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CONTACT: Shenna Fitzgerald
Communications Manager
303-951-7677
shenna@efaa.org

Family Homelessness Surge Countywide Means Greater Need for Emergency Family Assistance Association Children’s Program, Ending Cycle of Poverty

New playground installation at EFAA’s North Carr Housing Community marks planned expansion of EFAA’s Children’s Program in Boulder County

October 26, LAFAYETTE, CO – Family homelessness is increasing in Boulder County, highlighting the importance of programs that work to end the cycle of poverty, such as Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA) Children’s Program. This week EFAA is installing a new playground at its North Carr Housing Community in Lafayette, which provides a critical refuge to 11 families as they work their way back toward self-sufficiency. EFAA provides services to about 2,300 children each year, including one third of Boulder County children living in poverty. Each year, approximately 300 children live with their families in one of EFAA’s 53 housing units countywide.

EFAA’s Children’s Program, available to families in EFAA housing, works to minimize the destructive effects of homelessness on children by creating a sense of childhood normalcy and providing resources to their parents. The Children’s Program includes positive afterschool and summer activities and support such as help with homework, outdoor play, arts and crafts, field trips and child-specific case management. EFAA is currently expanding the focus of this program to include parenting resources, improved access to childcare, school-based activities and socio-emotional support.

“Many of the households served by EFAA are in extreme poverty, and a high proportion of the children in these families have experienced trauma,” says Julie Van Domelen EFAA’s Executive Director. “Nothing could be more positive and normalizing for these children than the ability to enjoy the simple and healthy pleasure of outdoor playtime on our new playground. It offers children and their parents a safe place to gather and a chance to build community – an invaluable support for families stabilizing from crisis.”

(more)

The new playground at North Carr Housing was made possible by a generous grant from St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, which sought to fund a program that could have immediate and impactful benefits to local families living in poverty. A longtime supporter of EFAA, the church unanimously chose EFAA's new playground as the best project in which to invest this legacy fund grant.

ABOUT EMERGENCY FAMILY ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION

EFAA has been dedicated to helping residents of Boulder and Broomfield Counties meet their basic needs since 1918 and acts as a safety net for families, individuals, people with disabilities and seniors. EFAA operates 53 emergency and transitional housing units, provides food, rent assistance, utilities assistance, furniture, and supports clients' efforts toward financial stability and self-sufficiency through long-term and short-term casework, education and advocacy. Last year, EFAA served more than 8,000 clients. For more information please visit www.efaa.org or connect with EFAA Boulder on Facebook and Twitter.

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