



FINDING THE STRENGTH TO PUSH BEYOND



“I have found the strength within myself ... to push beyond and move myself out of poverty.”

When you first meet Ambrosia, her intelligence, discipline, and dedication to her family become immediately apparent. Graduating in the top ten of her high school class, she was ready to excel in college when she got the surprise of her lifetime — she found out she was pregnant with her son. “That changed my life,” Ambrosia recalls.

That didn’t stop her from chasing her dreams. She worked her way through college as a single mother, and even got permission from her professors to allow her son to come to class with her. But she had no financial support. **“I didn’t know how I was going to do anything, where I was going to live ... how I was going to make it.”**

After her son was born, she had to move out of the dorms and find affordable housing. When she found the perfect place to start a new chapter as a family,

there was only one thing that was missing: the funds for a security deposit.

“I made an appointment at EFAA and learned about all of the different resources available to me ... I started coming to EFAA to get help with a deposit, but over the years I became more involved,” said Ambrosia. **“EFAA helped to start a new foundation for my family.** It’s been a big step to ending the cycle of poverty.”

Knowing there was a wealth of free resources available for people in situations like hers, Ambrosia started to realize she could make a difference by connecting her friends and family with these services. “It helps my sense of being to be able to find support when I need it, and to provide support or pass along resources when others need it.”

That’s why when someone told her

EFAA was putting together a participant leadership group, she knew that she would fit right in. **The Participant Advisory Council (PAC) is a new working group at EFAA whose mission is to empower the EFAA community** to transform lives through developing participant driven initiatives and involvement. “I feel like PAC has the potential to be life-altering,” said Ambrosia. “I think we will impact the immediate community in a way that no one thought was possible.”

As for Ambrosia and her family, she was able to finish her degree after eight years of hard work and dedication. Now, not only is she diligently trying to advance her own family’s well-being, but she’s helping others in the process.

“I have found the strength within myself... to push beyond and move myself out of poverty.”

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



“ History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children”

– Nelson Mandela

Despite the general image of Boulder being a wonderful place to raise children, a significant number of kids in our community are growing up in economically insecure households. **Over 7,000 children live in poverty in Boulder County**, with one in five children in Boulder Valley School District eligible for the free and reduced lunch program. With costs of living continuing to rise, more families from traditional middle and lower class households are struggling to get by.

Growing up with fewer resources impacts every area of life. Child poverty is associated with worse academic outcomes, including performance on standardized tests, years of completed schooling, and degree attainment. A lack of economic resources can affect children's health outcomes, including lower birth weight, infant mortality, language development, chronic illness, environmental exposure, nutrition, and injury. The toxic stress caused by these hardships can even influence a child's brain development. The effects of growing up in poverty can last a lifetime — but together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of low-income children right here in our community.

EFAA provides important stabilizing services to a significant share of the children living in poverty in Boulder. Last year EFAA supported 1,540 children by providing more secure housing, better food and nutrition, access to medical and dental services, enrichment programming and trauma-informed activities aimed at mitigating the effects of toxic stress. EFAA's growing Children's Program promotes the academic, health, social, emotional and life skills to build a better future for kids.

A child growing up in poverty faces a difficult path, with the deck stacked against them. As a community, we can bring awareness, attention and resources to create a brighter future that will build a healthier, more just society for all of us. **Thank you for being part of that mission.**

Julie Van Domelen
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 2019

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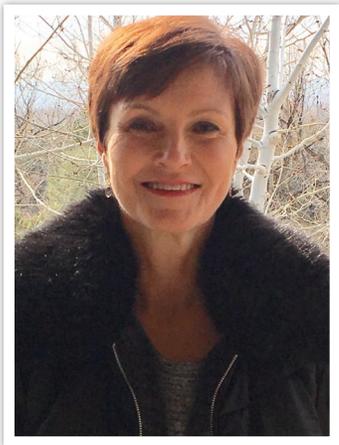
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REMEMBER EFAA

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.



EFAA VOLUNTEER CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF HELPING HER NEIGHBORS!



Joanne has been volunteering at the front desk for 20 years this summer.

When Joanne first moved to Boulder, she wondered what was inside the busy little church on 9th and Arapahoe. Having just retired, she was searching for a way to contribute to her new community. “One day, I just decided to stop in,” said Joanne, recalling what would be the beginning of **20 years with EFAA.**

“It was super busy,” she remembers of her first visit. “The phones were ringing off the hook ... they asked me to fill out an application and come back the next day!”

Throughout the years, Joanne has seen a lot of changes at EFAA — from the introduction of computers, to moving to our current offices in North Boulder, and more recently becoming Boulder’s Family Resource Center, Joanne has been through it all. What has remained constant, however, is the need for EFAA’s services.

“We realize how close we are or any family is from being one emergency away from poverty. It’s so easy when you’re living paycheck to paycheck to just have one hiccup and then to no longer be able to feed your children.”

As for what made her stick around for all of these years, Joanne says it’s all about the people you meet. “Many participants come in at the same time every week, so you get to know them very well when you work the front desk,” she remarked. “I was talking to a woman last week who told me that EFAA was the reason her son was able to attend college ... **seeing the impact EFAA has on people’s lives is one of my favorite parts of being a volunteer.**”

For others looking to get involved, Joanne has just one piece of advice: “Just do it! You will be greatly rewarded, and challenged, you will grow ... and you will also get so much back.”

Thank you, Joanne, for dedicating 20 years to helping our neighbors in need! To learn about how you can volunteer with EFAA, visit www.efaa.org/get-involved/volunteer-2/.

PLEDGE 1% TODAY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOMORROW

Pledge 1% is an easy way to leverage a portion of your company’s future success to support EFAA. By taking the pledge, companies commit to donating 1% of their equity, profit, product, and/or employee time to making their community a better place to live. Last year, Scaled Agile and Foundry Group decided to take the pledge for EFAA. Here’s what they have to say about it.

“We believe it is everyone’s responsibility to support organizations like EFAA that champion human dignity and give people in crisis a hand up when they need it the most. Giving back to the place we call home is a part of Scaled Agile’s DNA and we do that by supporting EFAA through the Pledge 1% movement. If you run a business in Boulder County you couldn’t find a more worthy recipient for your corporate giving program.”

– Dean Leffingwell, CEO and Co-Founder
Scaled Agile, Inc

“Foundry Group gives through our participation in Pledge 1% Colorado, an organization that encourages entrepreneurs and companies to incorporate philanthropy into their corporate culture by supporting non-profits in their communities. EFAA does important work in Boulder supporting those in our community who have immediate needs — for food, shelter and other basic necessities. **We’re proud to be supporters of such a vital community resource.**”

– Seth Levine, Partner
Foundry Group

Thank you Scaled Agile and Foundry Group
for strengthening our community with your investment in EFAA!

Take the pledge to invest in your community by visiting www.pledge1colorado.org.



SUMMER FUN WITH THE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM!

“Camp was a great experience for my kids. It was during a time that our family was facing many challenges and it was stressful at home. They got to get away and just be kids and have fun. I am so grateful that EFAA gave my children the opportunity to go to camp. It made a difference in their lives and they have beautiful memories from the experience and their time at EFAA. Thank you.”

– EFAA Participant & Parent

Summer can be an especially challenging time for low-income families. With school out of session, parents struggle to find adequate childcare that will allow them to continue to work. **That's why EFAA is increasing its investments in our Children's Program summer activities this year to provide even more resources for children to have a joyful and enriching summer break without putting extra strain on their parents.**

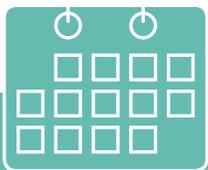
In 2018, the Children's Program connected over 35 children and youth with summer camp. This year, EFAA is tripling our funding for summer activities and dedicating over sixty hours of staff time to helping parents sign up for summer

camps with the hopes of making an even bigger impact for EFAA families.

Through camps, children have the opportunity to spend their summers playing sports, doing outdoor activities, and learning about nature. “Camps are a wonderful opportunity for children to continue developing their self-confidence and social skills,” said Madison Goering, who oversees the Children's Program at EFAA. “This increased investment will give families the extra flexibility they need to continue working over the summer.”



Kids dig for worms as part of EFAA's Children's Program last summer.



Save the Date

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive,
Saturday, May 11

Help “Stamp Out Hunger” with the National Association of Letter Carrier's 27th annual food drive! Simply put a bag of non-perishable food out with your mail for your letter carrier to pick up and distribute to EFAA on Saturday, May 11th.

28th Annual Celebration Gala,
Saturday, October 12

Get your big hats ready for this year's Celebration Gala, Night at the Derby! Each year, Celebration raises critical funds to support EFAA's programs. Tickets go on sale in July.