



efaaanews



SAVE THE DATES

National Association of Letter Carriers 26th Annual Food Drive

Put a bag of non-perishable food out with your mail for your letter carrier to pick up and distribute to EFAA.

SATURDAY, MAY 12

EFAA's Celebration Gala

Celebrating 100 Years of Giving

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

Become a Corporate Partner or Celebration Sponsor

Contact: saraj@efaa.org, 303-951-7676

JOURNEY THROUGH THE DECADES WITH EFAA

See our 100-year timeline to learn more about EFAA's century of service to Boulder County.

efaa.org/100-year-timeline



THE SHOCK OF A LIFETIME



Dan has always been the breadwinner for his family, working in sales and making a comfortable living, while his wife Alexis has been a stay-at-home mom, after recovering from a heart attack. When Dan was offered a great job with lots of potential for growth, they moved to Boulder with their 9-year-old son. But shortly after they settled into their new life, Dan lost his job. This was a shock to the family, but based on his past success, Dan was confident he could quickly find another good job.

“It’s really difficult to go to work after waking up in a car, not able to shower. I would not want that for anyone.”

They never expected his job search to take so long and, after expensive moving costs, their living expenses quickly ate through the rest of their savings. With no place to live and no money to live on, they moved into their mini-van, and Alexis went to work at a local retailer and enrolled in a job-training program to gain new skills.

“It’s really difficult to go to work after waking up in a car, not able to shower,” said Alexis “I would not want that for anyone. It was really terrible. I had never expected that our family could ever be homeless. It was such a big shift from our previous life.”

Alexis found out about EFAA through online research and the family was soon able to move into EFAA’s short-term housing, which provides local families housing and support services for up to three months. This time gave them the stability they needed to get back on their feet.

“Before we found EFAA, I had been so stressed out,” said Alexis. “At one point, I started to accept that we were homeless, and that was the way it was going to be. That is not a good thing. I needed hope and EFAA gave us that hope. EFAA totally changed our lives. I don’t know how to put into words how grateful we are.”

Alexis and Dan are positive and hopeful for the future. They are working hard and saving up to move out of EFAA housing.

“This experience has definitely changed me,” said Alexis. “It’s been hard, but it has also made all of us better people. I’ve learned a lot. I appreciate things way more. I don’t take anything for granted. Talking about it now, I realize how far we have come and how much we have accomplished. I’m proud of my family.”

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



EFAA'S MISSION

EFAA helps those in our community whose immediate needs for food, shelter and other basic necessities cannot adequately be met by other means, and supports their efforts toward financial stability or self-sufficiency.

Emergency Family Assistance Association

Meeting our community's basic needs since 1918.

Spring 2018

This newsletter is published three times annually by Emergency Family Assistance Association
1575 Yarmouth Avenue, Boulder, CO 80304-0564
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REMEMBER EFAA

Please let us know if you've included EFAA in your will and estate plans. We would like to include you in our legacy society, EFAA Next. To learn more about EFAA Next, contact legacy@efaa.org.

Families need stable housing to thrive, yet affordable housing is becoming increasingly difficult to find in our community. At a time when the economy is strong and jobs are plentiful, we at EFAA see a growing number of people in need of assistance just to stay in their homes, or in the worst case, to find shelter for their families after losing their housing. Wages have not kept pace with rapidly rising housing costs, putting the squeeze on working families. And for seniors living on fixed incomes, the burden of increasing property taxes as housing values go up can make staying in their long-time home impossible.

It has been very gratifying over the last year to be able to increase EFAA's response to this community-wide challenge. The first priority is to prevent episodes of homelessness, which EFAA does through temporary assistance with rent and utilities, as well as access to nutritious food to stretch the monthly budget. In 2017 we were able to increase rent and utility assistance by almost 50 percent to \$647,052. This helped more than one thousand families with children. Thanks to our Keep Families Housed program in partnership with the City of Boulder, EFAA will continue to prevent many more families from experiencing homelessness.

When prevention fails and families find themselves losing their housing, EFAA is the main provider of housing for families with children experiencing homelessness in Boulder County. It is with great joy that we are completing construction of a 5-apartment facility in North Boulder near our main office.

Thanks to financial support from the County, State and City governments, foundations, private citizens and in-kind donations from the building trades through our partner HomeAid Colorado, EFAA is able to open these apartments debt-free. This allows EFAA to focus resources on bringing case management and children's programming to these additional families served.

Thank you to all of our supporters and partners for making it possible for us to scale up our efforts to address the housing crisis affecting the most vulnerable in our community.

Julie Van Domelen
Executive Director



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

For 100 years, EFAA has provided basic needs to struggling families. Now, as Boulder's Family Resource Center working to meet the changing and growing needs of our community, EFAA is deepening and expanding programs that strengthen families today and far into the future.

EFAA works with families as a whole, including parents and children, to take a two-generation approach to ending poverty. This is a more effective and long-lasting way to strengthen families. EFAA's broad programming approach is based on:

- 1) Increasing **parent resilience** through skill and capacity building focused on solving problems, building relationships and seeking help.
- 2) Encouraging **social connections** through support of family, friends, neighbors and community members.
- 3) Providing **concrete support** in times of need through EFAA's wide range of safety net services.
- 4) Providing resources and information to increase participant's **knowledge of** and utilization of **positive parenting** and appropriate expectations based on **child development**.
- 5) Supporting the **social and emotional competence of children**.



Family Learning Opportunities

One way EFAA brings this approach to life is by expanding family learning opportunities. For instance, EFAA is hosting classes and community events that improve family wellbeing, and making it easier for families to access other classes already offered in the community. For example, EFAA is offering presentations on topics like nutrition for a healthier life, and smart energy use to save on utility bills, as well as providing childcare during English classes offered by our partner agency Intercambio. EFAA is also partnering with Boulder County's Getting Ahead program to deepen family resilience and help them build their own personal support networks while developing family management skills, accessing community resources and building tools to improve their financial stability.

To learn more about EFAA's family strengthening events, email classes@efaa.org or visit efaa.org/events

VOLUNTEERS EMBODY "NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS"



After Doug and Patti retired from careers in education, they knew they wanted to share their love of helping others and have that same community feel they had in the classroom. A call for help during EFAA's busy holiday season caught their eyes and landed them at EFAA's doorsteps. Now, six years later, they don't plan on leaving any time soon.

"EFAA is the best example of what we should all be doing: neighbors helping neighbors," says Doug. "No other place tries harder to develop community than EFAA. Volunteering here means we are connecting with other people, broadening our horizons and creating joy in life."

Both Patti and Doug enjoy working in the food pantry – a place where they can interact with people and provide a friendly hand up.

"We wanted to volunteer our time where people are working together cooperatively to help others in our community," says Patti. "This work feels so relevant. When you leave, you know you have spent your time well and your work was done well. After a long day, it feels uplifting."

Thank you to all our 700+ volunteers! To learn more about volunteer opportunities visit efaa.org/get-involved/volunteer-2

EFAA'S 16TH STREET TRANSITIONAL HOUSING OPENING

Thanks to the vision, generosity and hard work of many, EFAA's 16th Street Transitional Housing will be opening this spring. The site will provide five new housing units for working families who would otherwise be homeless, giving them up to two years to get back on their feet and build a brighter future for their children.

"Stable housing is foundational to the long-term success of a family building back up after a crisis," says Julie Van Domelen, EFAA's Executive Director. "In an area that is quickly losing affordable housing options, these five homes will make a significant impact for generations to come."

HomeAid Colorado was a pivotal partner in making this debt-free building project possible. HomeAid is a nonprofit organization that works to build housing for homeless families through in-kind donations from subcontractors working through a central builder captain. With so many different people and companies coming together—all working to fit donated time and materials into their high-demand building schedules—a lot of coordination, flexibility and patience was

needed for this project. And, through it all, everyone was focused on the end result: more housing to help families in need gain stability and move on with their lives.

"We have so appreciated everyone's flexibility and determination," said Laura Brayman McKenna, Executive Director of HomeAid Colorado. "On this project in particular, there has been such a sense that we are all in this together and we all take pride in the fact that, in the end, families will have a place to call home and EFAA can use their hard earned dollars for other important programming. When we pull together, we know we can make a difference in people's lives."

Thank you to HomeAid Colorado, the builder captain, the subcontractors who donated their time and materials, and the individuals, foundations, the city and county of Boulder, and the state of Colorado, whose donations made this project possible.

With 16th Street Transitional Housing opening, EFAA will run 57 housing units throughout Boulder County.

EFAA NEIGHBOR CHALLENGE... YOU'VE BEEN WELCOMED



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One hundred years ago, EFAA started as a grassroots effort of neighbors helping neighbors. Then and now, this community comes together to support Boulder County families in times of need. We invite you to build on that tradition by participating in the EFAA Neighbor Challenge.

It's simple:

- 1 Act:** Do something neighborly to help someone in your community and take a photo or video of your good deed.
- 2 Post:** Inspire others by posting your neighborly deed on social media, tagging EFAA and #EFAANeighborChallenge. (Facebook: @EFAABoulder, Instagram and Twitter: @efaa_boulder.)
- 3 Tag a Friend:** Invite others to be part of the EFAA Neighbor Challenge.

Learn more at efaa.org/efaaneighborchallenge or go to Get Involved on our website.