

# POVERELLO HOUSE

Quarterly Impact Volume 1

## LOOKING BACK ON A SEASON OF HOPE AND JOY!



As we reflect on the holiday season, we are filled with gratitude for our community's incredible support and generosity. From helping serve meals at Papa Mike's Café to lending a hand at our holiday events! Each act of kindness helped bring hope and joy to those in need. The heart of Poverello House thrives because of the countless volunteers and community supporters who shared their time and talents to make a difference.



For many, the holidays can be a difficult time. That's why we strive to elevate every experience at Poverello House and our shelters—because, for many, we may be the only family they spend the holiday season with.

We hosted our Grand Thanksgiving Buffet, where we had the privilege of serving over **600** guests. It was a beautiful celebration of togetherness. Guests enjoyed a hot, delicious meal and felt truly at home.

Our Christmas Eve Toy Giveaway was another remarkable moment of the season. We were able to provide toys to over **1,200** children. This event brought so much joy to families in need, making the holiday season a little brighter for those facing hardship. We are truly grateful for the community's unwavering support.

The children at our Family Hope Shelter were surprised with presents from Santa. Many of these children, too young to fully grasp the hardships their families are currently facing, were able to experience the magic of the holiday season.

These milestones are a testament to what we can achieve together. Thank you for helping us make 2024 a year of giving and joy. We look forward to all that we can accomplish together in the year ahead!



# MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Friends of Poverello House,

Happy New Year! We have officially arrived in 2025! Before we look forward, I want to reflect on the incredible year we just finished at Poverello House. There is so much to celebrate, but I will focus on two huge things.

First and foremost, last year, we opened Papa Mike's Café in January! Guests have had a dignified dining experience unlike any other in our community. We have

had countless guests experiencing homelessness and hunger who have an experience that changes their outlook on life at Papa Mike's Café. I have personally seen our guests show gratitude through tears. They had not been reminded of their dignity for a long time. They were reminded when they had their Papa Mike's Burger served to them just like they ordered it! I want to thank everyone who has helped make this possible this year. The road has not been an easy one. Running a restaurant is challenging and expensive. Yet, we served 307,760 meals at Papa Mike's Café in 2024. I assure you that it was all worth it.

In 2024, we also saw the expansion of the Men's Rehab Program in partnership with the California Reinvestment Grant Program. Our program was just one of five programs in the state to receive the maximum award. This allowed us to add a case manager, mental health support, overnight staff, a job developer, and more. We have already seen the impact this expansion has made. In 2024, we had 72 men graduate from the program. That is more than we have ever had graduate in a given year.

Most importantly, we are continuing to work hard daily to end homelessness. In fact, "ending homelessness, one person at a time" is our theme for this year. In 2024, we ended homelessness for 460 households. That means that 460 households ended their homelessness journey for good! Everything we do is about this very outcome.

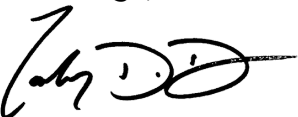
There is much to look forward to in 2025. I am thrilled to share that we will move our Naomi's House operations to the Holy Cross Center for Women! The current Naomi's House facility is far beyond its useful life. The new facility will provide dramatically better accommodations, a dedicated greenspace, a large kitchen, and much more! Through a generous grant from The Isnardi Foundation, we can cover the costs of the necessary renovations. We hope to have the women in the new facility by May.

I am also excited to share that we are beginning the process of building a new home for the Men's Rehab Program on the main campus! The current facility is comprised of more than 30-year-old modular trailers. They have served our needs well. It is time to invest in men in our community pursuing the best versions of themselves. I will share more details as they become available this year.

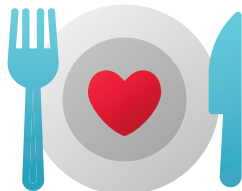
As you can see, this success does not happen in a vacuum. Much of this would be impossible without public and private partnerships that make it all possible. This would not be possible without you! In 2024, the community provided over 62,000 volunteer hours to serve those experiencing homelessness. Many of you who receive this newsletter donate financially. Many of you bring your used clothing, do collection drives, and help in other ways. We all share in the success because we are all part of it.

I look forward to continuing that partnership with you in 2025. Here's to another incredible year at Poverello House as we continue to end homelessness, one person at a time.

Blessings,



Zack Darrah



**307,760** meals served at  
Papa Mike's Café

Ended homelessness for  
**406** households



**72** men graduated from  
the Men's Rehab  
program

**OVER 62,000**  
volunteer hours





# Papa Mike's Café

## CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF PAPA MIKE'S CAFÉ!

We are proud to celebrate Papa Mike's Café's one-year anniversary. Over the past year, the café has served thousands of meals with dignity and care. Guests are not only nourished but also uplifted. It has become a place where everyone is welcomed and treated with relentless hospitality.

Papa Mike's Café is an evolution of what our founder, Mike "Papa Mike" McGarvin started more than 52 years ago with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

Together, we have created a space where dignity is always served. Each plate represents hope, care, and a commitment to helping those in need. We look forward to continuing the mission Papa Mike started years ago and celebrating many more milestones ahead.

Thank you  
very much  
for the kindness  
and respect  
shown to  
me during this  
difficult time.  
God bless you  
in your efforts to  
make a difference  
in the homeless  
community.  
Tanya



SCAN HERE

We will be sharing Poverello House News through printed **quarterly** newsletters and **monthly** e-newsletters. These updates will keep you informed about the impact of your generosity and the progress of our mission. To stay connected and never miss an update, sign up today!

## MIKE MCGARVIN HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Honoring a person(s) whose work is considered to replicate the spirit, values, and legacy of Mike McGarvin.

At the 2024 Gift of Hope Gala, Poverello House honored  
**Victor and Olga Salazar**

Olga dedicated 15 years to volunteering at Poverello House. With a tender heart and a deep passion for helping those experiencing homelessness, she volunteered almost daily, going far beyond her kitchen duties. Poverello House was her passion, and she inspired Victor to get involved. Leading him to serve as a board member for 11 years.



20  
25

# GOALS

1. Sign up for site tour (orientation) at Poverello House
2. Serve meals at Papa Mike's Café
3. Drop off gently used clothing and shoes at Poverello House
4. Make a monetary donation to support the mission of Poverello House

**SITE TOUR!  
(ORIENTATION)**



**DONATE TODAY!**

