



PICTURED:
A visitor views a gallery of art pieces made by clients at Brother Francis Shelter, Clare House, and Complex Care during their stays.



fall 2024

Brother Francis Shelter

Building Trust, Finding Home

For someone on the path to permanent stability, a strong support network makes all the difference.

Lee’s journey from homelessness to housing demonstrates how trust, dedication, and supporters like you can transform lives.

In his younger years, Lee worked for 35 years as a trucker, was an avid hunter and fisherman, and a father. Now in his seventies, Lee faces several health challenges including the need to use a walker, which made finding suitable housing very difficult.

When Lee first arrived at Brother Francis Shelter, he’d already experienced homelessness for quite some time.

But shortly after his arrival, he met Dana, his case manager. Lee was one of Dana’s first clients, and they quickly connected. **“If it wasn’t for her, I’d still be in my truck,”** Lee said.

Over the next year, Lee and Dana worked closely together, building a relationship rooted in trust. Dana explains, **“My philosophy with case management is to walk beside my client, helping and guiding them. I learn more from them every single day.”**



ABOVE: Case manager Dana and one of her first clients, Lee, worked together for months to get him successfully housed and in a stable, supportive environment at Providence House.

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When Providence opened its supportive housing and recuperative care program for seniors, Q'et'en Qenq'a Providence House, it seemed like the perfect fit. Named "Elder's House" in the Dena'ina language, Q'et'en Qenq'a (pronounced cut-un kunk-ah) Providence House offers residents private studio apartments with private bathrooms and kitchens.

On-site supportive services are provided to residents by Southcentral Foundation. Dana helped Lee apply, and they celebrated together when Lee became the program's first resident.

After several months at Providence House, Lee is thankful for the stability of having his own room and a private space he can lock: "I like it!" Safe and supported, he can work on smaller goals, like saving up for a TV with

subtitles to accommodate his impaired hearing.

Lee's journey to success would not have been possible without trusted case managers like Dana and supporters like you, enabling Catholic Social Services to provide on-site help and dedicated staff at Brother Francis Shelter to meet individual needs. Thank you for being a part of our empowering community.



Robin Dempsey
Chief Executive Officer

Hello everyone,

As snow blankets our city, winter has arrived—a season of beauty, tradition, and community gathering. Yet, for many of our neighbors experiencing

homelessness, winter brings profound challenges where a single night without shelter can have life-threatening consequences.

In the face of these hardships, our city has shown resilience. We are deeply grateful to our partners, supporters, and municipal leaders who have stepped up to make a difference. Catholic Social Services is honored to join in this shared mission, committed to meeting the critical needs of our community.

In this spirit, we are stepping forward to operate the emergency shelter on

56th Avenue. With support from the Municipality of Anchorage, we can respond to this urgent need without impacting the essential programs we continue to offer. With this partnership, we are providing **immediate, life-saving shelter** for those who need it most.

To everyone who stands with us, supporting our most vulnerable neighbors: thank you. Your compassion and dedication are the backbone of this work, and together, we are a powerful force of care and hope for Anchorage.

Bringing thousands of meals to our neighbors in need

Meal time at Brother Francis Shelter is more than just a time to eat—it's a **moment of community, connection, and nourishment** for our guests. Thanks to our partners and people like you, Catholic Social Services provides hundreds of thousands of meals every year to our neighbors in need. These community-provided meals support our guests' physical health and provide a sense of security, knowing where their next meal will come from, so they can **focus on creating a more stable future**. Thank you.

Right: Youth from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Eagle River Stake, recently packed thousands of lunches and dinners for our guests, using food donated by community partners.



Left: During their fall retreat, members of Lumen Christi High School hand-packed lunches for those staying at the shelter.



Right: Last year, teens from West High Rotary packed nearly 1,000 meals for Brother Francis Shelter. This year, they've pledged to do it again!



As Winter Arrives, Access to Shelter is More Vital than Ever

Thank you for working alongside us to provide emergency shelter for more than 40 years.



Winter brings many challenges for all of us, not least of all our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Temperatures plummet at night. Snow and ice make travel more difficult, limiting access to critical and life-saving resources.

But your support can provide our neighbors with a safe place, a warm roof, and a cozy bed.

Each winter, we serve hundreds of clients at Brother Francis Shelter, offering a dignified, low-barrier space to keep

them safe from the elements. From the moment guests walk through the door, our case managers, client navigators, and guest services staff support them on their path to permanent stability.

This ongoing work is only possible thanks to your support. Your support ensures that our guests have access to shelter and a warm bed throughout the winter months. Thank you for making a difference!



Connecting to Resources: Just a Parking Lot Away

3RNC Expands Navigation Services for Clients at Brother Francis Shelter

At Brother Francis Shelter, staff and case managers work diligently to help guests with housing applications, immediate needs, and essential resources. Thanks to your support, these services are **easier to access than ever**—just a parking lot away.

Since opening in 2023, the 3rd Avenue Resource & Navigation Center (3RNC) has transformed how our clients access critical services.

“3RNC is a place where

someone can get connected immediately to multiple resources in the community,” says Charity Duley, 3RNC’s Program Director. Clients can connect with a variety of resources and services, whether it’s meeting with service partners like Food Bank of Alaska or Alaska Legal Services, or just charging a phone or taking a shower.

With 3RNC sitting just across the parking lot from Brother Francis Shelter, shelter

guests can make regular use of 3RNC. “Many clients regularly come over to meet with our navigators,” Charity says. “They’ve built strong relationships with our team.”

Your generosity makes these life-changing services possible. Together, we’re providing more than a warm bed—we’re offering the resources needed for long-term success. Thank you for supporting these critical connections.



Happy birthday to the Foot Clinic!

This September, the Brother Francis Shelter Foot Clinic marked 15 years of service! Through compassionate care and meaningful interactions, the Foot Clinic has become an integral part of Brother Francis Shelter. Shelter staff and guests gathered to honor these incredible volunteers with a heartfelt celebration and cake.

Thanks to your support, projects like the Foot Clinic can continue providing care, comfort, and dignity for our neighbors experiencing homelessness.