

# brother francis shelter

Opening our doors to Anchorage's homeless for more than  
30 years.

## Brother Francis Shelter GIVES our homeless BROTHERS & SISTERS tools to climb the LADDER OF SUCCESS

### For \$19.00 a night, guests have access to:

- Warm, safe & secure shelter overnight
- Nutritious warm dinner (Provided by Providence Hospital)
- Access to laundry, clothing, basic medical care, short term storage, library, & showers.

*24-year-old Emily was facing seemingly insurmountable obstacles. She was raising her four brothers and sisters, she was pregnant, and she was homeless. Emily found help at CSS's Homeless Family Services. A case manager helped her wade through these heavy responsibilities.*

### Brother Francis Shelter

WITH YOUR HELP, offers a path to greater self-sufficiency and economic opportunities when a woman or man find themselves in a desperate situation.



But the **story about Brother Francis Shelter** has a much deeper meaning to those who find themselves in a desperate, homeless situation.

*Emily was able to get a job at a downtown company. But she had no transportation to get to her new job. After her younger siblings moved back in with their parents, she went to Brother Francis Shelter so she could walk to work. With help she saved money and took steps toward the independence for which she strived for. While Emily was at Brother Francis Shelter, she was able to save up enough money for a used car plus an additional \$6,000. After a brief stay at Clare House, she has moved into her own apartment. Now she anxiously awaits the day she brings her baby home.*

## Stories of Hope



While at Brother Francis Shelter, Emily received services that helped her find permanent housing and employment.

### Your Community Support Keeps Brother Francis Shelter Open

# Light for the Homeless Candlelight Vigil draws community support

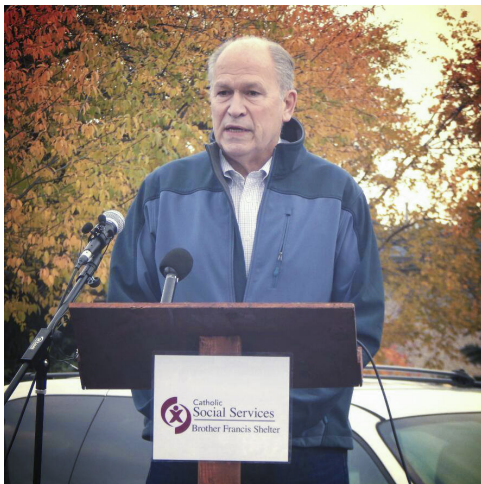
**Thank you to everyone** who came out and supported the Brother Francis Shelter Advisory Council's Light for the Homeless Candlelight Vigil. As a community, we will work together to help our city's most vulnerable individuals get into permanent housing and employment.

**For ways you can help, please go to [www.cssalaska.org](http://www.cssalaska.org)**



(Photo: Rhyan Graves)

## Light for the Homeless Photo Gallery

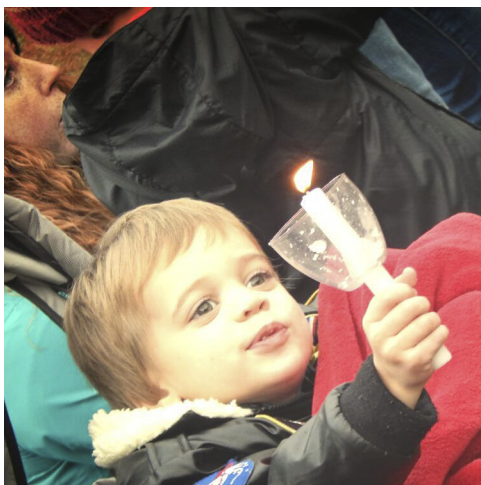


Gov. Bill Walker speaks at the Light for the Homeless Candlelight Vigil



Community members participate at the Light for the Homeless Candlelight Vigil

(Photo: Rhyan Graves)



Remembering lives lost at the Light for the Homeless Candlelight Vigil

(Photo: Rhyan Graves)



East High School's Swing Choir sings at the Light for the Homeless Candlelight Vigil

(Photo: Rhyan Graves)



## Meet New BFS Program Manager **Shawn Hays**

Brother Francis Shelter welcomes Shawn Hays as the new program manager.

Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, Shawn moved to Alaska in 1997 to join family who was already living here.

After working for TSA for years and doing volunteer work with the homeless, she decided to make a career of it. Shawn worked for a day shelter and then came to Brother Francis Shelter after finishing graduate school.

Shawn loves gardening, reading and writing about political history. She is a big World War II history buff and bakes ridiculous amounts of cupcakes. Stay tuned for her next cupcake party.

We sat down with Shawn to ask her a few questions about her new job and her passion to help others.

**Q** Why do you want to work at Brother Francis Shelter?

**A** *We live in an individualistic culture where the belief is that people should have the ability to pull themselves up by their bootstraps to improve their situation or solve their problems. The reality is that it takes a collective effort to help get folks on the path to self-sufficiency. I understand the struggles that many of our guests endure and my mission is to help them one at a time.*

**Q** You were homeless as a child, what has that experience taught you?

**A** *I remember the stigma associated with being homeless. Many believe that homeless people would not be homeless if they "just worked harder". My mother worked very hard but it wasn't quite enough to keep us housed at times. I also remember the kindness and generosity that people showed us and I try every day to pay it forward.*

**Q** What are your goals for helping guests?

**A** *My goal is help our guests acquire the basic level of needs such as food and shelter, so that they are then able to meet their higher level of needs and for everyone to have a place to call their own. Nobody should be living on the streets. Homelessness affects everyone. The truth is without our help, the issue will not go away. It takes a caring, passionate community to help people find and maintain housing. Homeless people are valuable worthy people that deserve just as much as anyone else does. I would invite anyone to come to Brother Francis Shelter so they can see for themselves what our guests experience as well as see the hard work each and every one of our staff members do on a daily basis.*



Brother Francis Shelter 1021 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave

## DonationWISHList

### You Can Help

#### In-Kind Holiday Needs

Fleece Twin Blankets  
Garbage Bags  
Toilet Paper  
Body Wash/Shampoo

Go here to order and ship these items on Amazon  
<http://amzn.com/w/37WJP00DD43G0>

For a complete list of Holiday Needs go to [www.cssalaska.org](http://www.cssalaska.org)

*To make a secure donation on-line, please go to [www.cssalaska.org](http://www.cssalaska.org).*

## Brother Francis Shelter ADVISORY Council Members

Tom Kron, Chair  
Pat Byrne  
Jeanne Fischer  
Kay Gajewski  
Deb Johnston

Marc June  
Don Lederhos  
Lottie Michael  
Sherry Sedwick  
Chuck Szopa




# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thanksgiving Blessing**—Dinner ingredients will be handed out at numerous locations across Anchorage. November 23rd 2PM-8PM [www.foodbankofalaska.org](http://www.foodbankofalaska.org)

**Holiday Wish List**—Help provide Brother Francis Shelter clients needs. Go to [www.cssalaska.org](http://www.cssalaska.org)

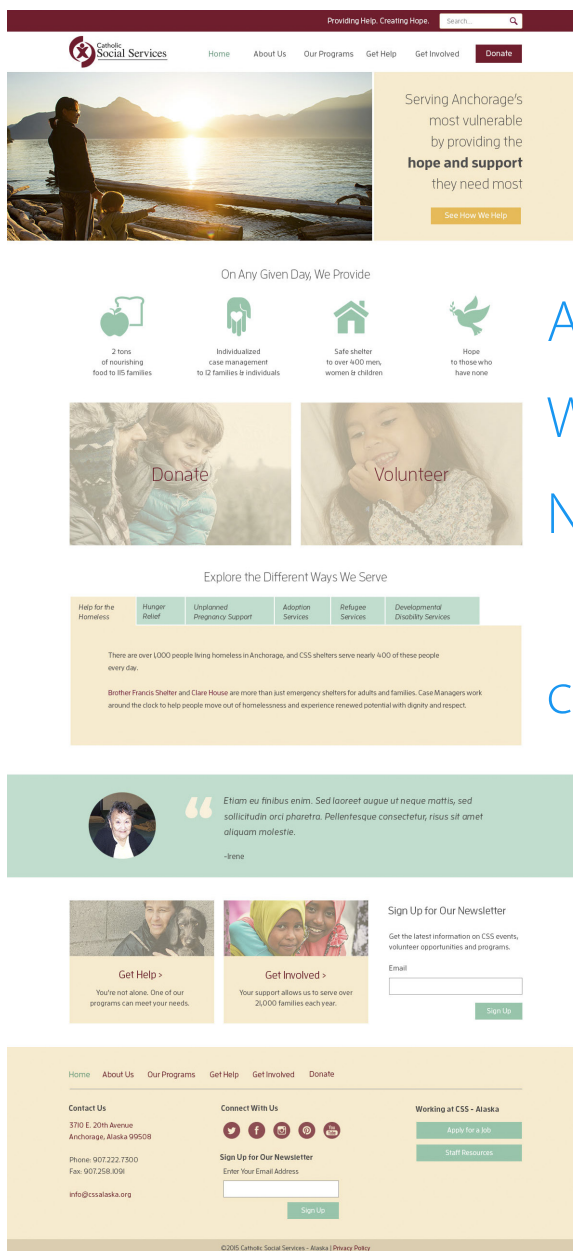
**To Help Other CSS Programs: Helping Holidays**— *Do you want to sponsor a family in need this Christmas?* Please contact Dorothy Lazar at 348-8789 or [dorothyel-leen@alaska.net](mailto:dorothyel-leen@alaska.net)

**Christmas Eve Mass**— Brother Francis Shelter at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome

 **Catholic Social Services**  
Brother Francis Shelter  
3710 East 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

- Brother Francis Shelter
- Clare House
- Charlie Elder House
- Homeless Family Services
- Pregnancy Support & Adoption Services
- Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services
- Special Needs Services
- St. Francis House Food Pantry

## To better serve you ...



Providing Help. Creating Hope. Search

Catholic Social Services Home About Us Our Programs Get Help Get Involved Donate

Serving Anchorage's most vulnerable by providing the **hope and support** they need most

See How We Help

On Any Given Day, We Provide

- 2 tons of nourishing food to 15 families
- Individualized case management to 12 families & individuals
- Safe shelter to over 400 men, women & children
- Hope to those who have none

Donate Volunteer

Explore the Different Ways We Serve

- Help for the Homeless
- Hunger Relief
- Unplanned Pregnancy Support
- Adoption Services
- Refugee Services
- Developmental Disability Services

There are over 1,000 people living homeless in Anchorage, and CSS shelters serve nearly 400 of these people every day.

Brother Francis Shelter and Clare House are more than just emergency shelters for adults and families. Case Managers work around the clock to help people move out of homelessness and experience renewed potential with dignity and respect.

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-Irene

Get Help > You're not alone. One of our programs can meet your needs.

Get Involved > Your support allows us to serve over 2,000 families each year.

Sign Up for Our Newsletter

Get the latest information on CSS events, volunteer opportunities and programs.

Email

Sign Up

Home About Us Our Programs Get Help Get Involved Donate

Contact Us  
3710 E. 20th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Phone: 907.222.7300  
Fax: 907.258.8098  
[info@cssalaska.org](mailto:info@cssalaska.org)

Connect With Us

Working at CSS - Alaska

Apply for a Job

Staff Resources

Sign Up for Our Newsletter

Enter Your Email Address

Sign Up

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## A New Website in November

[cssalaska.org](http://cssalaska.org)

Please support *Brother Francis Shelter* through **Pick.Click.Give**. On the PCG website, just look under **Catholic Social Services** to donate all or part of your PFD!

 **Catholic Social Services**  
Give to 8 programs with 1 click



## Thank you!

For additional gift opportunities or to include Catholic Social Services in your will, insurance or stock plans, please contact Tricia Teasley at 907-222-7355 or [tteasley@cssalaska.org](mailto:tteasley@cssalaska.org)