

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EFAA AND BROOMFIELD FISH COLLABORATE TO TRANSITION BASIC NEEDS SAFETY-NET SERVICES FOR BROOMFIELD RESIDENTS TO FISH IN 2017

Broomfield's growth puts FISH in a strong position to expand services, with EFAA providing support throughout 2016 for a smooth transition.

March 30, 2016, BROOMFIELD, CO – Given the recent growth of both Broomfield and Boulder Counties, as well as the increasing number of local families living in poverty, Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA) and Broomfield FISH have embarked on a year-long collaboration to transition more basic needs safety-net services for Broomfield's low-income residents to FISH starting January 1, 2017. Throughout 2016, EFAA will continue to provide basic needs services, such as rent and utility bill assistance to Broomfield residents, while working closely with FISH as they expand their services to meet local needs.

"For more than fifty years, FISH has been instrumental in understanding and responding to the unique needs of Broomfield's growing community," says Dayna Scott, Executive Director of FISH. "Currently, we serve more than 4,000 unduplicated residents annually and we are in a strong position to expand so we can accommodate those Broomfield clients who currently work with EFAA. FISH is well-known as a food pantry, but we also provide some level of emergency utility, transportation, and medical assistance to residents in need. In the next five years, our goal is to become a thriving family resource center, so this transition is a logical next step for both organizations."

With this collaborative transition, FISH can focus on building services and capacity locally, and EFAA can continue to focus its resources on addressing family homelessness and intergenerational poverty in Boulder County, a key goal of EFAA's five-year strategic plan. Also, with FISH supporting the safety-net needs in Broomfield County and EFAA supporting the safety-net needs in Boulder County, any duplication of services will be avoided.

"The timing is right," says Julie Van Domelen, EFAA's Executive Director. "FISH has grown into a vital local resource and we will work closely with them to ensure a smooth transition, including providing them with institutional support and capacity building assistance."

In the past, EFAA has successfully implemented similar transitions with other sister agencies, like Sister Carmen in Lafayette and OUR Center in Longmont.

EFAA will continue to provide access to EFAA's Short-Term and Transitional housing located in Boulder County for eligible Broomfield homeless families until Broomfield County is able to provide those services locally, or mid-2018 at the latest.

(more)

ABOUT BROOMFIELD FISH

Broomfield FISH was founded in 1963 through collaboration between six Broomfield churches and was originally called "Broomfield Church Women United" and then "Fellowship In Serving Humanity" or just FISH. Recognizing that many community members did not have access to food and other important safety-net services, they decided to help. In 2001, the organization incorporated and in 2002 became a 501-c-3 organization. Shortly thereafter, the Board of Trustees formed a partnership with the City and County of Broomfield, expanding services to include not only a thriving food pantry, but also transportation assistance, rent and utility assistance and other services. For more than 50 years, FISH has grown into a vital community resource, serving more than 4,000 people each year. For more information, visit broomfieldfish.org or connect with FISH on Facebook and Twitter.

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 shelter 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. For more information please visit www.efaa.org or connect with EFAA Needs on Facebook and Twitter.

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