children get to walk through a winter wonderland complete with snow, music, and Santa. We hope that these children remember that their community cares about them despite their circumstances. For Poverello House, the holidays are a time for everyone who passes our way to feel loved and cared for.

Poverello House

Christmas Eve Toy Givaway

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
BEGINS AT 6 AM**

SERVING FAMILIES WHO ARE
IN NEED OF CHRISTMAS JOY

AGES 0-17

MERRY CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS EVE LUNCH
SATURDAY, DEC 24 AT 12 PM
POSOLE

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH
SUNDAY, DEC 25 AT 12 PM
TAMALES

POVERELLO HOUSE
412 F ST FRESNO CA 93706

Poverello House Thanksgiving 2022

We are grateful for all our guests who joined us for a warm and delicious Thanksgiving meal. We were blessed to serve over 280 people! Thank you volunteers, staff, board members, and donors that made this an extra special dinner.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Zack Darrah,
Chief Executive Officer

Relentless Hospitality During the Holidays

The holidays are a special time for so many of us. We get quality time with friends, family, and other loved ones. For many who we serve, this will not be part of their holiday season. The holidays are one of the most

depressing times for those without a home or suffering from addiction. Poverello House will never be able to replace the way holidays may have once been for many of those we serve. However, we do whatever we can to ensure that the holiday spirit can be felt on our campus. The holidays at Poverello House represent our commitment to our theme this year of "Relentless Hospitality." Relentless Hospitality is a warm cup of coffee, a shower, a safe bed, a sober life, and a place to call home. Relentless Hospitality provides free Wifi and charging stations so our clients can connect with

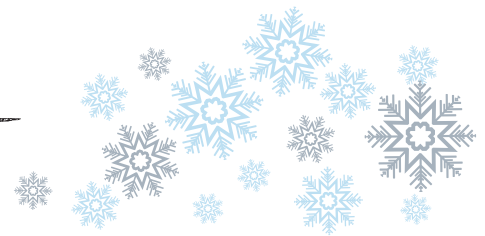
their families and loved ones. Serving people with Relentless Hospitality enables them to feel the spark of hope that they will be in their own homes with their families next holiday season. Relentless Hospitality is a journey, not a destination, so we hope to continue the theme into 2023.

Thank you, everyone, for allowing everyone to feel the spirit of this season on our campus for all who pass our way. As you think about ways to share this spirit, I hope you will think of Poverello House and generously join us in our continued journey of providing "relentless hospitality."

May your Christmas be filled with hope, peace, joy, and immeasurable love.

Blessings,


Zack



PETS AT POVERELLO HOUSE



The new kennel for unhoused pets coming to Poverello House soon.

Poverello House strives to provide clients with services with respect, dignity, and relentless hospitality. This philosophy applies to their pets. We understand that pets provide clients with emotional support and unconditional love. However, animal services are limited in Fresno County for those experiencing homelessness. Many clients struggle to provide their pets with vaccines, medical care, and spay and neuter services. To address pet needs, Poverello House partners with Westside Rescue to provide vaccinations and preventative care to clients' animals. Westside Rescue volunteers work with the clients at Poverello House to provide vaccines and transportation to spay and neuter services. Poverello House is also working to provide a safe and clean environment for pets while their owners seek services. This month, Poverello House will install a climate-controlled, aesthetically pleasing kennel for shelter clients and clients utilizing Poverello House's resources. In the upcoming year, Poverello House will work with veterinary providers such as the Valley Animal Center to ensure that our client's pets receive the care they need to thrive.



BIRDS OF A
FEATHER,
FEED TOGETHER
PET THANKSGIVING



Valley Animal Center staff prepared over 100 Pet-Friendly Thanksgiving dinner plates to feed the animals of those experiencing homelessness in our community.

