



Shepherd's Call



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A Message from Good Shepherd Center, Inc. of
the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God
November 2020



Our Hospitaller Brothers

Brother Gerard, Brother Nick, Brother Sean, and Brother Charles

Updated Ministry Areas

For almost 70 years, the Good Shepherd Center (GSC) has been providing the Overnight Shelter Program to homeless men 18 years and older. On August 31st, GSC decided to go in a new direction, and a new era began with the start of the Resettlement Program.

A brief history. In the mid-1500's, John of God began his ministry in Granada, Spain by sheltering and serving the needs of the sick, the mentally ill, and the poor. Literally carrying men on his back, John of God brought those he found in the streets and alleys of Granada to, at first, a small home, and ultimately to a larger home that became a hospital, to give them food, shelter and medical care. Each man was treated with the dignity and respect they deserved regardless of their situation. Upon his death in 1550, disciples of John of God's ministry stepped forward to continue his work. John was canonized in 1690 and in 1880 the Pope declared him the patron saint of the sick and those who care for them. Today his followers are known as the Hospitaller Brothers of St. John of God.

One of the Brothers, Brother Mathias Barrett, came to Albuquerque in 1950. In January of 1951, he founded the Congregation of the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd and opened the doors of what became known as the Good Shepherd Center. To this day, the Hospitaller Brothers of Saint John of God have been leading Albuquerque's oldest homeless shelter with a mission to serve, with respect and compassion, the most vulnerable in our community by providing sustainable resources, services, and programs that meet their most basic needs.

The Resettlement Program (RP) will serve the same population as the overnight shelter but will

invite them to stay for an average 90-day period to receive the services they need to get back on their feet and "resettled" in the community. During this time, our guests will receive a full range of case management services, including help with finding supportive housing, employment, and educational opportunities. Referrals for mental health counseling and healthcare will be provided. Men coming into the Resettlement Program must be alcohol and drug free and test negative for COVID-19 within the past 48 hours of application. If an individual demonstrates an addictions problem, they can be assessed and, if appropriate, be admitted to GSC's Fresh Start Substance Abuse Recovery Program.

The RP will be the first of its kind in New Mexico. As there are multiple homeless shelters in the Albuquerque area attempting to meet the need of the estimated 5,000 homeless men, women, and children, this shift by GSC should not have a dramatic effect on shelter options for men. However, it will have a dramatic effect on the lives of those in our program.

One reason for implementing the RP now is the new COVID-19 pandemic world. For the health and safety of the men GSC serves, we can no longer shelter 77 men as we have previously. To maintain social distancing, we can only shelter up to 60. For safety purposes, given the virulent spread of the coronavirus, allowing new men to come in off the street every night into the shelter is no longer tenable. Most importantly, a revolving door of men in and out of the shelter and on the street does nothing to improve their lives. The Resettlement Program will change that and is a testament to our original founder, Saint John of God.

Thanks, CleanSpray and Xtreme Clean!

We recently communicated with our supporters to let you all know the steps we have taken so that our shelter remains COVID-19 free. This is still the case. We noted in our letter to you that we installed, and use daily, a new biotechnology spray sanitization system that kills not only COVID-19 virus on contact, but also other viruses and bacteria as well. Please join us in a big THANKYOU to the company that makes the system, CleanSpray, which is located in Texas, and Xtreme Clean, an Albuquerque company, that installed and services the system. Their 25% discount was a very generous gift.

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I would like to welcome our three new staff members who will be steering Good Shepherd towards the path that best serves our guests. First, I will be stepping down as Executive Director to provide pastoral care for new novitiates. Brother Nick Foran will be assuming Executive Director position. He comes to us with much experience in this field and will continue the good works of the Center.

Also, please welcome our new Manager of Shelter Services, Brother Charles Schreiner, who will be serving our community in the day to day running of Good Shepherd Center. He is returning to us after several years away, but we are happy to have him back.

Lastly, Nate Jennings is spearheading our new resettlement program for those guests in need of permanent housing, both direct from Fresh Start and respite care guests as well as placement from the community. He is experienced in the Non-profit world and is already settling into the new area of service for the Center.

With gratitude,

Brother Sean McIsaac, OH



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:

Everyone in Prince of Peace Catholic Church Cas-serole Program who so generously donated meals for our guests.

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 who have provided food and goods to support to fulfil our ministry.

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.

Good Shepherd Center Stories

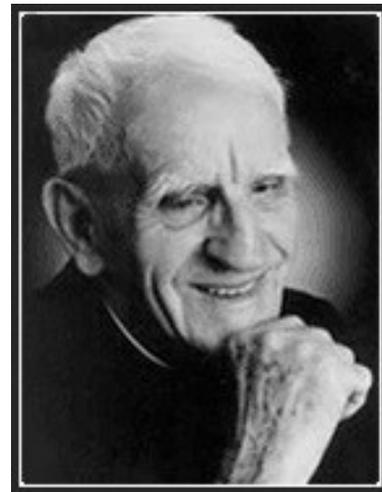
Over the past few weeks, Good Shepherd Center Board members and staff have been calling and emailing our donors to simply say thank you for your support. With all of the unknowns about the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly how long it will last, one thing we do know is that our donors, you, have been with us through it all as we work diligently to make sure our guests are as safe and healthy as possible.

A wonderful thing has happened during several of the phone calls – our friends have been sharing stories about how they got involved with the Good Shepherd Center. Some of the stories go back forty or more years and it warms our hearts to hear them.

A favorite is from the donor who, as a Pink Lady, helped care for Brother Mathias Barrett when he was ill and hospitalized at St. Joseph's Hospital (now Lovelace). She can still recall how kind and caring Brother Mathias was and his absolute commitment to the homeless women and men in our community. Even at 85, he said his work was not complete and he hoped to add a second shelter, this one for women—Barrett House, to the shelter he founded for

men, which you know as the Good Shepherd Center. Inspired, Dorothy has been a generous donor since.

We are blessed with many donors and we may not be able to reach all of you in the near future. But we would love to hear your stories about how you became involved with the Good Shepherd Center. If you are willing to share your stories, email or call Heather at donations@gscnm.org or 505-243-2527 extension 303. If you've received your newsletter in the mail and you'd prefer, take a moment to write us a note and drop it in the enclosed envelope.



Brother Mathias Barrett
Founder of Good Shepherd Center



Keily House
The Original Home of
Good Shepherd Center

Book of Life

We pray for our community every day, especially for:

Rest in Peace:

Anthony Galaz
Leo L. Perea, Jr.
Shirley Gavlin
William Schroeder
Frank H. Viquesney
Lynn Kasin
Mike Harris
Rev. Samuel J. Falbo
Laura Hawley
Beverly Anaya
Marshall Carr

Special Intentions:

The Hinds Family
Dwi and Family
James Sanchez
Family of Helen Armijo
Schroeder Family
Janet Jacobs
Mary Lou Trujillo and Family
For all those suffering from
Coronavirus, as well as for a
vaccine to prevent further ill-
ness and death

For Health:

Rita Schroeder
James Lowe
Felix Encinias
Eva Carrera
Joseph Pacheco
Heather, Bobbie, and Unique

For prayer requests:

gsc@gscnm.org

Or submit a request online at:

www.gscnm.org/contact-us

Welcome Our New Coworkers!

Brother Nick Foran

Hailing from Philadelphia, Brother Nick will use his extensive leadership experience to adapt the Center to this tumultuous COVID-19 world. He looks forward to partnering with the other Brothers and staff.

Brother Charles Schreiner

Coming from Pennsylvania, Brother Charles is glad to be back at the Center after 5 years. His skills allow him to work with the day-to-day operations of the Center while working hand in hand with the other staff and guests.

Nate Jennings

Coming to us from our own Albuquerque, Nate is excited to work with our guests to find stable housing, work, and schooling for our new Resettlement Program. His experience with other non-profits will aid in his goal.

Want to Help?

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

We're in need of the following items:

Winter Clothing:

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

Toiletries:

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

Foods Most In Need:

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Canned Corn | Rice |
| Canned Tomatoes | Hot Chocolate |
| Canned Tuna and Meat | Powdered Milk |
| Canned and Dried Beans | Coffee (ground or instant) |



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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