



Winter 2018 • Meeting our community's basic needs since 1918.

efaaneews

100 YEARS A NEIGHBOR, AND 100 MORE...



EFAA TURNS 100!

Need is Constant.
So is EFAA.

Regardless of the year, decade or era, people experience moments of insecurity in their lives. At that time, they need a temporary hand up to get back on their feet so they can work toward a brighter future. Here are just a few stories of how EFAA helped families throughout its 100-year history.

1918 A mother of four recently lost her husband to an accident in the mines – an all too common occurrence of this era. She is left with no way to immediately replace his income and must figure out how to provide for her children. This is daunting, as women are not readily accepted in the workforce yet. She receives help from EFAA in the form of flour, milk, coal to heat her home, and shoes for her children.

1933 At the height of the Great Depression, a hard-working farming family needs assistance and is provided blankets, coal, and condensed milk from EFAA. This limited help gets them through some very tough times. When the economy recovers, they are once again able to have a thriving farming business.

1966 A mother of three young children is ill and unable to work. Her husband left and is unwilling to provide support for the children. She is behind on rent and about to be evicted. EFAA provides one month's rent to keep her in

her home while she recovers her health. This assistance augments the help she received from her kind neighbor, who paid directly for her food and utilities.

1997 A young girl needs medical attention that her family is not able to afford. They have pulled together some funds, but need help with the remainder, which they receive from EFAA. Medical attention now means that the girl can avoid additional, more expensive long-term medical intervention and trauma down the road.

2017 A mother and daughter, escaping domestic violence, find themselves homeless and scared. The girl begins to struggle in school through this traumatic time, especially as they “couch surf” to have a place to stay each night. They are able to stabilize in EFAA housing and receive the support services they need to get back on their feet. The girl is able to focus on school, improve her grades, graduate and go to college, thus changing a cycle of poverty.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It is an honor to announce that EFAA is now 100 years old! The world was a difficult place in 1918. In Boulder County, the Spanish flu, World War I and the boom-bust cycle of the local mining industry left families vulnerable to destitution and hardship. The *Social Service Child Welfare Association of Boulder* was born out of concern for the wellbeing of families in Boulder County. Neighbors stepped up to help neighbors, knitting together the social fabric of a community that would be stretched even further a decade later as the country entered the Great Depression. At the height of the Depression, one-quarter of all households in Boulder County were reliant on assistance just to get by.

The Social Service Child Welfare Association later changed its name to Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA) and continued to grow with the changing community. As the local population increased, EFAA services became more complete and complex. In recent years, EFAA has expanded to provide housing in response to the growing crises of affordable housing and family homelessness. And over the last year, EFAA has further matured into a more robust family resource center, aimed at not only continuing with its core safety net mission, but also looking to the next generation to break the cycle of poverty.

EFAA creates resilience in response to the vagaries of life. We have seen folks who never thought they might need help come through EFAA's doors after an economic crisis, natural disaster or other shock that hit our community. Likewise, we have seen people who once needed food assistance go on to become significant donors to EFAA.

100 years is worth celebrating! EFAA has built a legacy of neighbors helping neighbors, remaining a truly home-grown effort. Throughout the century, EFAA has helped tens of thousands of families and has been supported by tens of thousands of local citizens donating time, goods and money. It's this dedication that has built a legacy of caring for others that Boulder can be proud of.

As we stand poised to steward EFAA into a second century of empowering families to thrive, we celebrate you and your contributions that have made EFAA and this community what it is today. Thank you for stepping over the threshold with us.

Sincerely,

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.

Vol. 39, No. 1, Winter 2018

This newsletter is published three times annually by Emergency Family Assistance Association
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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 add you to our legacy society, EFAA Next. To learn more about EFAA Next, contact legacy@efaa.org.





THE PEOPLE BEHIND EFAA'S WORK

EFAA's work would not be possible without the dedication, hard work and compassion of our 700+ volunteers. EFAA was founded by volunteers and has relied heavily on volunteers ever since. These phenomenal humans do just about everything: stock shelves in the food pantry; meet with participants coming for assistance; work with kids in the Children's Program; drive around town to pick up donations; and write grant applications.

Toni is one of these amazing people. In her role as an intake volunteer she checks in participants for things like food pantry visits or transportation vouchers. She also provides information about other EFAA services, or additional resources available in the community. Her time spent with each participant is immensely impactful, as the visit also provides a safe place to discuss life circumstances so that EFAA may offer the most appropriate and effective support.

"My goal is to be a good listener," says Toni. "Each person I meet with has a different story and I try to be there for them and see what we can do to help. Sometimes this starts with something like a handful of pretzels for a hungry, crying child so the parents can talk with me, or a cup of juice for someone who has health issues and is not feeling well in our meeting. Volunteers just notice these things... the things people need."

After decades working as a schoolteacher, Toni is proud to volunteer her time now that she is retired. And she gets a lot out of the experience herself.

"People have the nicest, sweetest, most humble attitudes and are eternally grateful for the services EFAA provides. These are hard-working people – teachers, single parents, firefighters, restaurant workers, day care workers, or people dealing with serious health issues. Listening to their stories, I am so impressed by how resilient they are and how they have made it here through so many challenges. They are so thankful we are there for them when they need it and I am so glad we can help them."



SAVE THE DATES

Corporate Partner Breakfast,
March 22

Celebration Gala,
October 13



100 YEARS A NEIGHBOR, AND 100 MORE...

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM EXPANSION MAKES GREAT STRIDES TO END GENERATIONAL POVERTY

EFAA's expanded Children's Program continues to empower families to take great leaps forward to help vulnerable kids reach their potential in school and life. The expansion, including opening up the program to families in EFAA's transitional housing, was made possible in part by a generous \$25,000 grant from Hasbro's Children's Fund three years in a row.

EFAA's Children's Program has historically been available for children and families in short-term housing, which gives the Children's Case Manager (CCM) about 3 months to work with the families, and the children 3 months in our after-school enrichment program. Expanding into transitional housing means that children in transitional housing can continue joining their friends for activities and field trips in the enrichment program, and the CCM can work with families for up to two years, providing an even greater impact.

Overall, children who have worked with the CCM for this extended period show significant improvement in the areas of health and wellbeing, increased confidence and self-esteem, positive attitudes, improved coping/study skills, and personal development.

Devon, a 7-year-old boy who came to the Children's Program withdrawn and traumatized by his recent experience with homelessness, has slowly built trust with others. Over the



242 children & 178 parents participated in EFAA's Children's Program in 2017

course of five months, he's made good friends and is an enthusiastic participant in after-school enrichment activities. Like Devon, other kids in EFAA housing emerge from their shells, shed difficult behaviors and "blossom" as a result of the new security and stability that the Children's Program brings to their lives. Through established daily routines at home, ongoing connection with the CCM, parenting skills education, the on-site after-school enrichment program, and improved medical care and nutrition, these children are building muscles for a brighter future.

EFAA LEADS THE CHARGE TO COORDINATE FAMILY HOMELESSNESS SERVICES LOCALLY

EFAA recently hosted the first-ever local Forum on Family Homelessness and is leading the charge to bring together key agencies and organizations that address family homelessness in Boulder County. The goal of this new effort is to more effectively prevent local family homelessness, and more efficiently get families back on their feet when they experience episodes of homelessness.

In concert with Boulder County, the cities of Longmont and Boulder, Boulder Valley and St. Vrain School Districts, Sister Carmen, OUR Center, Boulder Housing Partners, the Peak to Peak Human Services Task Force,

and other participating organizations, the group worked to identify issues and next steps in developing a coordinated approach to family homelessness locally.

NEXT STEPS FOR THE GROUP ARE: "map" services available for homeless families, linking public sector and nonprofit providers and programs in Boulder County; discuss ways to build on strengths in how families enter the system and receive services; and ways to better integrate these into an improved system for families at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Boulder County.