

NOT YET POST PANDEMIC



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

Back in March 2020, we had to close our Poverello House. For five months we were completely closed because of Covid-19. Our dedicated Board of Directors and live-in staff, through extra efforts, came up with a plan to reopen in August 2020. For the past fourteen months, we have been opened shorter hours, using only the courtyard and backyard where we have three washing machines, an outside shower, and a port-a-potty. The houses have been closed to our guests and only used by the staff. Thanks be to God, our efforts have worked well to keep our guests safe, and we've been successful getting a number of our guests vaccinated. Pope Francis' encyclical, Fratelli Tutti, emphasizes the commonality of all of humanity. With God as our Father, all of us throughout the world are brothers and sisters. Here in the United States, we have a tradition of welcome to immigrants. All four of my grandparents were immigrants.

When I was a child, my mom's mom, Grandma Gasparovic, told me of the welcome she felt when, in 1909, her boat from Croatia sailed into the new York City harbor and, holding her child in her arms, she saw the Statue of Liberty. She and her first-born child then headed by train to St. Louis to join Grandpa Gasparovic and his brother, who had arrived earlier to earn money to send for them. Having grown up in Croatia under the Austria-Hungarian Empire, Grandpa Gasparovic relished the Democracy in the United States. He taught his seven children and 19 grandchildren that Voting is a sacred obligation. And during the Depression, when work was scarce, he almost lost his home, not being able to keep up the payments to the bank. But President Franklin Roosevelt created a program to refinance the loan, so the bank could not repossess the house. It turned out to be the house my mom grew up in and where mom, dad, my brother and I lived during my first decade of life, until 1963.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has reminded us of the commonality of our humanity. We all have equal dignity. To overcome this virus, we have to provide vaccine to all of humanity. If we neglect the poorest, they will be infected and continue to spread the virus. Pope Francis has urgently reminded world leaders of this fact, and asked wealthier nations to share the vaccine with the poorer nations. This commonality and inherent dignity of each human being is also part of our ministry at Poverello House. Every human being needs shelter, food, bathroom facilities and rest. For one day each week, each homeless guest has a six-hour day off the streets. A place to call home and to be welcomed by name and relationship. Some of our guests have been coming for years.

With your help we continue our ministry in the Spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, who, like our Lord Jesus had "no where to lay his head." Thank you for your support as we long for the day, together, that we can experience a post pandemic world.

Yours in Christ and Francis,
David Buer, ofm
Founder, Poverello House

A Poem

A rough night's sleep on the slab of concrete. Do I go to Micky D's to dumpster dive or do I check the dumpsters around me for a little something to eat?

There is a man coming towards me. It appears he is wearing a long brown dress. He said his name is Brother David. He told me of a place called Poverello House, where I could get something to eat, a shower and peace,

Thank you "monks" of the Franciscan order for turning a rough night's sleep on a slab of concrete to a good day living off the streets.

By Stephen Tankersley, Poverello House staff person

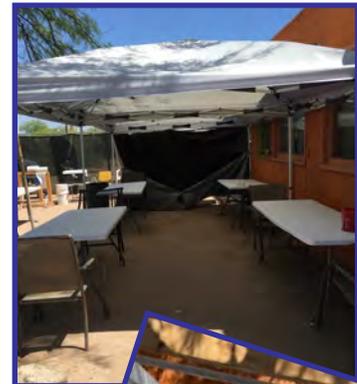
Monsoon Madness



A windy night!



The Yard Renewed



A new shower has been constructed in the yard. Thanks to Pat Long, Brick Wall, and Steve Tankersley for their hard work in getting it ready. And of course, Bill Quigley was on hand too.



Reconstruction – Not once but twice this season!

VACCINATION REPORT

Beginning in July, Br. David visited the house on the different days it was open to talk to the men about getting vaccinated. He then brought any who responded to El Rio to be vaccinated on that day. If that was not possible, he arranged for them to go on another day. As an incentive, a generous gift card was given when they had completed their shots.

In August, Br. David made the following report to Board.

Joe M. got his second shot yesterday, Aug. 25 (Pfizer) and received a gift card.

Mark S. got his second shot today, Aug. 26 (Pfizer) and also received a gift card.

Frank R got his first shot today, Aug. 26 (Pfizer). He will get a gift card after the second shot.

I've interviewed 40 of our guests. 8 are saying "No" to getting vaccinated. 11 received the J and J shot and 9 are fully vaccinated with either Pfizer or Moderna and the rest are awaiting their 2nd shot.

Thanks to Br. David's effort, at least three-quarters of our guests have been vaccinated.

Many thanks also to the Triage Volunteers who for the last 14 months checked the guys before they entered the yard.

RECURRING DONORS MEAN LESS WORRY

BY JEANETTE ARNQUIST

Poverello House has been able to keep the doors open for 13 years because of the generosity of the community. Through financial contributions, donations of clothing, and volunteer hours, the house has been able to offer Franciscan hospitality to homeless men. We are deeply grateful for this support.

Speaking of donations, once again our annual fundraising dinner and celebration of the feast of St. Francis was virtual. At the beginning of the summer our planning committee was overjoyed with the anticipation that we could meet in person. As the hope we had in May and June faded into reality in July and August, we realized that we needed to change our plans to keep everyone safe, so we went virtual again. And to my great surprise all stepped up and sent in more donations than ever before. We secured enough funding to operate for over 4 months.

Now is the time of the year when we get lots of donations, and, we are truly grateful for each one. In a few months, we will be back to the time of year that I call "the dead of summer" when we must rely on people who have made a commitment to make donations that automatically recur every month (or quarterly.) Right now, we get about \$1000 per month in monthly donations. It costs approximately \$6000 per month to operate. Since I am the bookkeeper and treasurer and also the official worrier for Poverello House, I would like to invite you to help us reach a goal of getting \$3000 each month in recurring donations.

If you want to become a recurring donor through our website, www.tucsonpoverello.com, you have the option of setting up a monthly donation. Or you can arrange with your bank to send a monthly check. And, of course, you can write out a check each month and send it through the mail. Thanks for considering becoming a monthly donor. It will help me to worry less and assure that year-round we continue to provide quality Franciscan hospitality to our guests at Poverello House

God never closes off horizons; He is never unconcerned about the lives and sufferings of His children. God never allows Himself to be outdone in generosity.

Pope Francis

HELLOS

Pat Long attended his first Poverello Board meeting on October 19th. He was introduced to Poverello House by Jeanette Arnquist when he was volunteering with the "Soup Patrol", a ministry bringing soup to the homeless, sponsored by Most Holy Trinity Parish. For several months, Pat has been volunteering in the yard at Poverello House a couple of times a week. He recently retired from his work as a mechanical engineer with a focus on large rotating equipment. Pat is originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, and has been living in Tucson for thirteen years. His maintenance skills, as well as his people skills, will be put to good use as a Poverello House Board member.



Stephen Tankersley recently accepted the position as our second house staff person. Steve was born in Germany and grew up in Chicago. He has lived in Arizona for the last eight years. What he likes most about his new work at Poverello is that it is a chance to serve others and thus to serve God. At one point in his history, he was a member of a Presbyterian congregation and was told that he was a "Guardian Angel." Since then, he has tried to live up to that image.

AND GOODBYES

Br. Chuck Hannon, OSF, has served on the Poverello Board since November, 2018. Br. Chuck is an Episcopal Franciscan Friar who in addition to his service at Poverello House has ministered to the homeless and others at Grace St. Paul Episcopal Church in Tucson. Br. Chuck and his wife are relocating to Madison, Wisconsin to be near family. We are very grateful for the care and concern he has shown to the guests and staff at Poverello House. We will miss the Franciscan spirit that he has brought to the Board and to the House. We hope he will remember his friends at Poverello if they return to Tucson to escape the winter in Wisconsin!

Chuck Dunn, a member of the Board since it was established in 2010, is also resigning. Chuck was instrumental in Poverello House getting the important designation as a 501-c-3 non profit corporation. Over the years, Chuck has volunteered his time by being at the House when needed. He also brought lunch when needed. For several years, Chuck has assisted Poverello House in securing a significant grant from the Order of Malta. Happily, Chuck has offered to continue to volunteer so we will still see him, but will miss him at our board meetings.

SPECIAL THANKS DUE

On October 7th, Poverello House welcomed a special group from the Catholic Foundation of Tucson. Jeanette Arnquist was on hand to host the group. For the past six years the Catholic Foundation has generously supported Poverello House with grants that enabled us to buy shoes and clothes for our guests. On the occasion of this visit, they kindly donated hygiene packs containing such things as toothpaste and a toothbrush, a comb, soap and shampoo along with other small items. When Bill Quigley saw the boxes filled with the loaded plastic bags, he exclaimed: "Wow, this is going to save me a lot of work" The men often request these things from him. After their visit, the pictures below were among those posted on the web page of the Catholic Foundation.



Preparation



Arrival



Tour



Happy Smiles

If you or your church group would like to make hygiene packs to be distributed to the guests at Poverello House, you will need the following:

Plastic bags, small toothpaste and a toothbrush, travel size soap, shampoo, a comb, a razor, and other small items you think would be useful.

You can email Bill at povohouse@gmail.com to arrange delivery.



Poverello House, P.O. Box 50782, Tucson, Tucson, 85703 — tucsonpoverello.com

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-deductible donation (residents of Arizona can also receive a tax credit using QCO code 20503). Checks may be made payable to Poverello House or you may donate on our secure web site tucsonpoverello.com

Support for the mission of Poverello House comes from many different sources. We are especially grateful for the assistance we are receiving as part of the Community Giving Program at Tucson Electric Power. Once again TEP printed the newsletter. **Thank you, TEP.**

Printing Powered by:



Poverello House is grateful to Midwest Food Bank for supplying us with many of the things that would be on our shopping list every month, especially coffee, bottled water, and energy drinks. In 2020, Midwest Food bank donated 11,000 pounds of food to Poverello House with a retail value of \$30,000

Midwest Food Bank, the largest faith-based food bank in the US, is a non-denominational, non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. It currently distributes over \$32 million worth of food to over 2,000 non-profits each month. Fortunately Poverello House is one of many non-profits receiving assistance from this organization.

Thanks are also due to Fr. John Arnold, editor of the online newsletter *New Outlook* and a related web page for the Diocese of Tucson. He has published several articles about Poverello House and, most recently, lent his support to our virtual dinner. A video about our fundraiser was played on that website and brought in generous donations and new donors for our database. **Thank you Fr. Arnold!**

If you are a bridge player, you will appreciate another group that recently lent its support to Poverello House the Charity Bridge Club. This group plays bridge for fun and then donates the winnings to a worthy cause. After a visit to the house by one of their members, we received a sizeable check. Thank you Charity Bridge Club of Tucson!