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Dear Friends:

Homelessness can happen to anyone.

I know it's often been said in many ways and many forms, such as:

- Millions of Americans are one paycheck away from the street;
- 78% of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck;
- Unforeseen medical emergencies are the leading cause of bankruptcies;
- The high cost of housing is forcing people into homelessness.

But no matter the cause, it happens. And while nobody thinks it can happen to them, it does.

Take me for example – I'm a case in point. I did all the right things: went to school, got a degree, had a series of increasingly successful and demanding jobs (I was assistant secretary of state for New Mexico, for instance), volunteered for nonprofits, etc. But then my life got upended big time and I ended up on the streets. It's a serious lesson in humility and one that will stick with you.

You can read all about it in this latest issue of our newsletter. It's not a story I've been comfortable sharing but one that needed telling to bring perspective to our important work here at St. Elizabeth.

So take a look and after reading I hope you'll have a better understanding of why we do what we do. I know from firsthand experience that all of us are at risk and that our lives can spin out of control. And if they do, it's places like St. Elizabeth that can give us the time and assistance to help put it back together.

Homeless can happen to anyone. I'm just one of the thousands whose lives have been transformed by St. Elizabeth. But that's why I'm asking for your financial support this holiday season so we can help hundreds more in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Edward Archuleta  
Executive Director

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