



Summer 2025

# SHEPHERD'S CALL



75  
YEARS

*Compassionate Care for  
New Mexicans in Need*

# A Success Story



## Good Shepherd Center

Bro. Mathias Barrett - Founder

Serving the Community since 1951

To the Brothers of St John of God and Staff of the Good Shepherd Center,

I would first like to express my unwavering gratitude to all that you have done. Not only for me, but all the hope and hospitality you provide for the community. Lord knows they need it. This place is more beautiful than I could possibly have imagined and it saving my life in more ways than one. I came into the Good Shepherd nervous, broken, lost. Now I can proudly say that I am not the man I was before I entered these doors. I found my faith in myself, humanity and the Father. Thank you for all the wonderful meals, the counseling provided by Ms. Juanita, and the feeling of safety knowing I have a safe and not to mention comfortable place to rest my head at night. It was pertinent to have the structure of a proper schedule of time and to work for the people who need us most. It was amazing to feel of use. It has been only 4 months but I have learned so much. Not only about sobriety but myself. I cannot thank you all enough.

It is a privilege to be able to work and serve the community to provide them with meals that are made with love and compassion for our less fortunate brothers and sisters. To be able to treat them like they have a safe place to rest their heads and where everyone here cares about their needs. I truly love taking care of the people who come in through those doors. I appreciate the responsibilities I have been given. From the chores given to keep the center in order so we

can all have a sense of pride in knowing we are providing for ourselves and others at such high capacity and standard. The nightly and daily meetings to attend and the chances to volunteer spare time to all the departments within the facility. I have not chaired any meetings at the moment but am more than excited to do so in the coming weeks. I am excited to start going to outside meetings and attaining a sponsor.

I plan to take all the amazing things I have learned during my time in the fresh start program and apply them into all facets of my life. I plan to attend meetings frequently to keep the maintenance of my sobriety upheld. I plan on moving into an apartment upon graduating as quick as I can find one. I am going to continue with my career as a mechanic with a new way of thinking and a fresh outlook on my horizons. I hope with all things I have learned here I can attain custody of my twin sons. I also plan to furthering my educational prowess by attaining my G.E.D. and eventually a college degree. I plan to help another alcoholic struggling through the things I have learned in the fresh start program. I also plan on coming back to volunteer to help the place that has helped me more than can be said in one letter. I hope to start my own company soon in the future but for now I am planning on establishing a lifestyle based around my recovery.

Sincerely,

J Anderson, a Fresh Start Graduate



# Hope for the Hungry

The Good Shepherd Center is best known for its emergency shelter for homeless men. However, less is known about our Community Meal served five days a week. Last year we served over 110,000 meals and are well on our way to service 150,000 meals this year and an estimated 1,050,000 meals over the last 75 years of service. More and more people who are homeless or in low-income situations depend on our hot meal program. We strive to cook and serve hearty, nutritious meals. Thanks to **Prince of Peace, Our Lady of the Assumption, St. John XXIII, and St. Bernadette Parishes**, we have a day set aside to serve their delicious homecooked casseroles!

Daniel, who is homeless and comes regularly for his main meal of the day, puts it into perspective:

*"I really like to go for the meal. I can go for seconds and thirds. To be honest, I don't know what I'd do without this meal. I'm always so hungry."*



Our Community Meal Guests

## 75 Years in Action



A warm meal for  
those in need

We have provided an estimated 1,050,000 meals in the last 75 years of service



Supporting neighbors  
with basic necessities

We distributed 1,500,00 items to those in need, including clothing, totes, and toiletries



A refuge for  
those in crisis

We welcomed 60,000 (unduplicated) men for 2,250,000 emergency and recovery nights.



New beginnings

We assisted 75 individuals and families to find secure and safe housing.





## Hope for the Future

Two of our Fresh Start Addictions Recovery Program graduates are well on their way toward re-establishing their lives with the help of our staff and other men in the program. Here Juanita, our Fresh Start Counselor, stands with our most recent graduates, Theron and Joseph. We wish them all the best as they continue to grow and explore life without the substance abuse that so greatly affected them before coming to Good Shepherd Center for help.

This supportive program offers recovery to up to 35 men at a time, free of charge, plus extension stays for those who require more help reintegrating into society from a safe and structured place. Help includes assistance in obtaining documentation needed for housing, applying for employment or school, and learning lifeskills such as budgeting and other skills necessary for stable living.

The Fresh Start Program is a six-month on-site service that gradually prepares men to overcome their addictions through a MATRIX model based on the 12-step addictions recovery system. During their stay at the Center, men take responsibility for their actions, as well as forming habits that will aid them in maintaining employment and housing once graduated from Fresh Start.

It is our hope that these men move forward to happy and healthy lives free from addiction. We also encourage them to sponsor other people going through recovery to share the lessons that they have learned here at Good Shepherd Center.

# Golfing for a Cause

This year we celebrated our second annual Good Shepherd Center Golf Scramble and it was a great success! Almost fifty golfers attended the event for a morning on the green, and we were blessed with beautiful weather and peaceful surroundings.

We would like to thank our major sponsors, Reliable Chevrolet, and Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish, as well as our other supporters who sponsored holes and helped support the event.

There was a raffle for lots of gifts as well as lunch and a tally of winners including the top two best scores, longest drives for both men and women—even a prize for the team that needed the most improvement! We hope that next year the rivalry continues and our teams can battle it out once again.

Be prepared for the tournament next year when we return to the green for more fun, all while supporting Good Shepherd Center's mission to aid those most in need with compassionate care!

## Thank You to Our Sponsors!

Reliable Chevrolet

Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish

St. John XXIII Catholic Community

John Marcelli—State Farm

JF Justice Financial

Petroglyph Home Organizing Solutions

Palms Trading Company

Luis and Patricia Stelzner

Tiffany Cornejo

Benson Boys

TJ Construction

Tom Walker



## We Pray for Those in Need

Diane Elrod

Dan Wardian

Fr. Kevin Joyce

Juliette Stangel

Elizabeth "Bette" Pazera

Charlie Benites

Joseph Martinez

JoAnn Jojola

Family of Eileen MacDonald

Patricia Gallacher

Richard Prasek

Raymond Esquibel

Maria Bachicha

Deacon Steve Rangel

Family of Mary de Lopez



# Ways to Help

In addition to financial gifts, Good Shepherd Center's guests are always in need of:

## Personal Items:

T-Shirts  
Jeans/Pants  
Shoes/Sandals  
Full-Sized Toiletries  
Travel-Sized Toiletries  
**Underwear—new, all sizes boxer-briefs**

## Food:

Rice  
Bottled Water  
Canned Beans  
**Ground Coffee**  
Canned Tuna and Meats  
Canned Vegetables and Tomatoes

## Join the Shepherds of Change

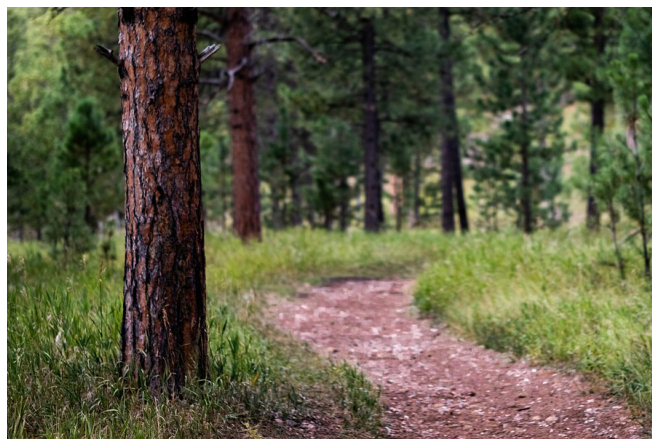
Our community depends on us every month, and we invite you to stand by our side.

By joining our special circle of monthly donors, your steady and reliable support will be the heartbeat of our mission, helping us plan in advance and keep our programs going strong. You'll be there every month, every day, and every step of the way—providing the security, stability, and support that truly restores lives.

To learn more about joining our monthly giving program, visit us at:  
[www.gscnm.org/crediddonation](http://www.gscnm.org/crediddonation)



## Leave a Path



With every moment of kindness and gesture of generosity, you have walked alongside your neighbors in need. When you make the meaningful decision to include Good Shepherd Center as part of your legacy, you aren't just supporting someone step-by-step. You're guiding the way forward for countless people who will feel you there beside them for many years to come.

If you would like to learn more about how a gift in your will can change countless lives in our community, contact Heather Mattax at:

**505-243-2527 ext. 303** or email [donations@gscnm.org](mailto:donations@gscnm.org)



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