When Tracy became a mother while attending college in 1989, she knew that she wanted her son to have the best life possible. She worked hard to provide for her family. She continued her studies and worked two jobs as a waitress to try to make ends meet, but she still found herself coming up short. That’s when her friend told her about EFAA.

“I remember the first time I went to EFAA, I was embarrassed to ask for help,” said Tracy. “But everyone there was very kind, and they told me that there are so many people in our community that need help. I wasn’t alone, and that put my fears to rest.”

Tracy was able to visit the food pantry once a month to get baby food and diapers for her infant son, Matthew. She also received rental assistance to help her provide a stable home for her family. It wasn’t a lot, but it was enough to help her get by.

That was almost 30 years ago. Today, Tracy comes to EFAA every day — but not to get assistance. Now she’s part of EFAA’s dedicated staff looking to make a difference in the lives of local families.

Fear and embarrassment hold us back so often … I want people to know that you are not alone. There are resources out there and a community that loves you.”

Matthew celebrated his 29th birthday this October, and is working on his Master’s degree at Harvard. Tracy’s other two children are also attending college and are thriving. Thinking about her kids, their successes and how far they’ve all come, she beams. “To come full circle in my life … is my biggest accomplishment, and something I am really proud of.”
This year, EFAA has been celebrating its 100 year anniversary — and reaching the centennial mark is quite the reason to celebrate. Life was very different back then, but also not so different. As a community we have grown in number, are on the whole older, wealthier and healthier than in 1918. But many of life’s stressors remain the same. Economic boom and bust cycles, be they based on local mining or the national stock market, create vulnerabilities for families. A health shock, from the Spanish flu of 1918 or developing cancer today, can throw a family into crisis. Coming home from World War I or Afghanistan can leave lasting scars. The vagaries of life continue to hit hard on those least able to manage these shocks.

As need remains constant, so does EFAA. While our services have evolved considerably to meet the changing needs of our community, we take pride in being the anchor safety net for the past 100 years. Today, EFAA is a comprehensive family resource center offering a wide array of programs to help people stabilize and thrive. This year, we reached 55 apartments for families experiencing homelessness, exacerbated by the housing affordability crisis. We are focusing more attention on longer-term outcomes, helping families become more resilient in the face of the next shock. Furthermore, EFAA launched new programming around family learning and enrichment services, from nutritional talks to classes on how to move out of poverty. Part of the excitement around EFAA’s anniversary has been the launch of EFAA’s Centennial Endowment Fund, which will help ensure families of the future have the resources they need for the next 100 years.

Looking back, what stands out to us is the incredible community support we have received since the beginning. Since 1918, thousands of volunteers and donors have come together to help their neighbors in need. Looking forward, we can expect a future of continued change, with challenges and opportunities that we, together, will help our community navigate. Thank you for your continued support as we embark on our next century of service.

Julie Van Domelen
Executive Director
This year, EFAA was chosen as Micron Technology’s Charity of Choice! Micron, which has a local office in Longmont, is a leader in innovative memory solutions. Their Charity of Choice program invites employees to nominate worthy organizations that impact their communities. Collectively, the program donates $145,000 across 16 nonprofits around the world. EFAA is honored to be this year’s recipient.

“When it comes to serving our communities, we believe our team members know best so their selection of the Emergency Family Assistance Association speaks to the type of organization EFAA is and the depth and quality of critical services they provide to Colorado families,” said Micron Foundation Executive Director, Dee Mooney. “At Micron, we believe in transforming the communities where we live and work through philanthropy and people, and clearly EFAA will be a tremendous partner in this mission.”

If you’re interested in becoming a Corporate Partner, contact Sara Joss, Development & Events Manager, at SaraJ@efaa.org.

**TOGETHER, WE MAKE AN IMPACT**

**Served 4,227 people to help with their immediate needs and long-term stability.**

**Provided $877,540 in financial assistance to help with rent, utilities, transportation and minor medical bills.**

**Distributed over $1.3 million worth of food to help feed hungry bellies and provide much needed relief to struggling families.**

**Provided a home for 123 families who had nowhere else to go.**

*Service delivery numbers reflect EFAA’s fiscal year (July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018)*

**VOLUNTEERS STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY**

Join our team of hundreds of dedicated volunteers. Visit [www.efaa.org](http://www.efaa.org) to learn more and get involved today.
This October, a group of dedicated volunteers and staff members took on the task of redesigning EFAA’s food pantry. The reason? To allow more room for nutritious food options and to enable participants to shop without a volunteer, should they prefer.

Before the makeover, a lot of donated food was stored on shelves or the pantry floor, leaving the aisles narrow and the options overwhelming. Now, fresh produce is at the center of the pantry to promote healthy choices. There’s also more room to walk through the aisles, which supports EFAA’s recent change in policy that gives participants the option to self-shop on their own, or with a volunteer shopping assistant.

Those visiting the pantry can also expect better nutritional signage, with big, colorful signs marking each section and labels such as “starches” and “proteins” so that participants can select their food based on nutritional value.

“EFAA is known across Boulder for the security our food pantry brings to low-income families, seniors and people with disabilities,” says Julie Van Domelen, Executive Director. “Through our remodel, we hope participants have an improved experience where they can get good, healthy food for their families while also learning something new about nutrition and navigating the pantry independently.”