



A Catholic Social Services Publication | Winter 2017

Brother Francis Shelter

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

Back On His Feet

NEXT STEP BACK TO THE WORKFORCE

John visited the doctor after a trip on the stairs injured his hip and back over a year ago. The first x-ray didn't show much, but over time he discovered a list of conditions culminating in a diagnosis of degenerative spine disease and spinal fusion surgery.

"It hurt so much I couldn't sit for long periods of time and standing was the worst," he said.

After experiencing pain all over his body and unexplained numbness in his feet, he had to leave his job as a bank manager.

As his financial resources dwindled, he stayed at motels, nights outside, and eventually other shelters. He arrived at Brother Francis Shelter still without the knowledge of all the resources available to him as a Navy veteran experiencing homelessness and a debilitating illness.

From out-of-state, his mother helped him apply for Social Security and Medicaid, which helped him stay out of debt from the medical appointments and procedures. He found the real help he needed

when he met Sarah, the case manager at Brother Francis Shelter specializing in veterans. John needed a place to live in order to proceed with surgery to allow him to recover.

"I never sat in one place, I had to keep on moving," he said. "When I met my case manager Sarah, she took me right

PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS ARE 3 TO 6 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BECOME ILL THAN THOSE IN HOUSING. - NATIONAL HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS COUNCIL

in and found a program for me, 24 hours later I was in the apartment I'm in now."

Although he has a chance to recover at home, case managers will continue to work with John until he is self-sufficient.

John sums up his experience, "If someone told me two years ago that this could happen to me, I would have laughed and said no way."

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PICTURE BELOW » A severe spinal injury left John without a home, but he is now on the road to recovery.



Steps to Ending Homelessness in Anchorage

A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LISA AQUINO

I invite you to join with Catholic Social Services, and fellow organizations who are working together to see the dawn of a new day, a day when long-term homelessness is ended and we live in a world where everyone has a place to call home.

In 2016, Catholic Social Services set a goal to find permanent housing for 10% of our clients experiencing homelessness. Between April 1 and December 1 of 2016, case managers helped 302 clients find permanent housing. As we work toward March 31, and the one year anniversary, our goal is to house 446 individuals—that is 10%—and we are on track to meet and exceed that goal.

Our mission at CSS is to serve the most vulnerable in our community. We strive to reach out to those in greatest need, and safe housing is one of the most basic needs of all people. We provide the most emergency shelter beds in the city and we have a large cadre of case managers working diligently to move individuals and families into permanent housing. But more can be done. The poorest and the sick are often

those who cannot sustain permanent housing on their own. We appreciate all of your support in making this goal a reality. Your support makes it possible for us to continue providing resources for the people who need it most.

**SINCE APRIL CASE MANAGERS HELPED
302 CLIENTS FIND PERMANENT HOUSING.**



PICTURE ABOVE » Catholic Social Services is on track to house 446 individuals by the one year anniversary of our goal to house 10% of clients experiencing homelessness.

A Knight's Ongoing Support

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SERVE THOSE LESS FORTUNATE

The Knights of Columbus from St. Benedict's Parish organize donation drives for Catholic Social Services every three months. Service is both a means to provide for those who need it most and to provide life lessons for the men involved in the Knights of Columbus—a fraternal service organization serving the Catholic Church.

In November, Bob McMorrow Sr. organized the 16th annual glove drive at St. Benedict's collecting 137 pairs of gloves and hats for Brother Francis Shelter. Bob is a retired police officer from the Chicago area and currently works as a Federal Court Security Officer in Anchorage.

The Knights started with gloves, but in the last 8 years expanded the donation drives to four times a year covering kid's socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste and razors.

**"MANY PEOPLE KNOW IF THEY GIVE TO CSS IT
WILL BE USED IN THE BEST WAY TO BENEFIT
THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO NEED IT MOST."**

Donors turned out to give hundreds of these small items exceeding the goals for the drive each time.

"Ongoing support for CSS stems from the fact that CSS has the wherewithal to distribute the items we gather to help the most men, women and children in Anchorage," Bob said.

Your support is appreciated. Thanks to you and donors like Bob, Brother Francis Shelter can help over 270 men and women every night!



PICTURE ABOVE » Bob McMorrow Sr. with Tricia Teasley of CSS delivering gloves for Brother Francis Shelter.

Building for Change

RESPIRE CARE AT BROTHER FRANCIS SHELTER

Currently under construction, Brother Francis Shelter will soon be able to offer 10 beds for guests to recuperate, and allow home healthcare providers to provide skilled nursing, physical, occupational and speech therapy, home health aide and chaplain services.

For many people experiencing homelessness, medical issues caused them to become homeless. Homelessness also can lead to medical treatment not being sought or unsuccessful treatment. In many cases, it can be the barrier holding people back from housing and meaningful work. Having a place to heal at Brother Francis Shelter allows us to be proactive in preventing an illness or injury from becoming a larger issue.

Through a groundbreaking partnership with major Anchorage hospitals—Providence Health & Services Alaska, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and Alaska Regional—as well as Southcentral Foundation, Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center and the Municipality of Anchorage, Catholic Social Services is beginning the first step in expanding healthcare at the shelter.

NEARLY 78% OF PEOPLE IN OUR RESPIRE CARE PILOT PROGRAM DID NOT RETURN TO HOMELESSNESS.

An 18-month pilot program paved the way for the new development. The pilot program served 18 patient-guests, with 86 home health visits made and 644 nights of respite shelter provided.

Brother Francis Shelter Director Lisa Caldeira affirmed, “When patient-guests were given time and space to recuperate, they were much more likely to leave the shelter into permanent housing.”



PICTURE ABOVE » Contractors are working on the new respite facility in partnership with Catholic Social Services, Anchorage hospitals and healthcare organizations.

Upcoming Events

Clothesline & Clare House

Sunday, February 26 at 6PM-8PM

Join us for an exclusive shopping event at Clothesline. A portion of the proceeds benefit Clare House. Bring a friend and shop for a cause! Where: 1441 W. Northern Lights Blvd., 99503

Lent Projects

Wednesday, March 1 to April 13

Contact Laura Rice at 907-222-7335 or lrice@cssalaska.org to find out how you or your parish can get involved.

Good Friday Faith Walk

Friday, April 14 at 10AM

Please join us on a journey of faith. Brother Francis Shelter will be one starting point.

Wilma Carr Charity Ball

Saturday, May 6 at 6PM

Save the date for our 27th annual fundraising gala. Where: The Hotel Captain Cook

Get involved with Brother Francis Shelter and Catholic Social Services!

For more information on these events or to volunteer, please contact Laura Rice at lrice@cssalaska.org or 907-222-7335.



Thank You Caring Clinic Volunteers!

The Caring Clinic has been a part of Brother Francis Shelter since 1985 with nurses, physician assistants and medical professionals providing basic healthcare needs for guests on their own time. These volunteers are the catalyst in realizing the great benefit of medical care at the shelter. As we work to expand the clinic hours, we would like to thank the hundreds of volunteers over the years for the time and expertise provided to make Brother Francis Shelter more than a shelter. THANK YOU!

Pick.Click.Give.

TO BROTHER FRANCIS SHELTER

Through our 8 programs including Brother Francis Shelter, Catholic Social Services provides food for hungry families, gives shelter to many Alaskans living on the streets, and helps clients find a place to call home. Case managers help our clients find the best means to reach their goals of self-sufficiency.

When you file for your Permanent Fund Dividend, you will have the option to choose a charity. Search for Catholic Social Services and provide hope to thousands of Alaskans!



Donation Wish List

Brother Francis Shelter relies on the help of the community to support men and women experiencing homelessness with basic needs.

Please consider an in-kind donation to benefit our guests at Brother Francis Shelter:

Urgent Need

Men's Clothing of All Sizes—we have expanded our clothing room hours and we need more clothes!

- Pants
- Shirts
- Underwear

Priority Need

- Disposable Razors
- Toothbrushes
- Twin Navy Fleece Blanket
- Hair and Body Wash
- Jumbo Roll Toilet Tissue
- Extra Duty Heavy Gallon Trash Bags

Ongoing Need

- Shampoo & Lotion
- Socks & Underwear
- Metal teaspoons
- Bath towels
- Band-Aids
- Coffee

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

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

THANK YOU!

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



Catholic
Social Services
Brother Francis Shelter