



POVERELLO NEWS

JANUARY 2024

POVERELLO HOUSE 2023 RECAP 50 YEARS OF HOPE



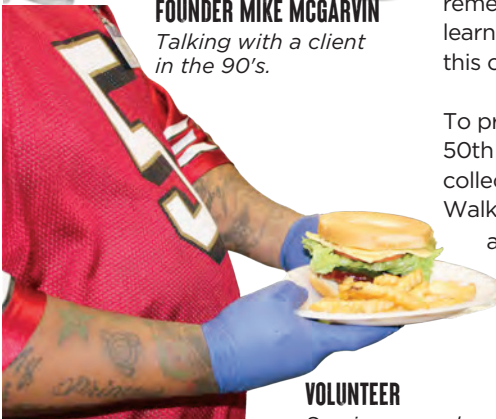
FOUNDER MIKE MCGARVIN

Talking with a client in the 90's.

In 2023, Poverello House celebrated 50 years of dedicated service to the unhoused and poverty-stricken individuals in Fresno County. During this monumental year, staff remained committed to the mission of believing in the dignity of every person. The organization accomplished a great deal, including renovating our kitchen and dining room, onboarding over 100 staff, opening two new shelters, and introducing a new program.

In honor of our founder, a Memorial was constructed to ensure that the story of "Papa Mike" and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches will never be forgotten. The beautiful mosaic-mural and fountain structure was built in the campus courtyard. For those who knew him, they can remember him. For those who did not, they can learn about who he was and the impact he made in this community.

To preserve his story, Poverello House reprinted 50th editions of Mike McGarvin's works, his collection of photography, entitled "On the Level: Walking the Streets with Mike McGarvin," and his autobiography "Papa Mike." We displayed his love of photography at the Art Hop event in May. In honor of Mike's legacy, three local photographers endeavored to recreate his vision of raising awareness of the unhoused community. Mike's photographs, which he captured during his years of service, are both powerful and enduring. They inspire us to serve those in need.



VOLUNTEER

Serving a meal

NAVIGATOR JERRY TORRES



Providing services to unsheltered clients.

Poverello House commemorated our 50th Anniversary with a celebration to honor all past and present volunteers, donors, board members, and community members who have supported the organization. The event featured the Poverello House Mobile Café, which served PB&J-inspired sliders, chili cups, and mushroom hors d' oeuvres. The event was also a moment to recognize community members who have had a profound and lasting impact on the organization. There is a very long list of these special people!

During the 2023 Gift of Hope Gala, we recognized a remarkable individual who made an incredible impact on Poverello House. Mary McGarvin's unwavering support and love for Mike provided him with the motivation and encouragement to pursue his goals with Poverello House. The first-ever "Papa Mike McGarvin Humanitarian Award" was presented to Mary at the Gala. Who could be a better awardee than the woman who stood by her husband's side from the very first day?

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for your unwavering generosity and support towards our mission of serving the unhoused community. As we reflect on the past 50 years, we are grateful for the partnership and dedication of individuals like you. You walk alongside us in our shared goal of enriching the lives and spirits of all who pass our way. Moving forward, we will continue advancing our mission, which begins with believing in the dignity of every person. Thank you for being an instrumental part of our journey these past 50 years.

Want to nominate someone for 2024? Email info@poverellohouse.org

MIKE MCGARVIN HUMANITARIAN AWARD

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

At the 2023 Gift of Hope Gala, Poverello House honored it's first awardee.

2023 AWARDEE

Honoring Mary McGarvin with the Mike McGarvin Humanitarian Award. Honoring the love and spirit of all who pass our way.

MARY MCGARVIN

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Zack Darrah
Poverello House CEO

A YEAR TO REMEMBER

Happy New Year! Before we begin to look forward, let's look back at an incredible 2023. Last year was a year like no other in our history. It is staggering what was accomplished.

First and foremost, we celebrated 50 years of enriching the lives and spirits of all who pass our way at Poverello House. Our roots were planted by Papa Mike in 1973 through the heart of love, dignity, and a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. It is these roots that have anchored our work for five decades. We continue to rely on these roots as we further the spirit of what he envisioned.

The 50th Anniversary year will be one that we will remember for well into the future. The impacts of last year will continue to be felt here for decades. The Papa Mike Memorial, complete with a stunning glass mosaic and fountain, has become the focal point of the courtyard accessed daily by those we serve. He will always be remembered, and we will never forget where we came from. The incredible kitchen renovation was completed last year. Food has been at our roots since the first day of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches served from the back of Papa Mike's car. Through the support of Fresno County and others, we have a state-of-the-art kitchen facility that will serve many needing a meal for several decades into the future. I will also never

forget celebrating with nearly 600 guests who attended our 50th Anniversary "Gift of Hope" Gala at Table Mountain's new Event Center.

Those are just a few highlights! That list did not include the opening of the Family Hope Shelter, the opening of the Hope Pointe shelter (in partnership with the City of Fresno), the printing of 50th Anniversary editions of Papa Mike's books, the beautiful Art Hop event, the envisioning of Papa Mike's Café (grand opening this month), the 30-minute ABC 30 special looking at the past five decades of our work, and so much more. I really cannot believe that we accomplished all of this in 2023.

While we accomplished so much, there is much more yet to do. We will celebrate last year, remember it fondly, and know that we did our 50th anniversary to the fullest extent of our abilities! The pace of this work and the urgent truth that lives are at stake mean there is no time to rest. We will continue to advance our mission with the same vigor as last year. We will do so because our community needs us to. There is plenty more enriching the lives and spirits of all who pass our way to do this year!

All of the 50th Anniversary accomplishments were possible because of you! We do nothing on our own. Poverello House only exists because this incredible community allows it to. Thank you for giving financially last year. Thank you for sharing your time last year to volunteer on our campus. Thank you for driving down some clothing through our donation lane. Thank you for your prayers and trust.

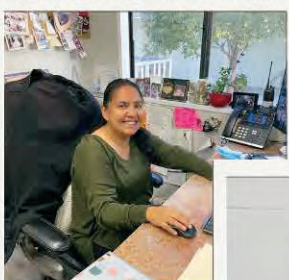
Most of all, I thank God for providing everything we needed to accomplish all we did last year. He did the miraculous, just as He has done here from the beginning. Look at all He did with one man, with the belief in the dignity of every person, and a trunk full of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches! To God be the glory.

Humbly,

Zack

AT THE HEART OF THIS ORGANIZATION ARE THE DEDICATED STAFF MEMBERS WHO HAVE COMMITTED DECADES OF THEIR LIVES TO CONTINUING THE WORK OF OUR FOUNDER, PAPA MIKE.

YEARS OF SERVICE



LETY 17 YEARS

Family Hope Shelter Coordinator



PAUL 28 YEARS

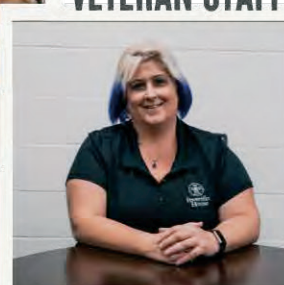
Chief Operations Officer



EDSEL 21 YEARS

Warehouse Specialist

FROM OUR VETERAN STAFF



SARA 10 YEARS

Chief Programs Officer

NEW YEAR, NEW PROGRAM, NEW SHELTERS.

Poverello House has marked its milestone 50th anniversary by opening two new shelters and a client services program. These new off-site shelters include the Family Hope Shelter and Hope Pointe Shelter. This year also saw the launch of the Street Navigation program.

On April 25th, the Family Hope Shelter officially opened its doors. Poverello House has always served families, but had never operated an emergency shelter for families experiencing homelessness. The shelter caters to unhoused families, offering critical resources and case management to aid in securing permanent housing. Situated in a private location, the ambiance of the shelter ensures a safe and comfortable stay for up to 9 families at a time. Additionally, the shelter provides three daily meals, personal apartment units, and laundry services. The dedicated staff at Family Hope Shelter are committed to delivering personalized and compassionate care to every family. They also work tirelessly to ensure each family has a plan for securing permanent housing. The Family Hope Shelter is undoubtedly a beacon of hope for unhoused families in our community.

Through a partnership with the City of Fresno, Hope Pointe Shelter began welcoming clients on June 12th. The primary objective of this shelter is to assist clients in attaining document-readiness and transitioning to permanent housing within a 90-day timeframe. Hope Pointe Shelter provides case management and client services to help residents regain their footing. The shelter provides three meals daily, enrichment events, and overnight activities to ensure residents are comfortable during



STREET NAVIGATION SPECIALIST

Client and Vanessa Reyes

their stay. Hope Pointe Shelter has the capacity to accommodate up to 127 clients. By integrating housing, case management, and client services, Hope Pointe Shelter aims to empower its residents to overcome homelessness.

The Street Navigation program is an innovative program that assists anyone who is unhoused with navigating directly from the streets to permanent housing. The program was designed because there are not enough emergency shelter beds in Fresno to serve everyone who is experiencing homelessness. However, there are still ways to secure housing without going through a shelter bed. The team also includes a Street Clinician, who provides clinical mental health services directly on the street. The Street Navigation program has a holistic approach to finding solutions to homelessness.

Just this month, the Street Navigation Program celebrated its first housed client! Cynthia Espinoza, Street Navigation Specialist, worked with Alfonzo from August 2023 to January 2024. Alfonzo shared that he had experienced homelessness for several years and struggled to find success with previous shelters and case management programs. He shared that he needed more encouragement and hands-on assistance. By working with Street Navigation, Alfonzo could receive case management in his preferred locations. This helped him to stay on course with his documentation and housing services. He noted that Cynthia provided a great deal of encouragement and assisted him in reconnecting with the Department of Behavioral Health to address his mental health needs.



STREET NAVIGATION TEAM FIRST CLIENT HOUSED

STREET NAVIGATION SPECIALISTS

(left to right) Phillip Rocha, Housed Client Alfonzo, Cynthia Espinoza, & Raymond Jackson



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

PAPA MIKE'S CAFÉ NEEDS:

- SERVERS
- BUSSERS
- ORDER WINDOW
- DISH WASHERS

To get involved, visit our website or reach out to Front of House Coordinator, Mary Sosa!

www.poverellohouse.org
msosa@poverellohouse.org

SCAN
ME

