

How did the name “Francis Court” come to be?

It all began for Robert Scott in 1997 with a spiritual awakening. Robert’s life was just moving along yet he sensed there was something missing deep inside his soul. A change was in the air and he was going to find the yearning deep within. He decided to attend a three-day spiritual awakening retreat. Here began a new journey; a new commitment and resolve to God. God met Robert at 3:00 in the morning in a dream. In this dream he saw himself as a soldier in a great army. As Robert pondered his dream and his new commitment to God his heart began to change; more grace and more peace to touch the lives of the poor and needy. A new pursuit for housing that would touch homeless families in Shasta County.

In 2002 the city of Redding made a proposal for transitional housing. The city gave a \$1million grant, HUD \$460,000 and the Redding Redevelopment Agency \$2.4 million. The dream was now unfolding and Robert once again pondered in his heart a name for the new transitional house. He began his research for an example of one who cared for the poor and needy.

The research revealed St. Francis of Assisi. Francis gave up everything, riches, family and fame to care for the less fortunate of his time. He was born 1182 as Giovanni “Francesco” Bernadone in Italy to a wealth cloth merchant. Francis was so gripped with a heart for the poor and the lepers; he started giving away his father’s expensive possessions to the needy. Since Francis lived a life of simplicity in contrast to wealth many people were inspired through his life of poverty. He loved peace and respected all living creatures. St. Francis devoted his life to solitude, prayer, helping the poor, and raising money to rebuild run-down buildings of the churches. St. Francis’s love for animals, flowers, and all nature were not sentimentality but a profound appreciation for reality as it comes from the hands of the Creator. His motto was; ***“Preach the Gospel at all times. Where necessary, use words.”***

It was through the inspiration of St. Francis of Assisi’s life “Francis Court” became the name for housing the poor and needy; a safe harbor for new beginnings. Families now could start new with a fresh outlook on life. His dream and passion had come alive as he saw HOPE renewed in the lives of families living at Francis Court. A dream was born.



By Robert Scott, Executive Director