



Catholic Social Services

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News Release

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For Immediate Release

September 30, 2016

Brother Francis Shelter Honors Founders

Public invited to join Catholic Social Services on Sunday, Oct. 2

Anchorage —Catholic Social Services will be honoring Brother Bob Eaton and Brother Dave Sifferman for helping found Brother Francis Shelter. The community is invited to join CSS on **Sunday, October 2, 2016** from **6:00pm-7:00pm** at **Brother Francis Shelter (1021 E. 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, AK)**.

35 years ago, Archbishop Francis Hurley heard of the work and accomplishments of Brothers Bob Eaton and Dave Sifferman with men and women experiencing homelessness in Spokane, Washington. Archbishop Hurley invited them to perform street ministry in Anchorage.

After being moved out of the first overnight shelter in 1983 for fire safety concerns, Brother Bob and Brother Dave essentially erected a tent city at the rose garden on the west end Delaney Park Strip and invited those without a home to join them.

Mayor Tony Knowles worked with Brothers Bob and Dave and Archbishop Hurley to develop a permanent structure on Post Road through a federal development grant and assistance from the Anchorage Assembly.

After many years and many



renovations, Brother Francis Shelter acts as more than a shelter providing a safe place to sleep, a hot meal, clothing, access to medical care, volunteer opportunities, community-wide resources, and comprehensive case management.

Thanks to a contribution from two private donors in the community, a plaque commemorating the work of Brother Bob and Brother Dave will be unveiled at a celebration organized by the Brother Francis Shelter Advisory Council to shed light on the beginnings of Brother Francis Shelter.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The media is invited to speak with **CSS Executive Director Lisa Aquino** and/or **Brother Francis Shelter Program Director Lisa Caldeira** at the event.

About Catholic Social Services

Since its founding in 1966, Catholic Social Services has grown, and continues to grow, in response to unmet needs. CSS programs help over 21,000 children, families and individuals each year, regardless of their faith. CSS provides shelter, meals, employment assistance and medical care to those experiencing homelessness. CSS offers assistance to children and their families, helps immigrants and refugees adjust to life in Alaska, and serves people with disabilities. CSS is working to improve quality of life for the entire Anchorage community by advocating on behalf of its most vulnerable members. For more information visit www.cssalaska.org.

Catholic Social Services' Brother Francis Shelter (established 1982) provides temporary, emergency shelter for men and women, an evening meal, use of shower and laundry facilities, case management services, advocacy, job readiness, and referrals for employment, permanent housing, mental health issues, and treatment options for alcohol and substance abuse. During **FY 2016**, Brother Francis Shelter provided **96,498** nights of stay and served **77,636** dinners to **3,688** men and women without a home. Among guests using comprehensive case management services, **39%** moved into permanent housing.