



## Remembering why we are here

Guido and I believe that every obstacle or challenge is an essential part of our life and contains meaning and the chance to learn something new and grow.

*"Violence and crime do not only happen from people who have experienced homelessness. Either people find something that makes life worth living or if they do not find it, they abandon themselves to extremism."*

We value the change we see in ourselves and in our employees with disabilities and connect that change, or the possibility to change, to facing the obstacles and challenges with an openness to all of reality, not just what we can see and measure.

With this in mind, we wanted to share with you that our office was broken into twice between President's day weekend and the following weekend. We were pretty heartbroken and the feeling of violation was clearly present and even more so when one of the computers stolen showed up on "Find my Phone" just around the corner inside CVC! Guido and I have followed through with law enforcement, changed our locks, are in the process to get new windows, getting an alarm, getting more lights outside, and filing the claim with our insurance company, so the things stolen will be replaced, but all of these things are not enough.



LAHH office after the robbery

We had to make a judgment as to why we are in this office? So we wanted to share with you our judgment as to why we are here.

*“There is a feeling of being violated when we saw the office and the disregard for our things that is always difficult to stomach and unsettling, but Guido and I made a very important judgment afterwards. We don't want to leave CVC because that would mean we don't believe the thieves can change, feel sorry for what they have done, and try to live according to a different set of criteria. Instead through our work, we have seen precisely this change take place in people who have made big mistakes and hurt others. To remain at CVC means to give Hope a chance because if it was someone who lives inside CVC they are surrounded by great acts of charity, by great acts of mercy, seen through the people, including CVC staff, who are giving all of themselves through running a program to precisely create a place that is loving, welcoming, forgiving, and full of hope. So we want to bet on our friends/colleagues working everyday at CVC and the heart of the thieves that knows right from wrong.”*

The thieves came to a point where they could not find in society something that was more interesting than violence. This makes us ask a question, “What are their lives like that this violence could develop? Violence and crime do not only happen from people who have experienced homelessness. Either people find something that makes life worth living or if they do not find it, they abandon themselves to extremism.

This is why in our judgment we value so much the witness and hope; hope which is born out of our Christian faith.