



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

St. Anthony's Uses Donations to House Senior Winter Shelter Guests in Hotel Rooms

SAN FRANCISCO (April 10, 2020) – **St. Anthony's has purchased hotel rooms for its senior Winter Shelter guests, as the city-wide push for hotel rooms for all unhoused residents continues.** After extending the exit date of its shelter into April, St. Anthony's has used \$30,000 of its budget to rents rooms at a nearby hotel for the coming month. The 22 guests, including a couple and a mother and child, moved in yesterday evening. These individuals are at high risk for infection with COVID-19 due to age and/or health conditions, and now have the ability to shelter-in-place safely.

St. Anthony's provided guests with welcome baskets. Each included socks, a hat, a blanket, tissues, a hygiene kit, snacks, a chocolate bunny, a \$50 Walgreens gift card (with the closest Walgreens located one block away), and a bag of fresh groceries. The hotel is situated three blocks from St. Anthony's, so the guests will continue to have access to St. Anthony's services.

St. Anthony's is in full support of the use of hotel rooms to house all unhoused residents, and calls upon San Francisco's government officials to expedite that process. St. Anthony's staff sees first-hand the dangers of not having the ability to shelter-in-place. The community experiencing homelessness is not able to protect itself from transmission. Living on the streets is a traumatic, dangerous experience without the threat of a pandemic, and is only made more so by the current reality. St. Anthony's will continue to advocate for hotel rooms to be made available to the community.

"We are committed to providing essential resources to the community during the coronavirus pandemic, and that includes housing our most at-risk Winter Shelter guests in a hotel as we wait for a government solution, which we are advocating for daily," explains St. Anthony's Executive Director Jose Ramirez. "We are dedicating extensive resources to modifying our operations, and implementing critical additions to our plans such as the purchasing of hotel rooms. We, too, need support as we navigate the effects of the pandemic."

To support St. Anthony's as we continue to provide essential resources during COVID-19, visit: stanthonysf.org/still-serving-sf.

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About St. Anthony's

Founded in 1950, St. Anthony's provides food, clothing, medical care, addiction recovery services, access to technology, job training, and other critical resources to the community. Every day we support and are supported by thousands of San Franciscans. Everyone who comes through our doors joins the St. Anthony's family and helps us create a future where all people flourish. Learn more at: stanthonysf.org.

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