



POVERELLO HOUSE

A welcoming place

Tucson, Arizona

Vol. 8 , Issue 1 Spring, 2018

MEMORIES, AS WE APPROACH OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Although we opened the doors of Poverello House in October 2008, our first newsletter did not appear until the Spring of 2009. One of our first guests, Paul Geen, was absolutely enthused about our daytime hospitality. He'd be bragging on us each week, so much so that I said he should write an article for our first newsletter...and he did! Tragically, we published his article posthumously, because he caught a serious illness, and died suddenly from his years on the streets. We had an ecumenical prayer service for Paul, under his favorite tree in Estevan Park. His friend Wayne, who came with Paul to Poverello House, was there at the service with a Unitarian Universalist minister, Paul's brother from Massachusetts, and a couple of dozen of Paul's friends. Below are some quotes from Paul's article in Vol. 1 No. 1 issue of our newsletter.

Also that year, my cousin, Alan Smith, visited Poverello House from our family's hometown of Granite City, Illinois. He was inspired to write a poem that was included in our first issue. It is also included in this issue. Alan died late last year, so it is a bit emotional to recall his gentle soul through his poetry.

A couple of weeks ago, I was on the Most Holy Trinity Soup Patrol, and at our last stop of the night, at the parking lot of Santa Cruz Church, one of the homeless guests used a walker and came up to me. He said, "Br. David, don't you recognize me? It's Wayne, Paul Geen's friend." We hugged and recalled our memories of the beginning of Poverello House. And we remembered our friend, Paul Geen, who was known on the streets at the "mayor" of the homeless camp to the west of Estevan Park, by the railroad tracks.

Br. David Buer, ofm

From Paul Geen's article, "Poverello House Tucson"

"...The homeless women population of Tucson have had a place to go called Casa Paloma, or as we call it, the "Pink House." Now we men, who are fortunate enough to be chosen to come to the Poverello House one day a week, can now enjoy some basic privileges that are just not available to an average homeless man.

"The Poverello House not only enables us to clean our clothes and bodies once a week but allows us to feel somewhat normal for a day. We can eat our fill of nutritious food that is provided. We can take a nap, watch TV or read a book, magazine or paper inside with all the comforts of "home."

"Please help us improve our society by helping those who are trying to give back and get each [person] to normalcy and productivity.....Please support this effort to help us get back on track."



Pace e Bene
Peace & Goodness

POVERELLO HOUSE
by Alan Smith May 2009

Sheltering
Many different eyes
Journeyman of life
Sharing love for another
Glimpse of hope
Carrying many crosses
Common denominator
Have extending souls to harmonize
hearts
Open up at the end

Did You Know....

- Almost all of Poverello House's guests walk to the house.
- Some walk as much as 2 hours each way..
- The average one-way walk time is 51 minutes and the average distance is 2.7 miles..

No wonder their shoes are worn out.



Board Members: Anne Reissner, Sylvia Eberling, Vicki Myers, Jeanette Arnquist, Amy Arnold, Br. David, and Brick Wall

On December 2nd, members of the Poverello House Board gathered for a day of evaluation and planning. The wording of the mission statement below is one of the outcomes of that day.

Serving in the Franciscan Tradition, Poverello House of Tucson is a homelike place of welcome and a safe environment providing daytime rest, food, laundry facilities, showers, and companionship for homeless men.

SERMON ON THE AMOUNT

Poverello House guests, staff and board of directors are grateful to the generosity of each of you who sends in checks or donates on line. Every contribution is important to us, and we realize that not only are the donors sharing their resources with us, but they are taking the time to think about homelessness, and about our small effort to bring a sense of home to some of the men who live on the streets of Tucson.

It costs us about \$6000 each month to keep the doors open. Of that, over \$1000 is for food, and most of the rest goes for rent and utilities. (It takes a lot of water for 12 - 14 showers and loads of laundry each day.) That works out to about \$100 per month for each guest or \$25 for each guest each day that they visit the house.

As we approach summer, we know that the donations will drop to a minimum. Yet our operating costs remain about the same. We have faith each year that we can get to October without running out of cash.

So we are asking you if you would be willing to become **a sustaining donor**. That means making a donation every month (or it could be once each quarter.) You can write a check each month, or your bank can set it up for you, or you can make a monthly donation through PayPal on our web site. No matter how you do it, we appreciate your continued support and generosity.

Make new friends but keep the old—One is silver and the other gold

TWO OF THE MANY NEW LUNCH MAKERS

Kim Dickinson learned about the Poverello House through a fellow volunteer, Brick Wall, at the St. Francis Shelter . Kim explained that her experience with the homeless in Tucson, or anywhere else, was very limited. She knew there were unmet needs, but finding a way to connect proved more difficult. When Brick mentioned that there was an opportunity for her to provide a monthly meal at Poverello, she was happy to help.

Reflecting on the experience of being a Poverello lunch maker, Kim said: “I have always felt a strong need to connect people and food. The food and soul of my kitchen have been a source of love, pride, and comfort, and they represent the best that I can give. Food is a symbol of love when words are inadequate. Being able to prepare a meal for the guests of Poverello House is a humbling and rewarding experience.”

Kim prepares the lunch with the help of her friend Karen Gove. Speaking of their experience, she says: “We strategize for days about what we should make and how to make it unique and delicious. I usually look through cookbooks and magazines to find meal ideas that are filling and satisfying. So far, we have not had to repeat a menu. Last month we made poppyseed chicken, and the month before we made a shepherd’s pie. Karen makes wonderful cookies so we try to always bring enough for leftovers. We also bring lunch meat and bread so that there may be something left to take for the road. I enjoy bringing food that I know that I would serve to my dearest friends.

ONE OF THE MANY OLD (SEASONED) LUNCH MAKERS

Sylvia Ebeling, who is currently serving as the Poverello Board secretary, started volunteering at Poverello House in January, 2009. While she was chatting and swapping recipes with Gary, who was then one of the house managers, a volunteer walked in with an aluminum pan of food to share with the guests. She asked about it, and Gary explained that volunteers could cook a lunch for the guests if they wanted to do so.

When first making lunches, Sylvia started off with making sloppy-joes and casseroles. Then a couple of the men asked if she cooked Mexican food. Much to the delight of the men, she now always makes a Mexican menu. Of her experience, Sylvia states: “I have been making lunch for about nine years. I like to visit with the guests on the day I bring lunch. I arrive about 10:30am and start warming up the food and chat with the guys. After lunch, I extend my visit by staying to help clean up.”

Some of her favorite lunches are: tacos, enchiladas, fajitas, chile con carne, tamales and always Mexican rice, beans, tortillas and homemade salsa with chips. If you happen to visit Poverello House on the first Sunday of the month, you will witness the fact that Sylvia really enjoys cooking for the Poverello House, and that the guests enjoy the Mexican feast that she provides.



PARTNER PARISHES

On Sunday afternoon, February 4th, two cars arrived at Poverello House. Both were packed full of good, useful “stuff” for the Poverello House guests. That weekend, a special drive called “Stock the Shelves” was held at St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Oro Valley. Each month on the second weekend, the parish has a *Disciples in Action* event. Various groups in the parish (for example: the Knights of Columbus, the Cactus Comfort Group, etc.) coordinate the outreach for that month. In February, the Care and Justice Council facilitated a drive for Poverello House. A member of that group, Maureen St. Pierre, visited Poverello House and obtained a list of items the guests could use (body wash, shampoo, men's socks, Kool-Aid powder, lemonade powder, breakfast bars, single use razors, men's clothing, etc.). The list, along with information about Poverello House, was published in the bulletin for two weeks prior to the collection. All this happened with the strong support of Fr. John Arnold, the pastor. Thanks to him and to the generous folks of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish.



St. Mark the Evangelist Parish

“We aspire to embody God's presence by sharing our gifts and welcoming all” is a quote taken from the mission statement of Corpus Christi Catholic Community in Tucson. One way that the parish is living out its mission statement is in the generous sharing of gifts with Poverello House. Coordinated by the Outreach Committee at Corpus Christi, Poverello House received all of the makings for Thanksgiving “dinner” for each day the house was open during Thanksgiving week. At Christmas time, hams for lunches were provided and, in addition, each guest received a sports shoulder bag containing socks, underwear, toiletries and a \$25.00 gift card to Walmart. The parish has been providing bags for each man for the last six seven years. Poverello House is part of the parish clothing collection program, and appropriate t-shirts, jeans, jackets and shoes are donated when available. Thanks to the pastor, Fr. Christopher Orndorff, to the members of the Outreach Committee, and to the people of Corpus Christi for being an example of a parish living out its mission.



The Sonoran Christ

The Altar Cross at Corpus Christi Parish



St Patrick's Community Scottsdale

Poverello House is touched by the Franciscan Spirit in many ways by people both near and far! Cheryl Cook, a Third Order Franciscan, and Jon Denny, a Franciscan at heart, attend daily Mass at St. Patrick Catholic Community in Scottsdale, AZ. Periodically, with the support of fellow daily Mass goers and others in the parish, they collect “stuff” for Poverello House including money, clothing— warm jackets and hats in winter and socks, shirts and our friends from Scottsdale are warmly welcomed at Poverello House by staff members, Darren and Bill. We are grateful for the on-going support of our friends in Scottsdale.

We also send our thanks to pastor, Fr. Larry Sanders, C.Ss.R., and the people of Santa Catalina Parish, Tucson, for a generous donation to Poverello House made from the collection in their “poor box”.

If you have an idea of how your parish can become a supporting parish of the ministry of Poverello House, please be in contact. If you would like Br. David Buer, ofm to visit and speak at your parish or if you would like to receive information about Poverello House including a PowerPoint presentation about Poverello House, call Anne at 520 908 7239.

GOOD NEWS:

The Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Tucson has recently approved a grant to Poverello House that will provide backpacks and sneakers for our guests, . Thank you, Bishop Weisenburger and the Board of the Catholic Foundation.

SUMMER COOKS NEEDED

During the summer months—May thru August—some of our regular lunch makers head to cooler places. If you (and a friend) could help by providing lunch once a month during those months, please call Anne at 520 908 7239.

OUR WISH LIST

Our live-in staff at Poverello House, Bill and Darren, have given us a “Wish List” with the hope that the items listed below might be donated.

- ◆ Living room furniture
- ◆ Patio furniture
- ◆ Mattresses that are made of plastic washable material (sometimes referred to as institutional pads)

All the above items need to be made of materials that can be wiped down daily—no cloth or plastic please (plastic doesn't last long outside). A couch or chair that is made of leather-like material or vinyl would be perfect for the living room. Patio furniture made of sturdy metal is preferable. Our objective is to get comfortable furniture for our guests that is both durable and easily kept clean. To make a donation of any of the above call 520.624.0589.

Poverello House costs about \$6000 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.



Poverello House
P.O. Box 50782
Tucson, 85703

To learn more about Poverello House visit www.tucsonpoverello.com or visit us on FACEBOOK

A DOG TREAT: Occasionally Bella, a little shih-tzu owned by Edna and Tom Greene, stands by the car wanting to get in rather than go for her daily walk. While we never know what goes on in a little dog's mind, it is possible that she is looking for a ride to visit her friends at Poverello House. Often when Edna and Tom, who are long time volunteers at Poverello, bring lunch and stay to visit the guests, they bring Bella along. She is not a therapy dog, but she thinks she is one! She loves to make others happy with tail wags, lap visits and doggie kisses! The guests enjoy her playfulness and reward her with their smiles. If it happens that Edna or Tom bring lunch but not Bella, the men want to know why she is not with them. In fact, one evening when Edna was serving with the “Soup Patrol”—the ministry from Most Holy Trinity Parish that brings soup and hot chocolate to folks on the streets of Tucson each evening—one of the men who was a Sunday guest at Poverello House, asked her “Where is Bella?” While the guests at Poverello House are always grateful for the delicious lunches that Edna and Tom bring, they are also happy to receive a visit from Bella, a special tail-wagging dog treat!



SAVE THE DATE

OCT. 4, 2018
ANNUAL DINNER
to celebrate the
10th Anniversary of
Poverello House