

A Mission Moment with Marilyn,
From the Desk of the Executive Director of The Open Hearth

Subject: Giving Back

You make helping men help themselves possible and for that I am truly grateful. It is what keeps us at The Open Hearth moving forward during these difficult times – the support of our community.

Since the pandemic began last March our focus at The Open Hearth has been to keep our clients safe while continuing to support them on their journey to self-sufficiency. This past spring, we announced our new partnership with St. Patrick - St. Anthony's Church, The Open Hearth at Catherine's Place. This partnership expands The Open Hearth's services for men experiencing homelessness by providing an opportunity to live independently while maintaining a close connection to the supports provided by The Open Hearth. As one resident describes,

"I've graduated to Catherine's Place. This is the next step of independence for me. Being able to be around people, be part of a community and The Open Hearth is important to me and my recovery."

For the men living at Catherine's Place increased independence, comes with increased responsibility. Catherine's Place residents are responsible for cooking, keeping the space clean, running their own resident meetings as well as maintaining full-time jobs. Men at Catherine's Place are working as landscape, food service, and warehouse workers, a welder, a parking attendant, and a shelter counselor.

Many of the men also find time to give back to the community. Giving back takes many forms – serving as a role model for a shelter client at The Open Hearth, being a mentor for a client of The Open Hearth's Extended Program (TEP), or feeding people experiencing homelessness alongside parishioners from St. Patrick- St. Anthony's Church.

It is a rewarding experience to help others. Thank you for giving the men of The Open Hearth the opportunity to give back to their community.

Be well and stay safe.

Warmest regards,



Marilyn Rossetti
Executive Director