

Covid-19 Response—Then and Now

On March 23rd, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham issued a Public Health Emergency Order closing all businesses and nonprofit entities except those deemed essential due to COVID-19. Good Shepherd Center immediately understood the seriousness of this order and the potential that a homeless shelter could easily become an epicenter for the spread of the coronavirus. Following guidelines from the NM Department of Health (NM DOH) and the Centers for Disease Control, GSC took swift action to prevent the virus from infecting the people we serve, our staff, and our volunteers. As of the publication of this newsletter, Good Shepherd Center is COVID-19 free due to these actions:

- We suspended new overnight guest intakes indefinitely.
- The capacity in the main shelter was reduced from 77 to 60 people to ensure social distancing per NM DOH orders.
- With the dining room limited to no more than 10 seated guests at any one time, per the NM Public Health Order, daily Community Meals were delivered as “box meals” curbside.
- Medical respite beds and long-term overnight guests’ exit dates were extended indefinitely to ensure that they are not discharged to the streets during this time.
- Guests/Staff/Volunteers receive symptom and temperature checks twice daily and when they enter/leave the facility.
- Any guest/person that enters the residential facility must disinfect their belongings and wash or sanitize their hands before entering. All guests/people entering the facility must come in through the front intake section (chokepoint).
- Two isolation areas were created for guests/on-site staff who are instructed by New Mexico Department of Health to isolate until further testing.
- Clearly defined screening measures have been implemented for staff and guests/people who are suspected of having COVID-19 symptoms, which includes receiving symptom and temperature checks twice daily and when they enter/leave the facility.
- Any person, whether an overnight guest, medical respite guest, or Fresh Start client, that leaves the facility for medical reasons must turn in a copy of their paperwork from their visit to a staff member showing their screening/testing results for COVID-19 upon returning to the facility.
- The Clothing Room was closed and we stopped taking in-kind donations of food, clothing, supplies, etc. but we are now able to accept donations of clothing and food. The Clothing Room is once again open.

The measures above apply to everyone at Good Shepherd Center. Several additional conditions were put in place for our clients in the Fresh Start Substance Abuse Recovery Program, which included reducing group therapy session to no more than nine men and significantly limiting their ability to leave our facilities to essential functions only, e.g. a family emergency.

We are blessed that everyone—our guests, clients, staff, and volunteers—all understood the reasons for these strict measures and complied with grace. If anyone had doubts about how GSC proceeded, they were laid to rest in late May when one of the other shelters in our community had several people test positive for the virus.

We are also blessed that during these trying times, YOU, our friends and supporters, continue to be ambassadors in the community for our mission. Thank YOU.

Want to Help?

All physical donations may be made at our location on Iron Ave.

We're in need of the following items:

Summer Clothing:

New Socks
Light Jackets and Windbreakers
T-Shirts and Short-Sleeved Shirts
Shoes, Sandals, and Work Boots (all sizes)
New Men's Boxers/Boxer-Briefs (esp. M, L, XL)

Toiletries:

Sunscreen
Travel-Sized Deodorant
Travel-Sized Shampoo and Soap
Razors and Travel-Sized Shaving Cream
Toothbrushes and Travel-Sized Toothpaste

Foods Most In Need:

Jams	Pasta
Peanut Butter	Sugar
Canned Tuna and Meat	Powdered Milk
Coffee (ground or instant)	Salt and Pepper



Founded in 1951 by Brother Mathias Barrett, Good Shepherd Center is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit mission of the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God, province of the Good Shepherd in North America. All donations are tax deductible.



We at Good Shepherd Center respect the privacy of our friends and benefactors. Our database and mailing lists remain private and confidential. We do not sell, trade, or share these lists outside the Good Shepherd Center organization.

If you would like to receive newsletters via email, or if you would like to direct others to the newsletter, please visit our website.



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Shepherd's Call



See more on gscnm.org
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A Message from Good Shepherd Center, Inc. of
the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God
July 2020

The Lord will keep you from all harm—
He will watch over your life;
the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

Psalms 121:7-8



COVID-19
response

We Want to Hear from You!

As usual, enclosed in the newsletter is a remittance envelope should you desire to make a gift to Good Shepherd Center. Even if you do not make a gift at this time, we ask that you fill out all the information on the flap and mail it back. This will be helpful so we can honor how you like to be addressed and contacted in the future.



Giving Back Through Community Charity

United Way of Central New Mexico recently chose Good Shepherd Center to partake in the Feeding Families Fund community charity grant. United Way designated \$1000 a week for five weeks to purchase food from local businesses and feed the community at large with that food. This grant directly supports the local community by providing hot meals for all those who share at our table while also bolstering local businesses.

We would like to thank the United Way of Central New Mexico for not just thinking of helping one organization, but rather to support an entire community. This grant is a novel way of multi-level giving to effect change through a cooperation of efforts.

Once again, this venture of community togetherness allows the Good Shepherd Center to continue to serve, with respect and compassion, the most vulnerable in our community.

Thank You for Your Support!

The quality of life for the people served at Good Shepherd Center would be greatly diminished without the support of generous friends within the local community:

To St. John's United Methodist Church, who so graciously shared a portion of their proceeds from their Fish Fry Dinner.

To Los Poblanos Inn and Organic Farm for their gifts of hearty bread for our guests.

To Two Boys Donuts for their tasty treats.

To all the groups that have donated cupcakes, casseroles, and meals for our guests.

To Costco who provides us produce, baked goods, and other items.

To our individual sponsors who join us in providing services those most in need.

Homelessness Myths Debunked

There are many myths and stereotypes that people believe about homelessness. This misinformation is problematic, as it further contributes to the stigmatization of a population that is already marginalized.

Below are six of the many misconceptions about homelessness, compared to the realities for people who are experiencing homelessness.

Myth: People choose to be homeless.

Fact: A variety of different factors can contribute to an individual becoming homeless. People experience homelessness when all other options have been exhausted, and/or they are dealing with circumstances that make it difficult to maintain housing. Some of the obstacles that may lead people to become homeless include eviction, lack of affordable housing, and coping with mental illnesses or addictions, which makes it difficult to maintain independent housing.

Myth: People experiencing homelessness are lazy.

Fact: To survive, many people who experience homelessness are constantly searching for food, shelter, and a source of income. Due to these barriers, many people who are homeless do not have the option of being lazy. Just searching for a job becomes even more challenging when a person does not have access to a phone, computer, or fixed address on a regular basis.

Myth: All people who experience homelessness are addicts.

Fact: Many people who experience homelessness do not struggle with substance abuse problems or addictions. Just like in the general population, only a percentage of those who are experiencing homelessness deal with addictions. People who are homeless may deal with other issues related to their experiences of homelessness, including trauma and mental illness.

Myth: People experiencing homelessness should just find a job.

Fact: There are many people experiencing homelessness who are employed; however, it is much more difficult to find a job when homeless. A number of different challenges, such as: lacking a permanent address, not having regular access to showers, barriers to transportation, and other difficulties like mental illness make it difficult to obtain employment. Even when those who are homeless find jobs, they are often part-time or minimum wage positions. This work fails to adequately meet their needs, due to expensive housing costs.

Myth: There are plenty of services to help those experiencing homelessness.

Fact: Many of the solutions and supports for homelessness have focused on emergency services, such as shelters and food banks. For individuals who are trying to escape a cycle of poverty and homelessness, emergency services alone are not adequate. There is a need to focus on the larger systemic factors, including the lack of affordable housing and the criminalization of homelessness that prevent people from obtaining permanent and suitable shelter.

Myth: Property values will go down if we let homeless shelters into our neighborhoods.

Fact: There is no research-based evidence to support this myth. This common misperception and attitude is referred to as “Not in My Backyard” (NIMBY) and can have detrimental effects for people who need to access services in different neighborhoods. Despite Albuquerque’s increasing homeless population, the cost of housing continues to increase as well.



Book of Life

We pray for our community every day, especially for:

For Health:

Anthony Galaz
Jeanette Monahan
Dr. Bill McCarron
Bobbie Magee
Andrew Lewis
Lynn Kasin
Gabriel Griego
Michael Fierro

Rest in Peace:

Patrick Joseph Vail
Angelina Stanley
Devin Bollinger
Kody Martin
Mary Stenovec
Maxine Roybal Lopez
Mr. DiPaola
Barbara Holt
David Tomas Rave

Special Intentions:

Mary Lou Trujillo & Family
Lilly Chacon & Family
Aurora
Mary B. Lutz & Family
Martin Baca & Family
Maldonado Family
David Tomas Trujillo Rave

If you have a request for prayers, email:

gsc@gscnm.org

Or submit a request online at:

www.gscnm.org/contact-us

A Letter From Our Executive Director



Dear Friends,

While our services have required alteration, our mission to serve the community remains strong. I appreciate so much the outpouring of care you all have shown us, especially during this trying time. We look forward to when we can be closer to each other again and pray that you, your families, and all of those touched by the Good Shepherd Center may stay safe and healthy.

With gratitude,

Brother Sean McIsaac, OH