

Francisco's Story

A native of Jalisco region of Mexico, Francisco came to Bonaventure House in February of 2006 when faced with the prospective of homelessness.

In the months since he has been a resident, he has proven to be a welcome addition to the Bonaventure Community. Because of his language skills, Francisco acts as a liaison of sorts for the Latino community both within and outside of Bonaventure House. He often assists people with locating housing and treatment options appropriate to their situations.

Francisco has been very active with respect to his attendance at HIV/AIDS support groups and conferences. In turn, he passes information along to his peers, thereby furthering their understanding of the topic as well. Most recently, Francisco has received a scholarship to attend a HIV conference in Springfield.

As for the future, Francisco is concentrating his efforts to find employment. A former executive chef, he hopes to return to his culinary roots and grow within that field. When asked to reflect about his time at Bonaventure House, Francisco indicated that he has gained stability, both emotional and physical. "Before I came here, my health was not good, mostly because I was stressed out about where I was going to live. This place is wonderful. I feel like I have a big family now."