



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EMERGENCY FAMILY ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION (EFAA) COLLABORATES TO TURN
NEW SUGARY DRINK TAX INTO BETTER NUTRITION FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES**

*In partnership with Bridge House, Community Food Share and local farms,
EFAA will provide healthy ready-to-eat meals, unlimited produce and
nutrition education at its Boulder food pantry.*

November 15, 2017, BOULDER, CO – Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA) has been awarded \$47,000 in funding from Boulder’s new sugary drink tax to launch collaborative programs that provide healthy food options and nutrition education to local families in need, while supporting Bridge House’s Ready-to-Work program and Boulder County farmers.

“The hardworking, low-income families coming through EFAA’s doors are not only experiencing food insecurity, but are also strapped for time to prepare healthy meals,” says Julie Van Domelen, EFAA’s executive director. “This innovative collaboration will leverage donated food from Community Food Share and support local employment for homeless adults by hiring Bridge House’s Community Table Kitchen to prepare healthy ready-to-eat meals available in our food pantry.”

EFAA estimates that this program will provide approximately 20,800 meals a year, at \$1.07 per meal, to the 4,000 people who qualify for food at EFAA’s food pantry. EFAA will also work with a certified nutritionist to provide shoppers nutrition information, cooking ideas, and bi-monthly nutrition classes. In addition, EFAA plans to purchase shares from local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) non-profits to augment supply of organic produce to promote healthy eating.

(more)

EFAA Turns Sugar Tax into Healthy Food for Families in Need

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“We are committed to providing nutritious food and education to empower our participants to make the best choices for themselves and their families,” says Liz Rowland, EFAA’s food pantry manager. “Our newly adopted nutrition policy reflects this aim by providing food and beverage choices that help achieve and maintain a healthy weight, promote health and prevent disease.”

Food insecurity, the state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food, impacts 1 in 8 Boulder County residents and 1 in 6 children. About 41% of food-insecure people are unlikely to qualify for most federal nutrition assistance, which means food banks and food pantries may be their only source of support. Studies show that food insecurity harms a person’s health, ability to learn, productivity and overall economic strength.

Last year, EFAA’s food pantry served about 1,700 households, with over 14,000 visits, distributing more than 700,000 pounds of food worth \$1,199,042. All households requesting ongoing visits to EFAA’s food pantry have an initial holistic assessment with a professional case manager to evaluate need, provide budget counseling, and refer to other community resources as appropriate. For instance, EFAA partners with Boulder County Health and Human Services to assist participants with signing up for federal benefits such as SNAP (formerly known as food stamps), WIC, CHIP+ and Medicaid, if eligible.

ABOUT EMERGENCY FAMILY ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION (EFAA)

EFAA is a local safety net organization that has been created, sustained and relied upon by the Boulder County community for nearly 100 years. For ten decades, EFAA has been dedicated to helping local families, people with disabilities, and seniors meet their basic needs so they can be empowered to thrive and build a brighter future. EFAA operates 53 emergency and transitional housing units, provides food, rent assistance, utilities assistance, and supports people’s efforts toward financial stability and self-sufficiency through case management, education and advocacy. For more information please visit www.efaa.org or connect with EFAABoulder on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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