



Summer 2019 • Meeting our community's basic needs since 1918.

efaanews

efaa

CELEBRATION
GALA

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

Night AT THE Derby

SATURDAY

October 12, 2019
5:30pm

Place your bets on a
fun and impactful night!

**EFAA's 28th annual
Celebration Gala will
be taking place on
Saturday, October 12th.**

Enjoy fabulous food and
cocktails, an abundant
live and silent auction,
and a riveting after
party featuring music by
Legitimate Front.

**Buy your tickets
today by visiting
efaa.org/celebration19
or by calling
(303) 951-7676.**



Finding your own path OUT OF POVERTY

At EFAA, the heart of our mission is to help families in need find their path toward self-sufficiency and financial stability. For each participant, that path looks different — what it takes to lift your family from poverty into a new, sustainable life is as unique as each individual family.

For Mai, building a brighter future for her family meant building the confidence to take the first step. When she first found herself needing to support her son Evan as a single mother, she was able to stitch together temporary living arrangements with her family. She worked nights, picking up as many shifts as she could to make ends meet, and found herself with barely any time to sleep between work and taking care of Evan. Eventually, she ran out of places to stay and found herself living in a motel. When Evan's school heard about their situation, they immediately connected them to help, including EFAA. **"Even after living here for years, I didn't realize there were so many resources available," said Mai.**

Once in EFAA's Housing Program, Mai not only gained stable housing, but was also able to begin working on her long-term goals through consistent meetings with her case managers. The transition was tough on Evan though, and he began falling behind in school and acting out. Together with her case managers Sandy and Christina, Mai was able to get Evan enrolled in a summer school program just blocks from their new home and developed routines at home to give him the structure he needed to flourish. **"Mai has truly blossomed during her time at EFAA," said Christina. "She has accomplished so much for herself and her family."**

Today, Mai has a lot to be proud of. She is a graduate of the Getting Ahead program (see page 4) and is currently enrolled in Boulder County Circles, a program focused on ending poverty by engaging participants in addressing the personal and institutional barriers to leaving poverty and utilizing volunteer Allies to provide mental and emotional support along the way. She worked hard

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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.

Summer 2019

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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.

When I am asked what EFAA does, I often answer that EFAA is a community-based safety net and family resource center that helps people in our community stabilize and thrive. But the more that I think about it, there is no one sentence that can sum EFAA up. **EFAA is many things; for some, a place of refuge, and for others, a place of service ... maybe a better answer is we are a hub for people that want to make their lives and their community better, as you will read in this newsletter.**

For families like Mai's (cover), EFAA may be the place to start building a better life. This could mean food, financial assistance, and referrals to a broad array of services to help make ends meet. Or it could be signing up for a community dinner or Getting Ahead class (page 4) through EFAA's Community Enrichment Program. For others still, EFAA means home — a stable place to live while they start a new chapter in their lives.

For some, EFAA may mean giving back with your time, whatever your interests and talents. **EFAA relies on nearly 700 volunteers to staff our front desk, help identify participants' needs, manage our food pantry operations, and so much more.** If you are interested, we will find a fit, like the inspiring story of a Boulder student who decided to put his Spanish to work providing translation and support while learning first-hand the challenges facing low-income households (page 3).

For those who can, EFAA may mean a chance to make a difference in the community through a generous contribution of money or food. EFAA's single biggest source of support is from individual donations, building on its over 100 year tradition of neighbors helping neighbors. EFAA recently received its single largest donor gift outside of a capital campaign, a multi-year gift of \$1 million from the Ned and Nathalie Fund (page 3), reflecting one family's deep commitment to building a more just and equitable community.

So the next time someone asks you what EFAA is, tell them that we are many things, but most of all EFAA is a meeting place for people seeking to build a better community for all.

Julie Van Domelen
Executive Director



Finding your own path OUT OF POVERTY

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with a financial counselor to develop and stick to a budget that would move her family forward while still allowing Evan to have fun, such as going to the movies on discount days. Through EFAA's Summer Camp Scholarship Program, Evan got to enjoy his summer at different camps throughout the area.

"Growing up in poverty, I never thought I would find myself in this situation ... I know what it's like to go without, which is why I want to give Evan everything I can," said Mai.

Today, Mai and Evan have moved out of EFAA's housing program into a long-term affordable home, but their journey isn't over yet. "I'm hoping I can go back to school. I'm planning to start with community college this fall, and then moving onto a state school later ... I want to be a role model for Evan, so that he will want to go to college one day.

EFAA VOLUNTEER AWARDED TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP



This summer, University of Colorado student and EFAA volunteer, Jake Reagan, was awarded one of the most prestigious scholarships in the country for his dedication to public service.

As a Spanish major, Jake was interested in volunteer opportunities to practice Spanish while making a difference in his local community.

He was connected to EFAA's Housing Program, where he was able to facilitate communication between Spanish-speaking participants and English-speaking staff and volunteers.

"[As an interpreter], you're there to help someone express themselves and be fully themselves. You can witness a tangible change in the expression on someone's face when they realize you can understand them ... they relax, they feel comfortable, and they can say what they want to say."

Congratulations, Jake! Thank you for your commitment to helping communities thrive.



LOCAL COUPLE GIVES \$1 MILLION TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES

The Ned and Nathalie Fund has committed to donating \$1 million to EFAA over the course of four years to support EFAA's work in preventing homelessness and child poverty in Boulder County. Their commitment is the largest gift EFAA has ever received outside of a capital campaign in its 100-year history.

“We are so happy to be in a position to be able to give back and make a difference. EFAA is a great organization and we trust they will use our gift to best meet the needs of our community.” - NED AND NATHALIE

EFAA and the Ned and Nathalie Fund will work together to develop a plan for the gift. “EFAA is in the process of developing its new strategic plan which will guide the next five years of our work,” says Julie Van Domelen, EFAA's Executive Director. “What would it mean for our work and our community to have no child living below the poverty line? With ongoing investments from our generous community, these are the kinds of questions we intend to work for solutions on.”

EFAA HELPS PARTICIPANTS GET AHEAD



EFAA's first Getting Ahead cohort will help 16 participants gain the resources to build a more prosperous life for themselves, their families, and their communities.

As the City of Boulder's Family Resource Center, EFAA began facilitating Getting Ahead classes this year. **Getting Ahead is a national, evidence-based program that helps people in poverty build their resources for a more prosperous life for themselves, their families, and their communities.**

The 16-week course includes topics like the causes of poverty, the "hidden rules" of economic classes, and building your future story.

"[Before Getting Ahead] I thought to myself, what if what I'm going through isn't as bad? But I learned everyone is different, and learned to say that I am struggling. I am going through this. It helped me become more comfortable with my situation, and allowed me to learn how to ask for help," said Mai, who graduated from Getting Ahead last year.

Margie, a case manager at EFAA, is a course facilitator. She has been teaching Getting Ahead for years, and her favorite part of the course is seeing how its participants help each other. "Participants contribute so much. They'll start talking about their situations and realize others have gone through the same. Then, they will come up with solutions together."

This year, EFAA's Getting Ahead cohort will help 16 people find the resources and strength they need to pull themselves out of poverty. "They walk away with a lot more resources ... more knowledge as to how to solve their problems, where to go to get help. They're not alone in this. It gives them the feeling that hey, someone else is experiencing the same thing. They get to see their situation from a different point of view," said Margie.

How to HOST A FOOD DRIVE!

Visit efaa.org/fooddrive
for the complete guide.



We often get asked, what is an easy, but impactful way to help our neighbors in need? The answer? Host a food drive for EFAA! There are thousands of people in Boulder who simply don't have enough food to eat each day. Organize a food drive with your school, faith community, workplace, or neighborhood. You can make a big difference in only five easy steps!

1. **Set a date.** Having a deadline to work toward will help keep everyone motivated.
2. **Distribute flyers with EFAA's most needed items.** This will help people know what to look for when shopping for items.
3. **Make it fun!** Host a competition, form teams, and make the process fun for everyone.
4. **Give back.** Collect the food and deliver it to EFAA's food pantry.
5. **Say thank you.** Thank everyone who participated in the food drive by letting them know how much food they helped donate!