Dear Friends of the Shelter,

For the Interfaith Community Shelter, fiscal year 19-20 started with a flourish, gave us all a deer-in-the-headlights scare in the middle, and ended with a moment of calm, knowing that we were able to clear a path that has protected our most vulnerable guests during the pandemic. Last year, the Shelter completed an extensive overhaul, which included renovating the kitchen and luggage room, painting the common areas and building a patio awning to protect guests from the elements. With the help of our amazing corps of volunteers, ICS served 56,726 meals, provided 20,319 total nights of overnight shelter to 1,315 individuals and distributed 41,220 articles of clothing. Not bad for a year fraught with complications and complexities.

The pandemic has unmasked numerous disparities in our country and has helped us all see those who are un-housed as people, not as a problem. This is the first necessary step in solving the issue of homelessness. It is another reminder that we all came into this world the same way and “there, but for the grace of God, go I.”

Like any hardship, however, there is a silver lining to the coronavirus pandemic. Through the incredible generosity of both private and public funders, we were able to house up to 46 of our older, more vulnerable guests at a local motel in order to provide them the ability to socially distance. Most of these individuals have been homeless anywhere from two to eight years. The good news is that, with daily support from our staff, they are doing spectacularly well, and we hope to continue housing them at the motel through the end of 2020.

Of course, none of this could have happened without the volunteers, donors, foundations and governmental agencies who have so graciously supported our guests and the shelter. To all of you, a very heartfelt thank you on behalf of all those we serve.

With the ups and downs of the past 12 months, we’re in good position to understand and accept the challenges of the coming year. How will this pandemic unwind? None of us knows for sure, but we will travel this road together. And please be assured that we will always serve our guests with the dignity, respect and compassion that has become the hallmark of the Interfaith Community Shelter.

At the risk of sounding like Yogi Berra: Can we help everyone? No. But we will help everyone we can.

Be well, and my best, Joe

TO DONATE: Visit www.interfaithsheltersf.org/donate or mail a check to PO Box 22653, Santa Fe, NM 87502
Income Notes, FY 19-20

The Interfaith Community Shelter received a number of significant unexpected donations and grants in FY 19-20. First, a generous bequest allowed us to create an emergency reserve and to invest in long-range planning. The pandemic resulted in a flood of generosity from both public and private funders, as we worked feverishly to create social distancing for our most vulnerable guests. Much of the funding that arose as the pandemic unfolded will, no doubt, help the Shelter both respond to the short term and weather the long term effects of the COVID-19 crisis.

ICS Keeps Administrative Expenses Low

ICS is proud again this year that the bulk of our spending goes directly to the people we serve. The Shelter is ever-thankful for a model that includes organized financial controls, a dedicated, hard-working staff and an amazing, committed group of volunteers who donate their time, expertise, meals and clothing. Ultimately, all of these factors contribute to the Shelter’s good financial health.