

FALL 2025 UPDATE

Moving Forward: A New Chapter

LETTER FROM THE CEO:

A Season of
Gratitude and
Growth

Dear Friends,

As we move into the season of gratitude, these first few months have reinforced what seven decades of service demonstrates: YOU are the foundation of this work. Last year, 6,912 volunteer experiences contributed 21,860 hours of service, directly impacting thousands of lives. This level of community investment reflects both your commitment to our neighbors and confidence in our mission.

St. Mary's Community Services continues to evolve based on data and community need. As you know, this year marks two significant infrastructure expansions: the Zeiter Navigation Center and Pathways Neighborhood. You can get up-to-date information related to these two projects on our website: www.smcares.org/news. Next, we're addressing a documented barrier to service access – pet accommodation. Research indicates that over 20% of individuals experiencing homelessness avoid shelter because they cannot bring their pets. We're developing a solution in partnership with Animal Protection League and will share program details at our Dueling Piano Bingo event on November 21.

Your support makes measurable impact possible, and there are many ways to be part of this work: volunteer your time, make a financial contribution, or connect us with partners related to employment and housing. Every form of support creates real change for individuals and families working toward stability.

I hope you'll join us on November 21 to learn more about our pet accommodation program and celebrate this season together. Thank you for continuing to stand with us – your partnership means everything.

Warmest regards,



Krista Fiser
Chief Executive Officer,
St. Mary's Community Services

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:

Legends Global
Gives Back

Legends Global rallied support through a charity round-up at the Stockton Arena, raising critical funds for St. Mary's. But they didn't stop there. Their team also came to our campus to volunteer, rolling up their sleeves to serve our clients directly. We're grateful for partners like Legends Global who not only contribute financially but also embody the spirit of service.



Zeiter Navigation Center

On September 17, we officially opened the Zeiter Navigation Center, adding 200+ beds and expanding our campus capacity to more than 600. This makes St. Mary's the largest single-site shelter in California, with comprehensive services on-site to support housing, healthcare, employment, and stability. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the dedication ceremony — your presence and support made the day unforgettable.



< Dr. John and
Lynette Zeiter
in front of the
dedication sign

CEO Krista Fiser with
Mayor Cristina Fugazzi >



Marti Denk, Pat Collier, and Mary Bava

Holiday Giving: How You Can Help

The holidays are a time for warmth, family, and togetherness. With your help, we can extend that spirit to hundreds of local families in need and set the table for hope and healing this Thanksgiving.

VOLUNTEER FOR THANKSGIVING

We need extra hands this season to help us provide meals, shelter, and moments of joy. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Karen Gonzales, at kgonzales@smcares.org or (209) 467-0703.

DONATE THANKSGIVING ESSENTIALS

You can also make an impact by donating items that make a holiday meal special:

- Turkeys or hams
- Stuffing mix
- **#10 cans** of cranberry sauce
- **#10 cans** of canned vegetables
- Potatoes
- Gravy
- Dinner rolls
- Pies or desserts

Donations may be dropped off at our campus in the kitchen.

SUPPORT FAMILIES THROUGH OUR AMAZON WISH LIST

Looking for an easy way to give this season? Our Amazon Wish List makes it simple to provide the essential items our clients need most.



Celebrating 70 Years of Service

In 1955, Father Alan McCoy became pastor of St. Mary's Church. Within just four months, he opened the original dining hall at the corner of Hunter and Washington Streets, a part of Stockton where the need was especially great. As Father McCoy told The Record in a 1995 interview, "The important thing was the dignity of the person, that the person would consider it a dining room, not just a place that handed out food."



Seventy years later, his vision has grown into St. Mary's Community Services, a now 10-acre campus that continues to nourish, shelter, and empower thousands each year. In addition to its core programs, the campus offers showers, clothing and shoes, a resource center, and meals/dining 365 days a year. Father McCoy's legacy reminds us daily that true compassion creates lasting change.

A Family's New Beginning

The impact of St. Mary's is best told by the people we serve. We're honored to share this letter from William Spence, written to our Family Shelter staff.

To the amazing staff and angels at St. Mary's Family Shelter,

I am writing this letter not just to say thank you, not to share a profound truth. The work you do here has done more than just provide shelter. It has provided a foundation for a new life.

When Atlas and I arrived here 3 months ago, we were lost. I am a single father with 20+ years of addiction weighing on my soul, and I was desperately trying to navigate my early days of sobriety while caring for Atlas. We were truly at a hard place and I felt completely overwhelmed. What you gave me was more than a room. You gave me the security and stability I needed to focus on my recovery and rebuilding my life. You gave my son a safe place to play and grow. You showed me consistent kindness, respect, and non judgment. That I truly don't feel I deserved.

I look at Atlas and the beautiful, healthy life my son and I have now and I know it's a direct result of the safe haven you provided. In my heart, I know that God sent each of you to us exactly when we needed you most. You are the hands and feet of a great purpose, the living proof that grace exists.

Thank you for seeing the man within, not the man I had been. Thank you for making sure my little boy was safe while I learn to be a father. You didn't just help us through a hard time, you helped us turn our lives around.

We will never forget this place or the powerful, loving women who work here.

With the deepest sincerity and endless gratitude,

William & Atlas Spence



Case Manager Renee Bell with William and Atlas Spence

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By the Numbers: Quarterly Impact

**JULY - SEPTEMBER
2025**

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Meals:
53,797 meals

Hygiene:
28,768 services

Shelter:
469 Clients,
14,484 Bed-nights

Family Lodge:
224 Clients
(76 Households)
7,497 Individual
Bed-Night

Dental clinic:
40 individuals

SUPPORT SERVICES

Housing navigation:
58 individuals

Support Services &
Case Management:
725 individuals

GOALS ACHIEVED

Increased income:
120 individuals

Exited to housing:
29 individuals