



Shepherd's Call



See more on gscnm.org
Facebook @gscnm.org

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

July 2024



A Fresh Start

When I first came to Good Shepherd Center, I was unfamiliar with the inner workings of assisting the marginalized in our society. I had volunteered before, but not for an organization such as the Center. It has been an eye-opening experience!

What I didn't understand five years ago (and something that I continue to learn) is that those who come to us for help, whether it be for food, shelter, or for addictions recovery, all have different stories. Stereotyping all of our guests under one umbrella does a disservice to not just them, but society as a whole.

The more I listen to our guests, the more I realize that there are many ways to fall through the cracks of society, and it is only through help from others that they can get back on their feet. This is especially true for our Fresh Start Substance Abuse Treatment Program where men stay with us for six months while they heal and learn how to live without a dependence on unhealthy addictions.

The program is regimented to provide them with the highest chance of successful reentry into society. They come to us with a conviction to better their lives and we try our best to give them with every chance to succeed. Although not everyone completes the program, we are here and ready to provide help whenever they are ready to seek out an opportunity for healing.

I have found that the most difficult part of their journey back into society is being around those they used to spend time with that continue to misuse substances. It is hard to take part in social interactions when they are surrounded by familiar habits and addictions

Our guests—whether they be looking for overnight, long term, or basic needs—want to better themselves. Through our help, even if it is just a shower and a meal, we can give them a lift perhaps to start again on a new journey... a fresh start.

—Heather Mattax

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

To all the churches that prepare casseroles for Good Shepherd Center's community meals.

To Niagara Water for their generous donation of two pallets of water to help keep those who come to us hydrated in the summer heat.

To Baca's Trees for their continued support.

To all who provide food and goods to support and fulfill our ministry.

To our individual and corporate sponsors who help us provide services to those most in need.

To our generous anonymous donor who provided a car to shuttle guests to and from job interviews and housing interviews.

A Warm Welcome

Good Shepherd Center had the privilege of hosting Brother David Lynch (left), Provincial of the Good Shepherd Province in North America, and Brother Joseph Smith (right) who represents the General Curia in Rome.

As part of our hospitality, we happily gave them the grand tour of our facility. They were very impressed with the Good Shepherd Center's cleanliness, quality of food, and serene atmosphere provided for our guests.

On our part, we are very proud of the Good Shepherd Center and how it functions. We would welcome our friends to visit anytime and tour our ministries, and then join us for lunch afterwards. Meals are from 2 pm to 3 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Saturdays from 11:30 pm to noon.



Our Clothing Room

Our clothing room provides clean clothing for men in the city. Having access to our clothing room both bolsters our clients' spirits, but also allows for proper attire for job interviews. We offer all clothing items, such as shoes, shirts, and pants to those in need.

We also provide toiletries such as oral hygiene, deodorant, and shaving supplies. All of these allow for easier integration into society.

If you would like to donate clothing or toiletries, please stop by at our location—218 Iron Ave. SW,—any day from 8 am to 4 pm. Gently used clothes are gladly accepted, but please, no used underwear or socks. We are blessed to be one of the many recipients of Bomas Socks outreach program which provides socks to our services, but we are al-

ways in need of new boxer-brief underwear, preferably sizes Small S to XL.

None of our items are ever sold, so you can rest assured that your donation will go directly to those most in need. Thank you so much for your help in serving those who come to us in their time of need.



A Listening Presence for Our Men

One year ago, a dear friend of Good Shepherd Center, Sister of Charity of Cincinnati Marie Vincentia Roney, passed away at the age of 90. Known simply as “Sister V”, she was a pillar of stability for our men for many years.

She was born in 1932 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, one of 13 children. In 1951, the same year as Good Shepherd Center was founded by Brother Mathias, she entered into the Sisters of Charity to begin her religious vocation. While pursuing her religious she continued her education with a Bachelor of Science in education as well as two Masters, one in Religious Education and one in Christian Spirituality. She used this extensive knowledge to minister to those around her to the best of her abilities. It

included time spent at various educational facilities around the nation, but settled back into New Mexico in various ministries.

Much of her vocation entailed education and spiritual direction, something that our Fresh Start Substance Abuse Recovery Program men desperately need. She was able to provide a listening ear to those lost with no idea who to turn to.

She was quoted, “To attend to the souls of these lay people from many different walks of life as well as men and women religious, I first of all had to attend to my own life. Receiving regular supervision from peers monthly with a group of five spiritual directors was appreciated and essential. May I be and remain a fit instrument.”

She knew that accountability, so necessary in all areas of life, was exceptionally vital for our men in the Program. They had a concrete example of someone who lived and flourished, knowing that the accountability was a large part of it. They knew that she was doing the best she could for all those who came to her for help—and those she reached out to in their time of need that may not have known they needed help at the time.

So now, a year later, her legacy lives on. We have expanded the teachings of the Fresh Start Program to better serve our guests while still providing the structure and lessons to go back out into the world and succeed where they couldn't before. We remember Sister Vincentia as we move forward into helping more people find stability and success in the world. It is only by listening to those around us—peers and acquaintances—that we can be more in tune with how we can serve others to the best of our abilities.

May we live like “Sister V”—a fit instrument.



Book of Life

We pray for our community every day, especially for:

Rest in Peace:

William Harris
Michael Andazola
Bill Dunbar
Fr. Bob Fuller
John Stollsteimer
Gerald Edelbrock
Grace Hanosh
Linda Kramer
Jerry K. Brown
John Kelly
Hugh MacDonald
Norita Callahan
Bruce J. Sr.
Karen Twohig

Special Intentions:

Joel and Matt on their wedding
Joshua Cheese
Francesco Didiano
Joe and Joe P. Valdez
James Musulin
Betty Jo Peterson
Raymond Garcia
Mary Dunbar

For Health:

Bernadine Rocks
Alton and Barbara
Bertschinger
Morris G Chavez



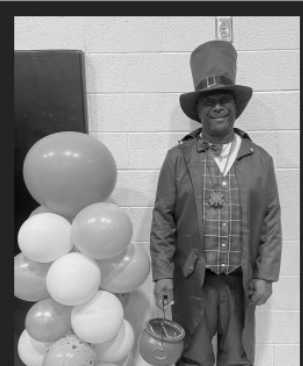
For prayer requests:

gsc@gscnm.org

Or submit a request online at:
www.gscnm.org/contact-us

A Great Day for Celebrating!

Thank YOU for making the 73rd Annual
St. Patrick's Day Dinner a memorable day!



Want to Help?

All physical donations may be dropped off at our location at 218 Iron Ave. SW

We're in need of the following items:

Clothing:

Belts
Pants
Shorts
T-Shirts/Undershirts
Underwear (new, especially S-XL)

Toiletries:

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

We now accept clean used **mattresses** of all sizes. For information, call Debbie at 505-243-2527 ext. 300.

Foods Most In Need:

Coffee (ground or instant)

Canned Tuna and Meat

Canned and Dried Beans

Canned Vegetables and Tomatoes

Rice

Spaghetti

Bottled Water

Powdered Milk



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.

 gscnm.org

 [Facebook.com/gscnm.org](https://www.facebook.com/gscnm.org)



gsc@gscnm.org



(505) 243-2527



218 Iron Ave. SW

Albuquerque, NM 87102