



A Catholic Social Services Publication | Winter 2018

# Faces of Hope

*Ending homelessness one family at a time*

## A Time for New Beginnings

WRIGHT PICKS UP THE PIECES

**Wright, a 66-year-old Navy veteran and retiree, was able to support himself, but after his surgery he fell on hard times.** Just over a year ago, Wright was walking around without an issue. However, in the last seven months, issues stemming from diabetes and habitual drinking caught up to him. His foot began to shake non-stop with throbbing pain, a condition that ended with an amputation below the knee.

Wright came to Brother Francis Shelter after the operation and sought recovery in Medical Respite at Brother Francis Shelter. With support from our donors, Wright had a chance to heal as he worked to transition out of homelessness. After a few months, his case manager Sarah helped him find housing.

“Sarah helped me with everything,”

Wright says. “From change of address to a new ID, and help with anything I needed.”

Wright retired four years ago at 62 years old. He was in the Navy during the Vietnam War as a gunner’s mate. He worked different jobs to make ends meet, but still came out with a bit of retirement. Wright spends most of his time relaxing, but with a prosthetic leg he will be able to get around town.

“I have a cousin in town, so I don’t like to stay in all day,” he says. “Winters are hard, but I gotta stay busy.”

**For Wright, his health caused him to become homeless.** People experiencing homelessness typically do not seek or complete medical treatment.

By having medical respite and primary care readily available at Brother Francis Shelter, it can decrease recovery time, and the men and women experiencing homelessness can focus on finding a place to call home. All of this is made possible with the generosity of our donors and support from the community. 



**PICTURE ABOVE »** Wright’s case manager helped him make his appointments and find housing.

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## Community Partnerships

A SAFETY NET FOR ALASKANS IN NEED

Partners and supporters like you make it possible for more than 23,000 people to receive services from Catholic Social Services every year.

Churches and businesses, clubs and neighbors give their time, treasure and talent every day to help those in need in their community through Catholic Social Services. **Thank you all for making Catholic Social Services so strong.**

Please take a moment to consider how you can join us by sharing your gifts or talents with those in need.

There are so many examples of partnership to call out and thank.

Did you know that groups from the community donate dinner to the moms and kids at **Clare House** every day of the year? Since it started 35 years ago, volunteer groups from churches and clubs all over town have brought dinner to Clare House.

We estimate a donation of more than \$250,000 every year.

**Providence Health & Services Alaska** makes and delivers dinner to our guests at **Brother Francis Shelter** every night and volunteers in the community come down to serve the meal.

**St. Francis House Food Pantry** runs thanks to an army of volunteers. Some volunteers have worked with us for decades as personal shoppers—providing support to families in need to make sure they have enough to eat.

Regular volunteers bring in food to St. Francis House—thank you to the **Knights of Columbus** from parishes all over town. They bring food, raise funds, and take care of their neighbors at the pantry. Every Lent for the past few years, **Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish** selects St. Francis House as their special project. The food pantry

sees loads of fresh food thanks to their efforts.

Parishes across town have a special place in their heart for those we serve at Catholic Social Services. **St. Patrick's Parish** started a Foot Clinic at Brother Francis Shelter stemming from Lent which continues to this day—volunteers wash and care for the feet of the men and women experiencing homelessness. What a tribute to our faith and to those in the community in need.

Families from **Holy Family Cathedral, St. Andrew's, St. Andrew Kim, Holy Cross** and **St. Benedict** parishes all give to those in need in Anchorage.

Catholic Social Services is the service arm of our Church and you all flex those muscles to help our brothers and sisters in the community. **We are so grateful.**



 1,049 volunteers provided over 21,000 hours of service to people in need through 8 programs last year

 On any given night, volunteers serve warm meals to over 300 men & women at Brother Francis Shelter provided by Providence Alaska

 Volunteers distributed over 350,000 meals to families at St. Francis House Food Pantry

 Volunteer groups provide hot meals at Clare House 365 days a year, feeding 60 moms and kids each day

## Richard L. and Diane M. Block Foundation

PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THOSE MOST VULNERABLE IN ALASKA

Your support of Catholic Social Services allows us to serve men, women and children experiencing homelessness in our community.

The Richard L. and Diane M. Block Foundation is a generous supporter with a kinship to Catholic Social Services. Engrained in its mission statement is to support the social service organizations that lift up the poor so they may permanently and independently share in Alaska's bounty.

**For years, the Block Foundation has very generously supported Catholic Social Services and its 8 programs.**

The Block Foundation provided a means for a mom and her children at Clare House to shift out of homelessness and into a home. It reaches people in all of our programs, restoring hope to Alaskans in need.

**“THE BLOCK FOUNDATION IS A CHAMPION FOR ALASKANS.”**

Thanks to the Block Foundation and our donors, Brother Francis Shelter can continue to provide over 300 men and women experiencing homelessness with a warm meal and safe shelter daily. Case managers can connect our guests to the services that lead them out of homelessness.

“The Block Foundation is a champion for Alaskans,” says CSS Executive Director Lisa Aquino. “The family behind the Block Foundation lifts up individuals and families in need of support to bring them out of crisis and into stability.”

462 people were permanently housed last year thanks to supporters like you in the community and organizations like the Block Foundation.

## Did You Know?

The Brother Francis Shelter Caring Clinic has been staffed in the evenings by volunteer nurses, physician assistants and medical professionals for over 35 years. The Anchorage medical community provides a gap in basic medical services greatly needed at the shelter. **Southcentral Foundation** and community partners expanded the Caring Clinic in 2017, supporting the presence of a healthcare provider daily. More readily available primary care at Brother Francis Shelter is a proactive step in preventing a treatable condition from becoming an emergency.



**PICTURE ABOVE** » Generous funding from the Richard L. and Diane M. Block Foundation make it possible for families at Clare House to shift out of homelessness and into a home.



## Become Part of a Lasting Legacy

You can be part of a personal legacy that endures forever. A generous donor has established a Brother Francis Shelter Endowment Fund. Once it reaches its minimum dollar value, a designated amount may be used to help cover emergency or operating costs—ensuring hope to people experiencing homelessness in Anchorage.

Your support is greatly needed throughout the year, but please consider this option for a special donation or during your estate planning. Contact Tricia Teasley at [tteasley@cssalaska.org](mailto:tteasley@cssalaska.org) or 222-7355 for more information on this lasting legacy. ☎

## Pick.Click.Give.

### TO ALASKANS IN NEED

Through Pick.Click.Give, you can make a difference. You can provide food for a family struggling to pay rent, give shelter to an Alaskan living on the streets, and help a veteran find a place to call home. You can support the mission of Catholic Social Services as we compassionately serve the poor and those in need.

When you file for your Permanent Fund Dividend, Pick.Click.Give. to Catholic Social Services. Give to 8 programs with 1 click! ☎



## Upcoming Events



### Grow North Farm-raiser

Wednesday, February 21, 5:30-7:30PM

Where: Resolution Brewery, 3024 Mountain View Dr. 99501

Celebrating the kick-off of Grow North Farm, Anchorage's newest urban farm. All proceeds will go toward soil to start developing Grow North Farm this summer. Help Fresh International Gardens grow!

### 28th Annual Wilma Carr Charity Ball

Saturday, May 12 at 6PM

Where: The Hotel Captain Cook

Charity Ball is an elegant and fun evening where we bring together the most fabulous supporters of Catholic Social Services.

Together we can provide pathways out of homelessness. Your contributions will fund programs that work with the most vulnerable men, women and families to help them find self-sufficiency and life-long stability. Tickets are available at [cssalaska.org](http://cssalaska.org).



Get involved with Catholic Social Services! For more information on these events or to volunteer, contact our Community Engagement Manager Clara Williams at [cwilliams@cssalaska.org](mailto:cwilliams@cssalaska.org) or 907-222-7335.



Catholic Social Services

