




A Catholic Social Services Publication | Spring 2017

Faces of Hope

Ending homelessness one family at a time

Healthcare & Homelessness Partnership

NEW SPACE FOR MEDICAL RECOVERY AT BROTHER FRANCIS SHELTER

 A groundbreaking partnership with the major Anchorage hospitals and city partners has come to fruition at Brother Francis Shelter with more accessible healthcare. For many people experiencing homelessness, medical issues caused them to become homeless. The work with our partners—Providence Health & Services Alaska, Alaska Regional Hospital, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Southcentral Foundation, Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center and the Municipality of Anchorage—will make it possible for men and women experiencing homelessness to find a place to rest and recuperate through the Medical Respite program. The expanded Caring Clinic will allow guests at Brother Francis Shelter to receive basic medical care and referrals to hospitals.

Initial data from our pilot Medical Respite program shows that 80% of individuals in the program did not return to homelessness. The new program offers 10 beds for medically fragile individuals to recuperate from an acute illness or injury. Home healthcare agencies can provide services to shelter patient-guests as needed.

The Caring Clinic for basic medical care has been run by volunteers at Brother Francis Shelter for over 30 years. Southcentral Foundation, in partnership with Catholic Social Services, expanded hours at the Clinic and supports the presence of an advanced healthcare provider daily.

Additionally, the expanded Caring Clinic makes it easier and more accessible for guests at Brother Francis Shelter to seek medical treatment. For x-rays and other follow up medical services, transportation will be provided to medical appointments.



PICTURE BELOW »

Commissioner Valerie Davidson of Alaska Health & Social Services speaks of impact Medical Respite will have on the state.

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Turning Lives Around

MEDICAL RECOVERY AT BROTHER FRANCIS SHELTER

People experiencing homelessness typically do not seek or complete medical treatment for many reasons. The addition of the Medical Respite program and expanded primary care services through the Caring Clinic at Brother Francis Shelter allows us to be proactive in preventing treatable conditions from becoming an emergency.

Ed, a seasonal worker in his 50s, couldn't make ends meet and lost his home. A knee injury left him on crutches. Ed began recovery at Providence, but when he no longer required a hospital bed and service, he was discharged to Medical Respite at the shelter.

In the pilot program, Providence Home Health Care provided skilled home care services like physical therapy, speech therapy and home health aide to shelter guests on an as-needed basis.

Ed works in fish processing and on farms in season. Staying in a quiet space to recover and undergo physical therapy allows him to regain his strength— inching one day closer to the field.

"My knee injury is just an injury, it's not permanent," Ed says. "Now it's a waiting game. After I heal the knee and get off the crutches, I will go back to work."

Another Brother Francis Shelter guest is hopeful for her prospect of entering Medical Respite.

Vickie, a lifelong Alaskan, moved to Anchorage from Seward to treat cancer due to appointments becoming more frequent. Vickie has now been in Anchorage for 3 months,



PICTURE ABOVE » Case Manager Kayla helps a patient-guest find housing while they recuperate in the Medical Respite program.

seeing doctors for cancer among other medical issues.

"I'm just trying to get by right now, but I think about my grandchildren every single day," Vickie says. "I'm just thankful for everyone here at the shelter."

Vickie's kids and grandchildren live in the Mat-Su Valley, and she hopes to see them again soon, but says she is working toward becoming healthier. She visits the Caring Clinic when she feels sick, but says she may be closer to receiving a much needed surgery if she can recuperate in the Medical Respite program.

The Medical Respite case manager is the final piece in making the program work. The case manager connects patient-

guests recovering from an illness or injury to housing. In the pilot respite program, 80% of men and women did not return to homelessness after staying in respite.

In addition to helping clients, programs like this bring great savings in the use of emergency services for the whole community. The evidence-based Medical Respite program in Santa Rosa, California, saw nearly \$17.3 million in savings over 4 years. That is more than 10 times the return on investment in the program.

In the first 14 months of the pilot Medical Respite program...



18

patient-guests served



86

home health visits made



644

nights of respite shelter provided

Know Yourself

Know Your Community

MED STUDENT GAINS INSIGHT THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

Amelia Harrison started working as a volunteer at Brother Francis Shelter literally at the bottom: helping with the foot care clinic over 3 years ago. She quickly found an affinity for the work and the people she served.

“It’s an incredible experience to help others in this way,” she says. “I’m so humbled by working with each person I serve.”

When she began her journey into medical school, she found the arrangement with the Caring Clinic and WWAMI—a partnership between the University of Washington School of Medicine and medical programs across the Northwest—as a natural connection, and began giving her time as a volunteer. She loves working with Caring Clinic Coordinator Alisa Vickrey. “She is so incredible. So devoted, tirelessly working on behalf of the clinic and the people at the shelter,” she says. “She’s such an inspiration.”

“I’M SO HUMBLLED BY WORKING WITH EACH PERSON I SERVE.”

To express what she values most about that volunteer experience, she offers a family saying: “A man doesn’t know what a man doesn’t know. If you want to know what’s going on in your community, you have to be a part of it.”

Amelia has gained valuable insight as a Caring Clinic volunteer by providing for those most vulnerable in Anchorage. She’s still deciding what to do with that insight, but for now she’ll continue serving guests at Brother Francis Shelter one person at a time.

As we expand Caring 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!

Upcoming Events

27th Annual Wilma Carr Charity Ball

Saturday, May 6 at 6PM

Where: The Hotel Captain Cook

Charity Ball is an elegant and fun evening, where we bring together the most fabulous supporters of Catholic Social Services.

World Refugee Day/Mt. View Street Fair

Saturday, June 10 at 12PM

Where: 150 Bragaw St., Anchorage 99508

Join us for World Refugee Day for a celebration of the many diverse cultures found in Anchorage!

Plein Air

Saturday and Sunday, July 29 & 30

Where: 5801 Barry Ave., Anchorage 99507

Art show and fundraiser for Clare House

Get involved with Catholic Social Services! For more information on these events or to volunteer, contact Laura Rice at lrice@cssalaska.org or 907-222-7335.



PICTURE ABOVE » Med Student Amelia is often seen volunteering at the Caring Clinic.

Donors Make a Difference

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION NO COST TO CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

The design, construction, and high-grade renovations for both the Medical Respite program and the Caring Clinic were donated to Brother Francis Shelter.

We would like to recognize the businesses that made it possible to realize these projects from concept to completion. The volume of work that went into the clinic space and the respite program workspace is beyond anything we expected.

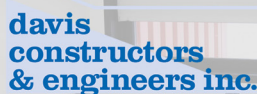
It makes a profound difference on the delivery of services for the men and women experiencing homelessness in Anchorage to have a place to rest, recover and seek medical care!



Thank you to the Healthcare & Homelessness Partnership—Providence Health & Services Alaska, Alaska Regional Hospital, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Southcentral Foundation, Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center and the Municipality of Anchorage. These organizations will continue to be a beacon of hope for Alaskans.

This project is possible thanks to the support from Alaskans like you. This partnership would not have come to fruition without a supportive community that prioritizes addressing homelessness in Alaska.

Generous donors of the Medical Respite program at Brother Francis Shelter



- Alcan Electrical & Engineering, Inc.
- Allen and Petersen
- CDW-G
- Capital Office
- Commercial Contractors, Inc.
- General Mechanical Incorporated
- Mechanical Construction & Consulting
- RSA Engineering, Inc.
- Summit Windows and Doors, Inc.
- West Coast Paper

Generous donors of the expanded Caring Clinic at Brother Francis Shelter



- Alaska Air Balancing Company
- Alaska Architectural Lighting, Inc.
- Alaskan Industries, Inc.
- Alaska Quality Fire Protection
- Alpine Concrete Cutting & Coring
- General Mechanical, Inc.
- Gensco, Inc.
- GTS Interior Supply
- Inlet Painting & Drywall, Inc.
- K-Factor Insulation
- Last Frontier Mechanical, LLC
- MegaWatt Electric, LLC
- Municipality of Anchorage, Wellness on Wheels
- RBA Engineers, Inc.
- Schneider Structural Engineers
- Stusser Electric Company



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