



fall 2021

Brother Francis Shelter

1021 E. 3rd Ave.

You Protect Our Vulnerable Neighbors through Chronic Care

Brother Francis Shelter guests are getting older. Between 2005 and 2015, the percentage of elderly guests at the shelter more than tripled.

As the shelter transitioned to caring for guests with complex medical challenges, **you provided the Chronic Care they need.**

One of our guests, Adrienne, was living independently until a stroke left her physically and mentally impaired, unable to care for herself.

Every week, Adrienne needs to see three or more medical specialists so she can continue her recovery. BFS staff coordinate cabs to pick Adrienne up and deliver her to her appointments and bring her back to the shelter when

she is done. The Caring Clinic fills her prescriptions and helps her manage her medication at the shelter, and BFS staff help her keep up with her physical, occupational, and speech therapy.



ABOVE: *Your support allows BFS staff to work one on one with guests and care for all aspects of their wellbeing.*

Despite all the challenges she faces, Adrienne likes to help out wherever she can. Each morning she does her own laundry, and she likes to clean the clothing room. She told Adam, a Program Manager at BFS, **“Cleaning the clothing room makes me feel honored to do something, because you all do so much for everyone else.”**

Your unwavering support gives people like Adrienne hope and access to the complex care that they need, that they often cannot find anywhere else.

LEFT: Susan and Bruce Clarke get ready to deliver meals to BFS

UPPER AND LOWER RIGHT: Youth groups and family groups from the Eagle River Alaska Stake help make meals for guests at the shelter



With Transportation, You Create the Bridge Between Healthcare and Homelessness

*In 2017, we asked Anchorage healthcare professionals what the first step would be to connect people experiencing homelessness to healthcare. Their answer: **transportation.***

When we think about healthcare costs, just getting to and from the hospital probably isn't top of mind. But for someone experiencing homelessness, transportation can be a major obstacle to getting the help they need.

In 2017, Brother Francis Shelter began offering free transportation to and from the local hospitals and clinics, through cab rides

and van service. Rather than build complete healthcare services at every site, when we provide better transportation to healthcare services, we capitalize on the specialists and equipment that already exist in Anchorage for a tiny fraction of the cost.

By providing free transportation between Brother Francis Shelter and the major hospitals, you drastically reduced the number of costly Emergency

Medical Services (EMS) calls made each month from the shelter, saving a large amount of money for the city, who has to absorb those EMS costs.

Offering preventative care, wound care, and ongoing treatment at the Caring Clinic has further reduced EMS calls by treating small problems before they turn into major emergencies.

Making Meals and Sharing Hope

Latter-day Saints from Eagle River have stepped up to provide meals for the guests at Brother Francis Shelter.

When Bruce and Susan Clarke saw COVID's impact on homelessness in our community, they knew they wanted to help. Since then and with endless enthusiasm, Bruce and Susan have made a huge impact on the lives of all our guests at Brother Francis Shelter.

Bruce and Susan are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, where they serve as the Communication Directors of the Eagle River Alaska Stake. When they learned that BFS needed volunteers to make meals for the guests, Bruce

and Susan started organizing help from their community. They enlisted families and youth groups from Wards in Eagle River to make bag lunches and organized food donations from church families and the Chugiak Eagle River Food Pantry. As of September, **Susan, Bruce, and the Latter-day Saints community in Eagle River have made 1,750 meals** for the guests at Brother Francis Shelter.

This summer, Susan and Bruce also arranged a major grant for BFS to buy breakfasts and lunches. Working with BFS

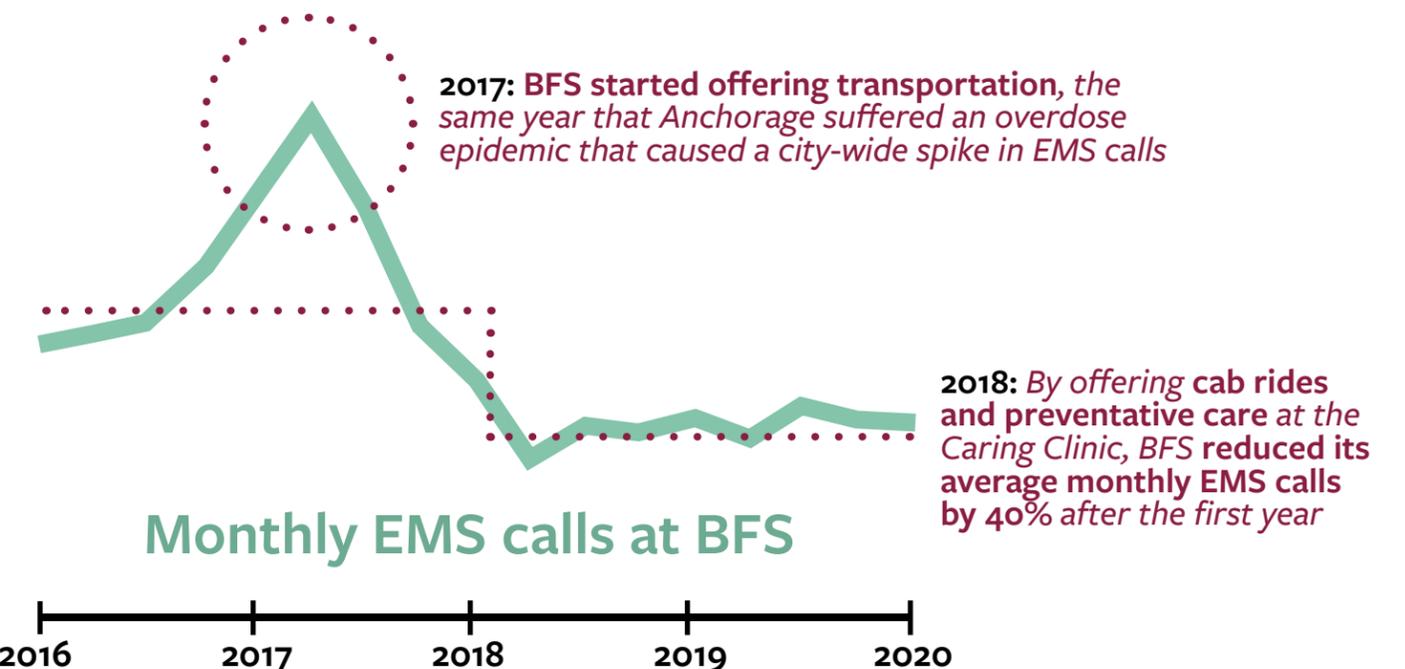
director Dave Rittenberg and the Stake presidents from Anchorage and Eagle River, Susan and Bruce applied for and won a \$25,000 grant from the humanitarian aid arm of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. **The grant goes a long way, along with the volunteer Meals Teams, in providing meals for Brother Francis Shelter guests.**

Bruce and Susan are enthusiastic about this work and say their community is excited to help.

“It's rewarding and heartwarming, and we are just grateful to serve.”

COST SAVINGS

In that first year, CSS spent \$50,000 on rides. We saved the city \$500,000 in reduced EMS calls.



A Message from our CEO

As Anchorage's primary shelter provider for decades, we have seen the changing needs of homelessness.

In recent years, the need grew well beyond what we could provide, so we brought our concerns to Municipality of Anchorage. We asked the City to step into this work so that the health and safety of people in this community could be assured. Initially, small steps were taken, but when Covid arrived the Municipality came to the table in a big way – contracting the operation of a mass shelter and non-congregate shelters.

The city's support allowed us to expand our housing work, and we are committed to continuing this path. We believe that to end homelessness we must make sure people are housed. With housing and Catholic Social Services case

management support, families gain the tools to remain housed - employment, community connection and health. In tandem with housing, we are also committed to providing safe and quality shelter through Brother Francis and Clare House.

Our Municipal Administration, Assembly, community leaders, and providers are working diligently to address homelessness and provide shelter. Although it may feel difficult now, I am comforted to know leaders from across the city are working on this, drawing on a wealth of resources and knowledge.

Catholic Social Services stands ready to provide support and



expertise throughout this process. We offer our thanks and prayers to those working on it. Homelessness is a complex problem, but together we can ensure all our neighbors have safe shelter and housing in Anchorage.

*Lisa DH Aquino, MHS
Chief Executive Officer*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa DH Aquino".



**Thank you,
BFS Advisory Council!**

This summer, the group put together a BBQ for guests. The BFS Advisory Council is filled with champions like Marc June and Lottie Michael who advocate for our city and for those in need. Thank you for your dedication and support!

Hope Endures. So can your giving.

When you give to the Brother Francis Shelter Endowment fund beyond your regular giving, you create hope that will sustain the shelter for years to come. Since what you give grows, your gift sustains the mission of Brother Francis Shelter as a permanent source of support. Whether it's \$25 or \$25,000 your investment makes a real difference and builds permanency that will benefit the lives of our shelter guests now, and in the future.

To learn about the many ways to make a lasting gift today, contact Tricia Teasley at tteasley@cssalaska.org. Or visit cssalaska.org/donate/ways-to-give.

