

Brother Francis Shelter Newsletter



A Catholic Social Services publication

October 2010

Shelter Wish List

- Coffee
- Bread
- 8 oz. Styrofoam cups
- Plastic forks, knives & spoons
- Paper plates & bowls
- Bleach
- 33 gallon trash bags
- Cleaning sponges
- Warm hats, gloves & socks
- Underwear (all sizes, men & women)
- Shoes & boots
- Blue jeans (all sizes, men & women)
- Spray deodorant
- Toilet paper
- Disposable razors
- Feminine products
- Toothbrushes/paste
- Vinyl gloves
- Pinesol/Bleach
- Financial donations

BFS Advisory Council

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A Long Journey Home

David K. Fox's journey home has been long. He has been homeless for the majority of his 64 years. Thanks to our donors who have kept the doors of Brother Francis Shelter open with their generous support, a Special Needs Housing grant provided by the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, and a housing voucher provided by the Municipality of Anchorage — David has enjoyed his own apartment for four peaceful months.

Alcohol has been David's "#1 Friend" for too many years; in fact, he remembers his first drink. It was 48 years ago, in 1962 at Ft. Polk, Louisiana, when he was working as a Yupik Interpreter for the National Guard. He joined the Guard at 17 from his home village of Tuntutuliak. David has an eighth grade education but completed his GED which made him eligible for the Guard.

After his tour with the Guard he moved to Anchorage and spent many years drinking and working a series of odd jobs in construction, restaurants and yard maintenance. David is very



David K. Fox with a sample of his work.

honest about his life on the streets and the toll it took. For example, David remembers falling off a two-story building in September of 1978 after drinking. He sustained significant injuries from this accident.

Today, David enjoys the comforts of home: privacy, preparing meals, reading, playing the guitar, watching TV and carving. "I am

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Making a list and checking it twice..... We are preparing for Christmas and need your help! Please consider providing a gift for those who will be homeless this holiday season. We are collecting new shirts, jackets, hats, gloves and socks that will be wrapped and given to our shelter guests on Christmas day. **Thank you!**

Blankets & Winter Gear Needed

We have an urgent need for gently used blankets, coats, hats, mittens, boots and socks. If you have any of these items to donate please drop them off at the shelter at 1021 East 3rd Avenue. Thank you.



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comfortable now and can concentrate. I want to keep this apartment” David reports. John Stupiello, David’s BFS case manager, is currently working with seven Special Needs Housing clients. All seven, like David, have been on the streets for a minimum of 15 years. “David is very resourceful. He is focusing on getting healthy and carving. He wants a better life” said John.

to get them stabilized and then gradually introduce more goals.”

The grants pay for case management services, rent, utilities and furnishings. The participants are required to pay a portion of their rent after the first three months. David is very grateful for the program and for Brother Francis Shelter. “I am not cold; I am getting good rest, this is a good program that I hope helps more people like me” he explains.

The Special Needs Housing grant focuses on attaining long-term housing stability for clients like David who have been hard to reach through the traditional methods utilized at the shelter. “Housing First” is the concept that places people with chronic, severe challenges into an apartment. Treating individuals who are housed has proven much more successful than trying to help while they are on the streets. As John explains, “We are taking it slow with these clients; we want



Join us for our annual St. Francis of Assisi Mass celebrated by Fr. Francis Le on Sunday, October 10, 2010 at 11:00 a.m.

A Community Effort

The last day of June marked the end of our fiscal year and I want to share with you some of the accomplishments your support has made possible during this past year. Over the past 12 months the staff and volunteers of BFS welcomed 3,192 homeless individuals through our doors. Staff personally greeted each guest and welcomed them to the shelter.

After 12 years at the shelter, I am still amazed at the significance of our impact in the community. With your help, BFS provided 77,955 nights of shelter to our homeless brothers and sisters and community volunteers helped us serve 61,872 dinners to ensure no one went to bed hungry.

Due to the generous donations of clothing from the community,

our clothing room offered clothing assistance 11,311 times throughout the year! The winter of 2010 was the first time in over 11 years that the shelter exceeded its emergency capacity of 240 people and had to activate our overflow contingency plan. Through a collaborative effort with Bean’s Café we were able to provide overnight shelter to an additional 124 people per night. Over the course of last winter, through this collaboration, we assisted 694 people who would not have had a safe warm place to sleep.

I am grateful that the shelter is ready for the approaching winter as I view the termination dust on the mountains. We have prepared the building, trained new staff and signed an agreement with Bean’s Café to use their building as an overflow for nights when we are at capacity. I now need to ask you, generous members of our community, for your support so

that BFS can again provide safe and warm emergency shelter for those who find themselves homeless this winter. Your gift will ensure that no one is turned away due to lack of space or shelter resources. Please continue to support us in serving the homeless among us.

*Dewayne Harris
BFS Program Director
dharris@cssalaska.org
or 277-1731*



Thank you!

BFS thanks the **500 Club** members for their gifts to support the mission of Brother Francis Shelter. Your monthly gift of \$42.00 (\$500 a year) helps make it possible to provide quality services in a dignified environment.