

ABOVE: Michael, John, and John's shelter-based case management team.

Brother Francis Shelter

A Rapid Rehousing Success Story

Michael, a case manager at Brother Francis Shelter, shares how your support allows him and his team to guide and support clients on their path to permanent stability.



TOP: Move-in days are always cause for celebration, like the day John signed the lease for his new apartment.

“I know all these mountains just by looking at them,” my client “John” (name changed for privacy) tells me as we drive to view an apartment. “Where to make shelter. Where to survive.”

Even for someone with expert knowledge of Alaska, finding housing in Anchorage can be tough. **With a vacancy rate of 2-3%, the market is already tight.** Add to that steep income requirements, credit checks, references,

criminal background searches, and apartment specific requirements.

While John was experiencing homelessness, Cook Inlet Housing Authority's Rapid Rehousing Program connected us and we began working on finding him an apartment.

John approached every twist and turn with jovial poise—despite this being a

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bumpy process.

At one point, when John had nearly been approved for an apartment, we realized he didn't meet a certain requirement and his application was dropped. Although this was a disappointing setback, John remained resilient and never gave up hope. As case managers, we support our clients during tough times, look past our assumptions,

and meet clients where they are. So, the search continued.

When John found an apartment and signed his lease, the entire case management team helped him move in. It was incredible to be a part of such a community effort getting John housed. Your support, John's hard work, and the dedication of the team made it so John is able to

live in sustainable housing and move on from his experience of homelessness.

That's a win we can all be proud of.

-Michael Hollinger,
Case Manager
at Brother Francis Shelter



RIGHT: With your support, case managers like Michael (right) can work directly from Brother Francis Shelter to build relationships and help clients transition to permanent stability.

Health and wellbeing through art

Supporters like you help guests at Brother Francis Shelter foster the emotional wellbeing they need to create permanent stability.



ABOVE: Through recreational and creative outlets, supporters like you and Sister Lucia help guests reflect, process, and recover from the trauma of homelessness.

Sister Lucia believes the beauty of art is only half the reward; the other half is tending to the human spirit. By encouraging guests to pick up a pencil or brush and begin creating, Sister Lucia has initiated a healing journey for many of the guests at Brother Francis Shelter, Complex Care, and Clare House.

Activities like art provide a recuperative environment for guests to relax, reflect, and process the trauma of homelessness. One guest attending Sister Lucia's weekly

art class enjoys listening to music on headphones while she paints: "It's a very peaceful experience." **When guests have the opportunity to process their experiences, they can build up the emotional wellbeing and personal resilience they'll need to transition to permanent stability.**

While painting alongside guests, Sister Lucia has listened to their stories and sees how they reflect on the canvas. She admires people's ability to endure hardship

and counsels, "never under-value the artwork that look messy." Creating art naturally requires us to extend ourselves. **For many guests, extending themselves and acknowledging what they've been through is the first step toward learning to overcome it.** "A few months ago, no one participated in the art lessons," says Sister Lucia. "But now they're more willing to express themselves."

While services like shelter and case management

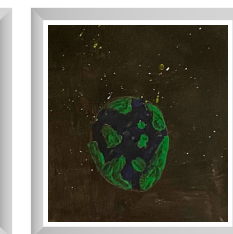
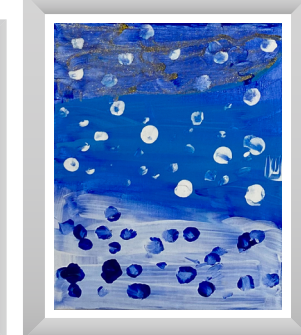
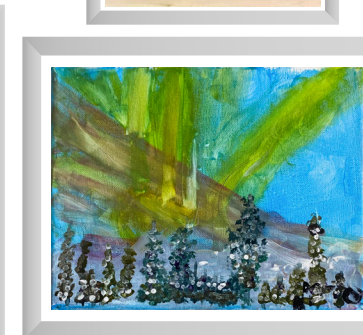
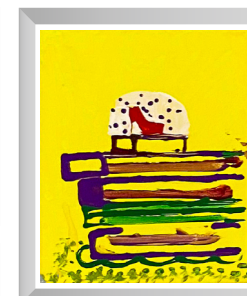
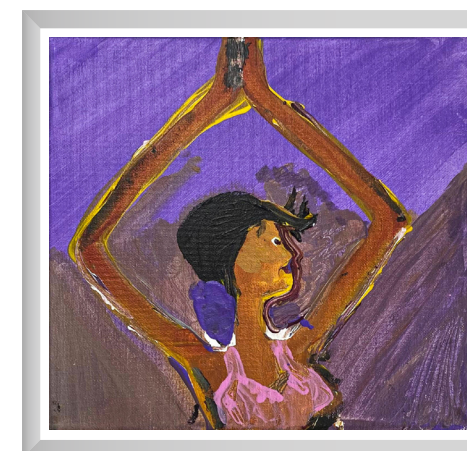
meet more concrete needs, the emotional and social wellbeing of our guests is just as integral to their ability to exit homelessness. When you give time or money to Brother Francis Shelter, you **create community, social connection, and the safe environment our guests need to restore their mental and emotional health** so they can go on to lead thriving productive lives.



ABOVE: Painting represents a guest's effort to extend and express themselves, which is a positive step forward in moving on from trauma.

Paintings by Our Neighbors

You create opportunities for guests at Brother Francis Shelter to find peace and process trauma—a critical step on one's path to permanent stability.



You provide help for every situation

Thanks to your support, the 3rd Avenue Resource & Navigation Center expands the campus to create a safe environment for thousands of our neighbors to receive help



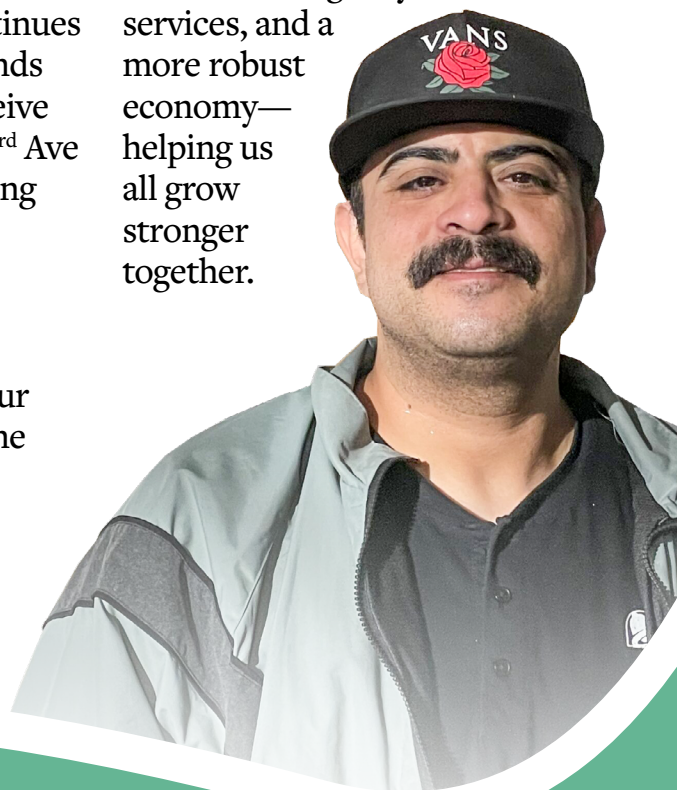
When someone walks into the 3rd Avenue Resource & Navigation Center, they're met with a safe, welcoming environment and people that want to help, no matter what is needed. It's a safe environment where our neighbors can relax and focus on how they will develop permanent stability, undistracted by immediate concerns like cold or hunger.

By working in tandem with Brother Francis Shelter, 3rd Ave multiplies the capacity of that campus, providing more resources to more neighbors in need. In its first 6 weeks,

3rd Ave has welcomed 450 people through its doors and connected more than 150 of them with navigator services. If that level of usage continues through the year, thousands of our neighbors will receive life-changing help from 3rd Ave thanks to you—multiplying Brother Francis Shelter's impact many times over.

When shelters and navigation centers can work together, more of our neighbors in need have the chance to get help, build permanent stability, and end crisis. That's

wonderful for both them and our whole city, creating healthier neighborhoods, less strained emergency services, and a more robust economy—helping us all grow stronger together.



Hope endures. So can your giving.

Your donation to the Brother Francis Shelter Endowment Fund is a gift that keeps on giving and growing, providing a permanent resource to sustain the mission of Brother Francis Shelter. You can contribute to the endowment by donating online at cssalaska.org or mailing a check to:
Catholic Social Services
4600 Debarr Road, Suite 201
Anchorage, AK 99508

Please specify that your gift is for the BFS Endowment Fund. To learn more, contact Amalie Couvillion at 907-222-7355.