



POVERELLO NEWS

FEBRUARY 2024

CHARLES FARNSWORTH - 35 YEARS OF SERVICE



Board of Directors at the 2023 Gift of Hope Gala

Dr. Tushar Patel, Prashant Patel, Charles Farnsworth, and Guest of Charles.

Mike's Café, a no-cost restaurant on campus, was also established. Each of these represents the organization's continued growth and commitment to serving the community.

Beyond the growth over the last several years, Mr. Farnsworth has been here from the beginning of many services still ongoing today. For example, he was here for the implementation of Naomi's House, the first and only shelter catering to single women in Fresno County. He was a part of the beginning of essential services such as laundry and shower facilities to the unhoused community. As the current Board Chair, Charles is committed to ensuring the continuation of such magical moments. To that end, he hopes to secure steady funding and engage a robust volunteer base to sustain the operations of Papa Mike's Café. Additionally, he aims to leverage funding to support the Family Hope Shelter and oversee the navigation of families experiencing homelessness to secure permanent housing. Finally, Charles also seeks to expand the organization's workforce and retain valuable personnel.

Mr. Farnsworth was inspired by Mike McGarvin and his heart to help others. Mike's efforts are what drew people to the organization and why they kept coming back. Charles shared, "Mike was about feeding someone's stomach and spirit, and the staff today still hold to that." We look forward to Mr. Farnsworth's accomplishments during his time as Board Chair in 2024.

Over the last 35 years, Charles has witnessed remarkable growth within the organization. Notably, in 2013, the "5K Run for Meals" fundraiser was established, followed by the "Gift of Hope" Gala dinner in 2016. In 2017, the Raise the Roof Capital Campaign was launched. The efforts successfully generated funds for reconstructing the donation warehouse. In 2019, CEO Zack Darrah replaced Tuff Sheds with Pallet Shelter structures for the Village of Hope. The organization's 50th anniversary in 2023 marked a significant milestone, as staff expanded to over 180. The kitchen facilities and the dining room underwent complete renovations. A marketing campaign was launched to share the organization's story. Papa



Charles Farnsworth

Board of Directors and Mike McGarvin



EVERYONE'S JOURNEY IS DIFFERENT



Zack Darrah
Poverello House CEO

I first met Angie while walking the courtyard in the morning about four years ago. She stood out to me on that day because she was knitting and smoking a cigarette at the same time; that takes a lot of skill! She shared with me how knitting helped her manage her anxiety as she experienced homelessness on Santa Clara Street. I would learn that Angie battles severe mental illness, drug addiction, and several health issues.

with her! She shared with me that she appreciates that "all of you at Poverello House love me unconditionally through it all and allow me to choose my own path." She was connected to a street navigator, and her housing goal now is to live with "the love of her life."



Client Angie and Zack Darrah

Through hard work with staff, Angie was soon in a bed at Naomi's House. She would go back and forth from the shelter to the streets over the years. However, no matter where she might be, she always made it to Poverello House's Church Services. I witnessed her passionately encourage others as they battled the struggles of homelessness over the years. After two years of working on her sobriety, she found permanent housing at a room and board. She would often share that through Poverello House, she got her life back.

The journey is different for everyone we serve daily. While those we serve make many choices that we may not think are the best for them, we love them anyway. That is what the belief in the dignity of every person looks like. As much as we feel we are a blessing to others, Angie has blessed my life. She has encouraged me during a few dark days, taught me much about faith, and has been a wonderful friend. I know I have received so much more from her than I could ever give in return.

I wish that was where the story ended!

After incredible efforts by staff, Angie and Charles have been housed together in a fantastic permanent housing situation! They were housed the week before Christmas and were overcome with emotions during their moving process. Angie shared with her navigator, "It is nice to finally get off the ground."

However in 2023, Angie was on the streets once again. She chose to leave her housing because she reunited with her ex-husband, Charles. He made the journey by bus from Georgia to be

Stories like Angies are why Poverello House has been dedicated to the unhoused community for the past 51 years. Everyone's journey is different, but we love them all the same.

Blessings,

Zack



(left to right) Navigator Jerry Torres, Clients Angie and Charles, and MAP Point Coordinator Tarrah Wittman

A MEAL. A BED. A PLAN. BEHIND THE SCENES OF POVERELLO HOUSE

In 2022, Poverello House held its first-ever "Call for Hope" Telethon, a new initiative to raise funds. The Telethon has become an annual event and is now in its third year in collaboration with ABC 30. Included in the fundraising event is the 30-minute special aimed at showcasing the organization's contributions to the Fresno community. The mini-documentary features Poverello House's programs, services, and stories of hope.

BLARE Media, a local video production crew, has partnered with Poverello House to provide cinematography for the special. The team has immersed themselves in the organization's mission and captured the essence of the "Pov Way." This includes the empathy and dedication of the staff, successful client housing, and genuine stories shared by community members. Team members from BLARE Media Joel Janecek (Senior Producer and Account Executive) and Mauricio Tapia (Lead Editor and Cinematographer) have become valuable contributors. They fully embrace the Poverello House spirit and highlight the organization's daily work.

Poverello House's core values, known as "The Pov Way," are rooted in the legacy of its founder, Mike McGarvin. Mike's philosophy was, "listen with compassion; give with a warm heart and a smile." To develop that philosophy, in 2022, CEO Zack Darrah introduced "Relentless Hospitality" as the theme for the year. Poverello House is dedicated to providing daily hospitality, which includes delivering friendly, welcoming, and responsive services to our guests. In addition, we have expanded our services to include enrichment activities at our shelters. Enrichment activities include such things as painting, bingo, clothing distribution days, and many other initiatives aimed at providing comfort and joy to our guests. Our staff is committed to demonstrating the Poverello House spirit every day. This is true whether it's for guests staying in our shelters or those just passing through for a meal or a shower. The 30-minute special perfectly captures the essence of the Poverello House's mission.



BLARE Media Cinematographer Mauricio Tapia interviewing Zack Darrah for the 2023 Journey of Hope 30-Minute Special.



POVERELLO HOUSE
CALL FOR HOPE
TELETHON

April 18
2024

Tune In To Our ABC 30 Special:

April 14, 2024 | 6:30 pm



Hope Pointe Shelter Activities
Clients created Key-chains for their keys when they are housed!



Naomi's House Shelter Activities
Clients painting on canvases!



THANK YOU, KAISER PERMANENTE FRESNO!

Over 60 volunteers from Kaiser Permanente served at Poverello House in honor of the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., for the MLK Day of Service.

Kaiser Permanente has partnered with Poverello House for 10 Years!

Everyday can be a day of service at Poverello House. Want to Volunteer?

Visit our website today! www.poverellohouse.org