



A Catholic Social Services Publication | Fall 2016

Brother Francis Shelter

Opening our doors to Anchorage's homeless for more than 35 years

Jessie's Story Of Hope

BFS GUEST FINDS A PLACE TO CALL HOME

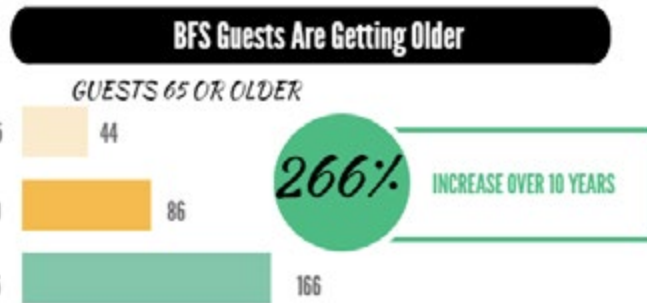
Jessie was at Brother Francis Shelter for a short time before case managers helped him find a home in our community. He originally came to Alaska to accompany his daughter and grandkids while her husband was stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Over the past four years Jessie tried making it back to the rest of his family in South Carolina, but he decided to stay in Alaska, wanting to help his family here. Jessie took a hit on his finances after supporting his stepdaughter's 8-year-old baby girl who underwent open-heart surgery.

"I'm in my 60s and I've already lived some, so I'd rather see her enjoying herself," he said. "Maybe she'll have kids one day and tell them about papa—they call me papa."

Jessie was caring for his grandkids when tragedy struck. His wife was hit and killed by a car and he was left without a home. He volunteered every day at Brother Francis Shelter to make things easier for others in the shelter by doing

what he knows best. "My daddy put us on the grinding stone growing up, and I used to hate it, but I realize he did it so we would learn how to work and take care of our families," he said.

Jessie is an Army veteran on a fixed



income. He visits St. Francis House Food Pantry to save his money for rent. Jessie is on track to make his way back to his kids and grandkids in South Carolina in a few years. "I'm living a good life, and the people at Brother Francis helped me so much," he says. "I want to come back to help others who are in the same place I was."

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PICTURE BELOW » Jessie turned to Brother Francis Shelter after his wife died.



A Social Gathering for Social Justice

YOUR GIFTS HELP THOUSANDS OF MEN AND WOMEN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Your generosity supports Brother Francis Shelter. Recently, Lottie Michael reached out to Dunnington Babb and Samantha Cherot, attorneys in Anchorage, to host an event at their home for their friends and colleagues.

Support from people like Dunnington and Samantha is crucial for Brother Francis Shelter. Individual donors and organizations help keep the doors of the shelter open. Their event not only brought to light the issue of homelessness in Anchorage, but provided an open dialogue for people at all income levels to learn that they can help people experiencing homelessness.

If you cannot give monetary gifts, get involved by volunteering a few nights a month. If you don't have time to volunteer regularly, you can run a clothing drive or help raise awareness on behalf of the struggles guests at the shelter face every day. You and your neighbors always find a way to support the men and women experiencing homelessness.

For other giving options please contact Wes Hoskins at 907-222-7344. THANK YOU!

OVER HALF OF THE PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN ANCHORAGE PASS THROUGH BROTHER FRANCIS SHELTER.



PICTURE ABOVE » Brother Francis Shelter supporters listen and ask questions in a social setting on the shelter's impact.

Remembering the First Steps

CSS HONORS 35 YEARS OF COMPASSION AND LOOKS TO THE NEXT STEP IN CARE



PICTURE ABOVE » CSS unveils the plaque to commemorate the compassion and care of Brothers Bob and Dave in beginning Brother Francis Shelter.

Brother Francis Shelter began 35 years ago through Archbishop Francis Hurley and Brothers Bob Eaton and Dave Sifferman.

After being moved out of the first overnight shelter in 1983 for fire safety concerns, Brother Bob and Brother Dave erected a tent city at the rose garden on the west end of Delaney Park Strip and invited those without a home to join them. Mayor Tony Knowles worked with Brothers Bob and Dave and Archbishop Hurley to develop a permanent structure on Post Road.

After many years and many renovations, Brother Francis Shelter acts as

The Run To End Homelessness

The Run To End Homelessness organized by the Anchorage Running Club saw over 450 registered runners in September. Your participation in events like these financially supports Brother Francis Shelter and brings awareness to the part we all play in addressing homelessness at all levels in our community. Thank you for your ongoing dedication to making Brother Francis Shelter a safety net for those experiencing homelessness!



[Remembering the First Steps Cont'd] more than a shelter by providing a safe place to sleep, a hot meal, clothing, access to medical care, volunteer opportunities, community-wide resources, and comprehensive case management. One of our next steps in our mission is to answer the health needs of our guests.

Catholic Social Services has embarked on a historic partnership with the agencies representing the major Anchorage hospitals—Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Alaska Regional, Providence Health & Services Alaska, and Southcentral Foundation—as well as Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center and the Municipality of Anchorage to create new services and connections. The group agreed to work together on three different projects to address healthcare among those in great need and to address rising service costs for all Alaskans, expected to be underway by February 2017.

Upcoming Events

Thanksgiving Blessing

Monday, November 21, 2:00PM-9:00PM

Where: St. Patrick's Parish

Help make sure everyone has a homemade Thanksgiving dinner this year. Join us at St. Patrick's Parish to give turkey, produce, and other Thanksgiving necessities. RSVP online or by calling 907-222-7335

Advent Concert

Friday, December 2 at 7:00PM

Where: St. Patrick's Parish

Join St. Patrick's Parish for an Advent concert to benefit Brother Francis Shelter. The parish will be collecting donations for BFS and Clare House.

Christmas Eve Mass

Saturday, December 24 at 6:00PM

Where: Brother Francis Shelter

Everyone is welcome to join us in celebrating mass.

Get involved with Brother Francis Shelter and Catholic Social Services!

For more information on these events or to volunteer, please contact Kara Casanova at kcasanova@cssalaska.org or 907-222-7335.

PEOPLE IN HOMELESSNESS ARE 3 TO 6 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BECOME ILL THAN THOSE IN HOUSING.



PICTURE ABOVE » Brothers Dave Sifferman (left) and Bob Eaton (right) began Brother Francis Shelter as street ministry in Anchorage.



Caring Clinic Strong As Ever

GUESTS RECEIVE NEEDED TREATMENT

Heidi Hurliman passed off the reigns of the Caring Clinic at Brother Francis Shelter to Alisa Vickery in June. Heidi, a nurse practitioner from Anchorage Women's Clinic, ran the Caring Clinic for over six years. She put in about 5-8 hours EVERY WEEK! As the Caring Clinic Coordinator she managed volunteers, oriented new volunteers, scheduled clinics and provided services. Truly, the clinic would not be what it is without her dedication and professionalism. She retired from practice and saw the potential and passion in Alisa. Alisa is a physician assistant at Providence Family Medicine and worked with the pilot respite program at the shelter. Their impact is invaluable to Brother Francis Shelter.

Thank You South Rotary!

A question that began, "what do you need?" ended with a room full of professionals filling hundreds of plastic bags with hygiene items. South Rotary brought together 40 members to create assembly teams, putting 240 kits together in 20 minutes. The items have been given out as guests need a shower, shave or to brush their teeth. South Rotary's incredible generosity allows so many people in need to participate in comforts we take for granted.



Holiday Giving

Christmas is a great way to share the spirit of the season with everyone at the shelter. You can help by giving needed gifts, including:

- Shirts, jackets, hats, gloves, hand warmers, socks (all sizes for both men & women)
- Candy, granola bars, nuts, gum, mints, small drink mixes
- Notebooks, pens/pencils, small games, decks of cards
- Comb, toothbrush, soap, razor, shampoo, nail clippers, lip balm, tissues, alcohol-free hand sanitizer

Drop-off Location: Brother Francis Shelter
1021 E. 3rd Avenue, 99501

Drop-off Instructions: Please give items unwrapped, in a bag or box.

Christmas Gifts Drop-off Deadline:
Monday, December 19

Would you like to help wrap the gifts? Sort the items and make gift packages to hand out to our guests the week preceding Christmas.

Join us December 20-23. Please bring scissors if you have them, and wrapping paper is appreciated but not needed.

Contact Wes Hoskins with any questions
whoskins@cssalaska.org or 907-222-7344

THANK YOU!

For more information on giving to CSS, please go to cssalaska.org.



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