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Winter 2022

Dear Friends:

It doesn't take much to see how homelessness is increasing. Just take a short drive around town or go for a brief walk through the commercial districts.

At St. Elizabeth we experience this every day. Though we're housing more than 200 people every night, our residential programs have waiting lists to enter and at least 50 people a day come to our doors looking for food, clothing, blankets and other needed items.

But we're trying our best to accommodate this surge. As you can read in this newsletter, we've recently hired a director of operations and a supportive housing navigator – two new positions. And we're hiring two licensed clinical therapists – one for Santa Fe Suites and another organizational-wide – to help our clients better deal with their issues and prepare for independent living on their own. In addition, we'll soon have a licensed substance abuse counselor on staff instead of having to outsource that work, along with a certified peer support worker – someone in recovery from substance abuse and/or homelessness – to serve as a positive role model for those challenged by the same issues.

This will be a boon for our clients and our community. But it also increases our annual budget.

That's where you come in. Historically, more than two-thirds of our budget comes from charitable giving with the majority of that coming from individual donors. And of that two-thirds, a significant portion arrives in the last months of the year. Our hope is that this will continue.

I know times are tough. There's uncertainty about a possible recession. There's inflation raising the price of food, gas, clothing and everything else. There's even a major war in Ukraine. But for most of us, at least we have a home for shelter, clothes to keep us warm and enough to eat.

So I'm asking for your support once again to help us help those who don't have any of this.

My best wishes to you for the holiday season and new year.

Sincerely,

Edward Archuleta
Executive Director