



POVERELLO NEWS

SPECIAL EDITION VOL.7

POVERELLO HOUSE PROGRAM GROWTH

Since 2020, Poverello House has been advancing its services as an organization. New programs have been developed, and previous programs were reinforced. Community of Hope Emergency Shelter was a short-term project to assist the men experiencing homelessness during COVID-19. Naomi's House increased its bed count with a double-wide trailer to accommodate the influx of women becoming homeless from the pandemic. HOPE Outreach was created to begin client engagement from the streets, and the City of Fresno partnered with Poverello House for Project Off-ramp to shelter hundreds off the freeways. The Men's Rehabilitation Program has increased its bed count to offer rehab to those in need and upgraded its off-site sober living program.

In 2023, Poverello House opened two new shelters, Family Hope Shelter and Hope Pointe Emergency Shelter. Poverello House will now provide off-site office space for HOPE Outreach and a new program: Street Navigation! Street Navigation and Outreach/Navigation Specialist will begin a new endeavor of on-the-ground navigation. That means getting clients' document ready and fully equipped to enter a shelter to begin a permanent housing plan.

Hope Pointe is an emergency shelter that can provide beds for 124 individuals experiencing homelessness. Hope Pointe staff twenty-four



HOPE Outreach Staff

Client Services Specialists who handle the day-to-day shelter, six 24-Hour Security Specialist for the campus, five Case Managers to work with clients on a 90-day housing plan, and seven Outreach Specialists who will connect with individuals on the streets to offer shelter services at Hope Pointe.

Bobby Hubbard, Senior Director of Shelter Services, joined Poverello House with 20 years of social services experience. Bobby expressed that Poverello House's mission and beliefs were a natural fit for him. Assisting in opening two new shelters while joining the team, Bobby shared that his goal for his team is to ensure all clients feel cared for and are given the tools to be successful outside of a shelter. The staff has created a positive environment at Hope Pointe and warmly engages with clients throughout their stay. Bobby stated that his staff demonstrates the "Pov Spirit." He even stopped by Hope Pointe one night and saw staff doing arts and crafts with the night owls!

Bobby said that when he asked how clients felt about staying at Hope Pointe, clients said, "I finally feel free. There's no one watching over our shoulders or fear of assault and robbery." Providing a safe space for the unhoused community to get their ducks in a row is what the Poverello House is here for.

HOPE Outreach Specialist
Tianna PiacenteHOPE Outreach Specialist
Raymond Jackson

Hope Pointe Leadership

Bobby wants the public to know, **"ANYONE COULD BE IN THIS POSITION ONE DAY. ANYONE CAN WALK THIS JOURNEY, AND OUR CLIENTS SHOW INCREDIBLE PERSEVERANCE AND ARE COURAGEOUS SURVIVORS."**

2020

161,548 INDIVIDUALS WERE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.

2021

PROJECT OFF-RAMP 1.0 TRANSITIONED 650 INDIVIDUALS FROM FREEWAYS INTO EMERGENCY SHELTER.

2022

171,521 INDIVIDUALS WERE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.

2023

PROJECT OFF-RAMP 2.0 CITY OF FRESNO WILL REFURBISH MOTELS TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY SHELTER TO THE UNHOUSED COMMUNITY.

Sources:

Senate Housing Committee; Homelessness in California.

<https://shou.senate.ca.gov/sites/s hou.senate.ca.gov/files/Homelessness%20in%20CA%202020%20Numbers.pdf>

CalMatters; California's Homeless Population Increased - Again.

<https://calmatters.org/newsletters/whatmatters/2022/10/california-homeless-population-covid/>

Margaret Goddard joined Poverello House as Director of Hope Pointe's newly opened off-site shelter. Margaret ran a women's shelter in Hanford for 15 years, and while Hope Pointe has an increase of clients, she felt she was a good fit for the position. Since June, Margaret shared that clients are less guarded and have expressed that they get a peaceful night's rest, feel safe, and she has noticed more productivity during the day. Clients get excited about day-to-day items that most take advantage of, such as receiving their IDs and Social Security cards! Margaret wants people to realize these individuals have been dealt a rough hand but are attempting to get back on their feet. At Hope Pointe, each client will receive a fresh start towards a better future. Her goal for the emergency shelter is to empower staff to interact with clients while positively maintaining their housing plan goals and hopefully breaking the homeless cycle.

In June, HOPE Outreach made a significant move of those experiencing homelessness from Santa Clara Street to Hope Pointe Emergency Shelter. David Bouttavong, Outreach Specialist, shared that, "the move was fast and furious, but it felt incredible to finally tell the individuals we've been working with for weeks, months, or years 'today is the day, we have a bed for you'." Stacie Cerna, who went from Outreach Specialist to Hope Pointe Coordinator, shared that 80% of her outreach clients were brought into the emergency shelter! She expressed that the demeanor of her clients has changed drastically, including Connie, a client brought into Hope Pointe by HOPE Outreach. Connie

had been living in her car for the past four years and heard of Poverello House but only went to access services when she needed a shower and new clothes. Connie shared that she has been clean from crystal meth for ten months, and because of Case Manager Sarah Hernandez, she will soon have a home for her and her puppy. Connie said, "Poverello House has all you can ask for if you are in need, you just have to want the help."

Poverello House has creatively adjusted the organization to meet the needs of the unhoused community. Through providential and community support, we can provide for those in need, and we thank Fresno for all the years of their support.

H.O.P.E. Outreach team receives tips, locations and calls daily from the community to assist those experiencing homelessness.

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE RESOURCE CENTER:

**INFO@POVERELLOHOUSE.ORG
OR CALL 311**



**Poverello
House**

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Second Poverello House Building - A

POVERELLO GROWTH

WRITTEN BY JIM CONNELL • FEB 2007

"There are no great limits to growth because there are no limits of human intelligence, imagination, and wonder" - Ronald Reagan

The Poverello House is an excellent example of such human imagination and wonder. Mike McGarvin started Poverello House serving peanut butter and jelly sandwiches from the trunk of his car. With the help of people who imagined more than just feeding a few homeless people, Poverello has grown to feeds thousands of people.

Each project that Poverello has embarked upon started with the imagination of one person. The thought of providing shelter above and beyond a tent and developing a place of hope was the last large project accomplished by Poverello staff and community. The Mike McGarvin Jr. Village of Hope now provides a permanent feeling of home with a solid roof and walls. Men and couples are no longer wondering how to stay out of the cold and wet.

Five years ago Naomi's House opened as a women only shelter. The overnight shelter is named after Naomi, a woman the Old Testament portrays as dispossessed of home, family, and resources (Ruth 1:1) out on the streets,

where they may find violence, sexual abuse, and inhumane conditions can bow come inside and sleep with peace of mind.

Seven years ago, Poverello was able to pick up donations using 1 flat bed truck 3-4 days per week. Now we have two trucks going out 6 days per week to receive donations from the community such as food and clothing. This has meant an expansion on the grounds to include two warehouses where everything donated is out into the appropriate category and disseminated to the needy.

In 1992, a major expansion and renovation was completed, more than doubling the size of the building. The kitchen size doubled, allowing meals to be served 365 days a year. A large day room was added where the homeless could come in out of the weather and watch television or read. The laundry room, shower and clinic added several services not offered before.

During the 1970's, Poverello was located, at separate times, two different buildings on F St. Each of these buildings was less than 1500 square feet and services were minimal.

In the beginning, handing out peanut butter and jelly sandwiches from the trunk of a car. Imagination and wonderment brought us to where we are today. Our thanks to the community of Fresno for allowing us to continue imagining what was once thought of as unimaginable.

WHAT CAN WE DO NEXT?

THE HOMELESS POPULATION OF FRESNO IS NOT SHRINKING.



g - Acquired in 1977



Naomi's House is the only shelter in Fresno that was created for single women experiencing homelessness



Village of Hope 2007 Tuff Sheds



Poverello
House



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HOUSE

A Journey of Hope

LEARN MORE AT:
POVERELLOHOUSE.ORG



A MEAL. A BED. A PLAN.

DONATE TODAY