



Shepherd's Call



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A Message from Good Shepherd Center, Inc.
of the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God
November 2023



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

From Good Shepherd Center

Another Perspective

While the rest of the staff was all having a hospitality conference today, I was having my own. As I was leaving the office, limping along to my car with my cane, a client (don't know the name) said, "Can I help you?" Now this is not unusual. GSC clients often ask me that. But the consideration still amazes me. What followed was more unusual. When I got to my car, I found my handicap tag behind my windshield wiper. Another client had found it on the ground near my car, where I had accidentally knocked it when I got out. He picked it up, and put it where I would find it. (That man needs a good pat on the back for his good turn.) Can you imagine what would have happened had I dropped the tag in any other parking lot around town? I would have never seen it again. Someone would have taken it to use themselves. But not at the Shepherd. As I have always said, the Good Shepherd Center is likely the safest and most hospitable place in the city. The best hospitality conference possible today would have been provided just by a walk through our facility.

—Dr. Bob Tapscott



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 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints who donated a truck-load of food for our guests.

To Baca's Trees for their continued support.

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

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

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

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

To The Catholic Foundation for their generous donation.

In Grateful Thanksgiving

In late July, the generous people of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints were kind enough to share in their bounty. An entire truck load of non-perishable food goods was delivered and prepped for use during the year. All of our on-



site guests as well as those who come to us for community meals are benefitting from the generosity of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Through the efforts of many of our volunteers and staff, the offload went smoothly. Two of our crew can be seen here manning the forklift as they packed the warehouse with goods for Good Shepherd Center. It was a long day—but with great benefit. It was a blessing to be able to partner with others in the community.

Good Shepherd Center aims to aid all those in the community who are in need, and we want to thank each and every person who makes this possible!

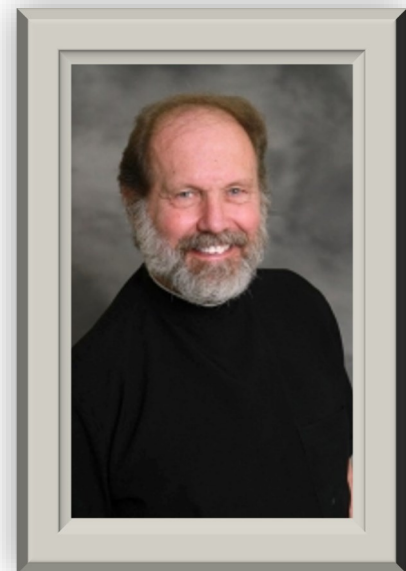
Once again, thank you to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for their generosity!

In Loving Memory

We are very saddened at the passing of Brother Mateo Fenza who, until recently, worked at our clothing room.

He professed solemn vows on October 4, 1987. Over the years he served the poor and forgotten at St. John's Hospice, Philadelphia; Good Shepherd Center, Albuquerque; Good Shepherd Centre, Hamilton; Cardinal Manning House of Prayer, Los Angeles; and Camillus House, Miami.

The funeral Mass and internment of ashes were made at Villa Mathias, Albuquerque.



Brother Mateo Fenza, OH
October 9, 1945 — October 3, 2023

Changing One Life at a Time

Having grown up in Albuquerque and having spent most of my 54 years locally, it was time to give back.

As the son of a single mom with a dad that was imprisoned for most of my childhood, the tables could have easily turned with me being the one who was homeless and on the streets. Thankfully, my hard-working mother never let that happen. She worked for a local physician's group that was prominent in the area. One of these doctors, Dr. Lloyd Hurley, MD, was an Irishman and a fiddle player. Throughout the late 70's and early 80's, Dr. Hurley was invited to play his fiddle and Irish jigs at the Brother Mathias Barrett Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. This was my first exposure to Brother Mathias and the existence of this organization. Brother Mathias was a small man in stature with a huge footprint in the city of Albuquerque. My mom and I attended the dinner annually for several years. We witnessed, firsthand, the great entertainment and awesome food that this event provided from year to year, although it wasn't until later in my life that I realized what significance this event had in our community.

I never realized Brother Mathias's impact on the city and its people until recently. In 2021, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, I met a gentleman by the name of Deacon Steve Rangel. One day, while we were doing business out in the community, Steve asked if I had some time to stop

by the Good Shepherd Center for visitation since we were near the center. I must admit, I wasn't excited to do so but I went anyway. This was a pivotal moment in my life. You see, I had never been asked to mingle with the homeless. I can honestly say, this one trip changed my life. Meeting the men of our community in need that had been given the opportunity for a hand up and not a handout from The Good Shepherd Center certainly changed my perception and made me want to contribute and do more. The fact that most of these men were in the shelter due to medical respite, prison release, drug and alcohol abuse, and some by just misfortune was eye-opening to me.

After my experience that day, I was able to meet the Brothers of The Good Shepherd Center, all the program directors and many, participants who shared their stories. Shortly after this first visit, I was offered an opportunity to apply for membership on the Board of Directors, an opportunity I quickly jumped at without need for much thought.

As I finish my first two-year term on the Board of Directors, I look back at the opportunity that I was afforded. You see the redemption story was not one of the participants but my own, and the chance to give back to the city that has given me so much.

— Dustin S.



Book of Life

We pray for our community every day, especially for:

Rest in Peace:

Ruby O. Varela
John Kelly
Jack Feely
Maria Valdex
Monique Garcia
Lawrence Shepherd
Gloria Vicens
Brother Mateo Fenza, OH

Special Intentions:

Laurence J. Chavez
Monica Martin
Son of Juanita Riley
Pamela and Dean Stone
Jonathan Peralta
James Sanchez
Jenifer Romero
Paul Romero Familiy
Beatrice Hill
The Doherty Family

For Health:

Agnes Gunderson
Mary Elizabeth

For prayer requests:

gsc@gscnm.org

Or submit a request online at:

www.gscnm.org/contact-us

Sharing in the Bounty

We are exceedingly happy for all of the gardeners in the city who donated their extra produce for our guests. Our budget is limited, so we must make daily decisions on where we can most effectively purchase foods. But the old standby of lean times, canned food, doesn't hold a candle to a fresh apple or sauteed green beans.

Good Shepherd Center strives to provide nutritious meals for all our guests, and it can be difficult to prepare balanced meals, so the added fresh goods bring a wonderful lift to meals. Something as simple as a grape or two picked that morning can make a guest's day—and nourish their body at the same time. We rely on vendors

and donors throughout the year for our produce, but it is great to have home-grown or farmed goods, freshly picked and packed.

So to all those who donated this year, Thank You! If you would like to donate next year, feel free to drop off whatever you can't use for yourself—no minimum required.

Also, if you are interested in donating to Good Shepherd Center, we are accepting food, men's clothing, toiletries, and small housewares (kitchenware, new in-box small appliances, bedding). Drop it by our location any day of the week. Feel free to call if you have questions at 505-243-2527 ext 303.

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
Shoes
Jeans
Jackets
T-Shirts
Underwear (new)

Toiletries:

Deodorant
Toothpaste
Body Lotion
Toothbrushes
Shampoo and Soap
Shaving Cream and Razors

Foods Most In Need:

Canned Tuna
Canned Tomatoes
Canned Vegetables
Canned and Dried Beans

Rice
Spaghetti
Powdered Milk
Coffee (ground or instant)

Housewares Most In Need: PLEASE NO FURNITURE

Towels
Bedding
Toilet Paper
Pots and Pans
Small Lamps (new and in box)

Cups and Plates
Cleaning Supplies
New Shower Curtains
Cutlery and Cooking Utensils
New In-Box Small Appliances (to reduce fire risk)



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.

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