



## St. Francis of Assisi Winter Homeless Shelter Program 2019

In the spirit of St. Francis, and with the support of our pastor **Fr. Matt**, parishioners implemented for the 4<sup>th</sup> time a winter shelter program for up to 15 homeless men. This season we collaborated with Most Holy Trinity Church and Evergreen Valley United Methodist Church and rotated our services on a weekly basis for 14 weeks. Here is what we were able to accomplish:

- We sheltered up to 11 men on a nightly basis during 52 shelter evenings.
  - Over 150 volunteers participated in the program: helping with shelter setup; greeting and doing intake; preparing and serving food; supervising our guests in the evening; organizing and preparing donated supplies. The estimated number of hours that these volunteers spent on the program was **1,008 hours**.
  - Many parishioners donated hygiene supplies, clothing, bedding and other items for our guests. Also, a total of \$19,725 was received from parishioners to support this ministry. This was especially important because, with MHT's St. Vincent de Paul Society, we were able to hire a Security Guard who worked every evening from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
  - Project WeHOPE provided their "Dignity on Wheels" service twice a week so our guests could shower and wash their clothes.
  - Evergreen Valley United Methodist Church was able to host/shelter our guests one evening when neither MHT's nor our facility was available.
- The 110 dinners and breakfasts that were prepared by our volunteers (with friends from other parts of the Valley) were delicious and varied culturally as well.
  - The parish facilities staff put in extra work to do all that was necessary to ensure that our guests' accommodations were always ready for them, cleaned up and restored to parish use afterwards. Special thanks to **Phil McAllister!**
  - The parish staff communicated with the shelter team concerning all donations, safe environment training, and scheduling. Thanks to **Gillian Griffis, Rosie Olivas, Rebecca Mitz** and **Victor Espinoza!**
  - Medical Social Workers of the Valley Homeless Healthcare Program at Alexian Clinic screened and referred all our guests, a total of 24. This enabled us to serve a total of 15 unduplicated individuals. They and staff from PATH also provided case management services to our guests to help them in various ways.
  - Every evening the guests and the volunteers experienced a real sense of community as we shared dinner. Our guests were always very appreciative of what our volunteers did for them. They expressed this constantly and in the satisfaction survey they filled out.
  - We celebrated our work together with a potluck dinner for all the guests and volunteers on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Thanks a million to the members of the **Shelter Leadership Team**: Ferdie Angel, Bob Dolci, Marcos Herrera, Leona Karayan, Phil McAlister, Fr. Matt Stanley, Deepa Palamuttam and Tom Ricci.

**Finally, thanks to all who participated in this most meaningful ministry with your time, donations and love!**