

POVERELLO HOUSE

A welcoming place

Tucson, Arizona

Vol. 8 Issue 2 Winter, 2016



*Serving others
In the
Franciscan Tradition,
Poverello House*

provides daytime hospitality for the homeless that includes opportunity for breakfast, lunch, laundry and showers as well as clothing.

WHAT SOME FOLKS ARE SAYING ABOUT POVERELLO HOUSE

John—a long time volunteer: For a lot of folks it is a home away from home, and it always feels welcoming. It is special because it means a day off the streets. Many of the guests have told me that it is the one day a week they look forward to.

A Friday Guest: I'm glad Poverello House is here. It is one of the few places I can come to and relax a bit. Also, the food is pretty good—much better than most other places.

Another Friday Guest: Poverello House is a blessing. That is what I want to say. It is a blessing!

Sylvia, Board Member and long-time volunteer: Poverello House is a fun place to visit with the guys. Once a month I cook Mexican food for them. I have enjoyed volunteering there for the last 7 years.

RELYING ON OTHERS

Having opened our doors in October 2008, we are in our 8th year of service to our homeless friends in Tucson. We've been open almost 2000 days, offering breakfast and lunch, showers and loads of laundry to our 9-10 invited guests who come each day. Doing the math, that is close to 20,000 breakfasts, lunches, loads of laundry and showers.

You can imagine the toll it has taken on our rented homes and appliances. We have done many repairs on various components of the two houses. Things that are worn out because of our extraordinary heavy use, we pay for. On other normal wear and tear we usually share the expense with our landlords. Our board of directors has decided, at this time, to seriously consider making an offer to purchase the property. So we ask for your prayers and support as we begin this important discernment process with our landlords.

I spent most of last year helping my aging parents at their home in suburban St. Louis County, Missouri. It was a cultural shock to once again live in the midst of suburban life—keeping the yard mowed, the flowers watered, visiting with old and new neighbors, watching the TV news daily and getting to celebrate birthdays and holidays with the extended family.

While there with mom and dad last year, I had a deep sense of gratefulness to all our volunteers, board members and supporters that the daily life of Poverello House continued. At the same time, I had a sense of the preciousness of my time with mom (84) and dad (86). From the moment of our birth, we rely on others. As we grow older, others rely on us. Our Poverello House guests rely on us to provide their “oasis day” off of the streets. Please continue to journey with us as we contemplate the purchase of a house.

Yours in Christ and Francis,

David Buer, ofm



***“Where
there is
hatred let
me sow
love.”***

***Prayer of Saint
Francis***



MIKE: RETURNING IT DOWN THE LINE

In Mike’s opinion, Poverello House is a great place! He knows it both as a former guest enjoying the hospitality of a day off of the street and, more recently, as a live-in staff person. When invited to join the staff by Marty when Shane was moving on in August, Mike jumped at the opportunity. Responding to the question of why he wanted to work at Poverello House, Mike told a story. At the age of 15, he decided to leave his home in New Jersey and strike out on his own. While hitch-hiking, he was picked up by a fellow and brought to a truck stop in Ohio. When the driver said good-bye to Mike, he gave him a military field jacket and \$50. Mike asked how he could pay the guy back. The driver’s response was that he should “return it down the line.” For Mike, the work that he does at Poverello is a way to “return it” for that act of generosity and for all who have helped him over the years.

What Mike enjoys most about his work is hearing someone say “I’m full” or “Thanks, I really need that.” He related a rather humorous story about an incident at Poverello. One day he was in the yard talking to his Dad on the phone. He looked up and saw one of the guys coming out of the house wearing only a towel! Mike was quick to firmly tell the guy to go get some clothes on! His Dad got a good laugh on the other end.

Mike likes to fix things up. Recently he found some discarded furniture in the alley. He refinished a table and gave it to a friend. He also put a new top on a small table that Marty is now enjoying as a bedside table. All at Poverello House benefit from Mike’s dedication, many talents, and good humor.

GETTING TINK OUT OF THE CLINK

If you have ever lived in a city, or, actually, anywhere, you are familiar with dogs that have no home. In the worst cases they are completely un-socialized and form packs for foraging and hunting, like their cousins the coyotes or wolves. But this is not the case with Tinkerbelle.

Tinkerbelle has an owner, Karl, who just happens to be homeless. She is well loved. Her needs are met, and she meets most of Karl’s needs. In fact, Tinkerbelle is Karl’s life. It is just like the relationship between many housed humans and their animals.

Karl and Tink live in Karl’s van. They have been together for 6 years, since she was a little puppy.

If you have been on Soup Patrol to Estevan Park (a ministry that brings soup and hot chocolate to the homeless), you have probably met Karl and Tinkerbelle. On cold nights, Tink is secured inside Karl’s jacket and just her head pokes out. Karl is also a regular guest at Poverello House. If you have spent any time there on Wednesdays, you will have met Tink.

Karl was in his van with some friends last December when they noticed that something was wrong with him. In fact, they were pretty sure he was having a heart attack. It took a little bit of time to find someone who had a driver’s license to take him to the VA hospital. Karl was admitted and the friends took Tink to the home of another friend. While Karl was being treated, Tink must have decided that she didn’t like her temporary home, so she made an escape about a day later. Karl got a phone call informing him that Tink had gone missing, and Karl went code blue!

Anyhow, Tinkerbelle is a small dog, a dachshund. She is a pure bred, red and white and very cute. So it is something we might call good luck that she didn’t fall victim to a worse fate than what actually happened to her. The guys at Poverello House were in communication with Karl. When Karl learned that Tinkerbelle had gone missing he was ready to give up. So Mike, our resident manager and computer geek found a way to go on line by tethering his friend’s smart phone to his lap top and began to search for Tink. She was at the animal shelter. So Mike put together a rescue unit to go pick her up and return her to Karl upon his release from the hospital. Turns out that it costs \$157 to bail a dog out of the klink. A small price to pay considering the joy it brought to Karl.

Poverello House is a full service house of hospitality.



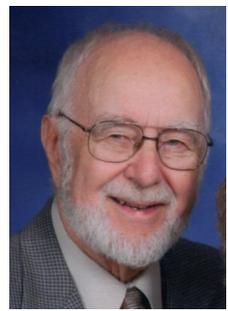
WHERE YOUR DONATIONS WILL BE SPENT
 Budget for September, 2015 –August, 2016

Income

individual donors	13,000.00
newsletter	14,000.00
fundraising dinner	7,000.00
Church	3,000.00
Pay Pal	2,000.00
Grants	18,000.00
Total Income	57,000.00

Expense

bank fee	30.00
cash award	500.00
health care contribution	5,400.00
maintenance	3,000.00
food and supplies	12,000.00
sewer, water, trash	3,504.00
electricity	2,000.00
gas	2,000.00
house rent	13,200.00
PO box rental	82.00
books, subscriptions	300.00
postage, mailing service	1,300.00
printing and copying	500.00
supplies	996.00
telephone, telecommunications	201.00
cable	1,104.00
annual fee	200.00
fund raising expense	1,500.00
necessities	1,992.00
iInsurance - liability, D and O	1,032.00
background check	102.00
other costs	5,328.00
gasoline	500.00
staff expense	200.00
on going education	29.00
Total Expense	57,000.00



In Loving Memory

In October, Poverello House lost a long time friend and supporter. Ed Reissner died on October 21st. Since its opening, Ed had helped cook meals, spent time with the guests, and (being the husband of the newsletter editor), did lots of writing for, proof reading, and mailing of newsletters. His gentle, caring presence is missed by the staff, guests, and other volunteers.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS MUCH APPRECIATED

The Outreach Ministry at Corpus Christi Catholic Community in Tucson (CCCC) has provided Christmas gifts for the men at Poverello House for the past 5 years. The gifts consisted of a small pack of some kind with socks, undies, toiletries and many warm pieces of clothing that parishioners had donated.

However, this past Christmas, when Marty, the Poverello House staff person, was asked what the parish might provide that would really be a gift for the men, he suggested gift cards. He explained that they would be a true gift for the men could spend them however they wished.

The response of the parish Outreach Committee was “Why Not?” So the Outreach Ministry from CCCC, headed by Anna Elias-Cesnik (who is a monthly donor of food to Poverello), with the help of generous parishioners, came up with 60 gift cards. Each was packaged in a sports bag with 2 pair socks, cookies, some small toiletries, and a wish for a good New Year.

Special thanks to the Outreach Committee and the parishioners at CCCC for helping to make Christmas at Poverello House 2015 a joyful time.



The house has a new side roof and two new flat screen TV s. Thanks to all who donate their labor and money to make such improvements possible.

We want with all our hearts to love, to be loved. And not just in the family but to look upon all as mothers, sisters, brothers, children. It is when we love the most intensely and most humanly, that we recognize how tepid is our love for others. The keenness and intensity of love brings with it suffering, of course, but joy too because it is a foretaste of heaven.
 Dorothy Day, *On Pilgrimage*, April 1948

Poverello House costs about \$4000 a month to operate. Any donation that you can contribute will be put right to use to help pay for our rent, utilities, supplies, and food. Please use the enclosed envelope to make a tax-exempt donation (residents of Arizona can also receive a tax credit).

Checks may be made payable to Poverello House.

Thank you.

Our Wish List—

- ◆ **Your financial support** for the mission of Poverello House.
- ◆ Folks to occasionally **provide lunch** for Poverello guests. The house is open from Wednesday to Sunday.
- ◆ **Volunteers to spend time at Poverello.** A 4 hour shift, either from 8 AM to 12 noon or from 12 noon to 4 PM, once a month, can make a difference.
- ◆ **Donations of used or new MEN'S clothing.** The items most frequently requested are SOCKS, T-shirts, jeans, and comfortable underwear. (There is a **special need for men's jeans/pants, sizes 28-32.**)
- ◆ The *wisdom* and the finances to buy the current or another house in the near future!

Want to help? Call Br. David at 314-803-6735



Poverello House
P.O. Box 50782
Tucson, 85703



“Jesus goes and heals and integrates the marginalized, the ones who are outside the city, the ones outside the encampment. In so doing, he shows us the way.”



The Name of God is Mercy, Pope Francis, 2016

The Poverello House newsletter is printed with the generous support of the Most Holy Trinity Catholic Community in Tucson. Special thanks to Fr. Tom, Vicki Myers and the MHT staff.

Also, special thanks are due to the 2015-16 group of Jesuit Volunteers working here in Tucson and their mentor, Jerry Ledesma, for their help with the end of the year mailing.

To learn more about Poverello House visit www.tucsonpoverello.com