



Summer 2020 • Meeting our community's basic needs since 1918.

# efaa news

*"I Never  
Needed Help  
Before"*



**After moving to the U.S. from Mexico over 20 years ago, Manuela managed to build a stable and loving home for her family here in Boulder.** A savvy budgeter, Manuela knew how to stretch the \$1,700 a month she earned as a hotel housekeeper to support her three children, and she even purchased a mobile home all on her own. It wasn't much, but Manuela knew she could always count on paying her bills, putting food on the table, and taking care of her family.

**That all changed when Manuela lost her job in March.** By April, Boulder County would reach a 9.7% unemployment rate, leaving many of our neighbors without work. At first, Manuela was able to get by on her savings — she had nearly two months of expenses tucked away for emergencies. But as the weeks went on, it became clear that life wasn't going to return to "normal" anytime soon ... and her savings would eventually run out.

**Since COVID-19 began wreaking havoc on our world and local economies, stories like**

**Manuela's have become all too common.** Nearly one in five families that have come to EFAA since April have never needed help before. People who previously didn't qualify for unemployment or SNAP benefits in the past now faced piles of paperwork and pending applications while their bills piled up.

Although Manuela owns her home, she still has to pay rent for the lot in the mobile home park. **Because of community members like you, EFAA could cover her rent for June and half of July.** Through our COVID-19 emergency response, EFAA has been able to help more people than ever before with higher levels of assistance per household. With her biggest expense now accounted for, Manuela is using the rest of her savings to meet her families' other critical needs until she gets her job back.

**"[Before coming to EFAA] I did not know what I would do and was very worried. Due to EFAA's help I did not have to worry anymore ... I knew my family was going to be okay. I am very, very grateful."**

## *Neighbors* HELPING NEIGHBORS

**From March to June 30th, EFAA was able to:**

- Distribute **18,354** grab-and-go food bags
- Provide **\$726,512** in financial assistance
- Help **2,038** of our neighbors stay in their homes

*Because of you!*

Thanks to an outpouring of support, EFAA is able to extend our emergency COVID-19 relief through the end of September. As we continue to navigate these unprecedented times together, your sustained support will help us be there for Boulder's most vulnerable residents during their time of need.

# 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 2020

This newsletter is published three times annually by Emergency Family Assistance Association  
1575 Yarmouth Avenue, Boulder, CO 80304-0564  
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## DOUBLE YOUR DONATION!

Ask your employer if they have a matching gift program and double the impact of your gift.

**Over the past few months, our world has changed.** School and business closures, employment and health shocks, and new ways of living ripple across everyone. Essential workers, many of which are often taken for granted, have kept critical services available at significant personal risk. The largest number of jobs lost have been for those who earn the lowest wages, exacerbating the inequalities that have long gone unnoticed within our economy. Health disparities seen across the country are present in Boulder County, where Latinx residents account for 14% of the population but 44% of COVID-19 hospitalizations.

We as a community have been challenged to find an effective and compassionate response. **EFAA has joined many critical service providers in scaling up and changing how we do business to be part of the solution.** Our food bank, critical to thousands of local residents in normal times, has shifted to handing out grab-and-go food bags for safety and adding home delivery for those with health risks. With lots of cleaning, temperature checks and masks (many made for us by EFAA participants!), we have kept food flowing and people safe with over 4,000 food bank visits since COVID-19 hit.

All of EFAA's case management staff are meeting with residents by phone and video calls to help people access community services and provide immediate financial relief. EFAA's COVID-19 financial assistance has helped over 700 local households keep their housing and avoid homelessness. In addition, our housing and children's program teams have worked diligently to ensure our families have access to the resources they need to weather this crisis, like WiFi for schooling, parental resources, and healthcare referrals.

None of this is possible without our dedicated staff, generous community, adaptable volunteers and resilient participants. **The outpouring of financial support at a time when such generosity is hard is a tribute to EFAA's motto of neighbors helping neighbors.** We are just at the beginning of this new abnormal, but we have made plans and partnerships, figured out new procedures and are well positioned, with continued community support, to be the community's safety net through the long haul.

**Julie Van Domelen**  
*Executive Director*





# MEET OUR HUNGER *Heroes!*

While most of EFAA's services have moved to remote operations in order to curb the spread of COVID-19, our food bank has kept its doors open to help feed our community. Meet two of the dedicated food bank workers hired this spring who have made this work possible:



"I have lived in Boulder for 20 years and EFAA has such a good reputation. You don't want something like this to have to exist, but that's not reality — the reality is people need food. It's such a good operation, and I was happy to step in as staff after volunteering with EFAA for a year and a half. The crew we have is incredible. None of us really knew one another going in, but we all gel really

well and give it our all. In some ways it's a break for us — I think the news is so heavy on so many fronts, and when we go in to work at EFAA we see the bright side. Of course we want this to end soon, but we also really enjoy taking a bad situation and making it the best that we can. That's our goal when we come in, and I think we leave every day feeling great." — **Karen**

"I wanted to get more into the nonprofit world as I have always loved volunteering and saw EFAA was looking for people to work in the food bank. When I wasn't working due to my disability, I would go to EFAA for help every now and then, and had just gone recently because of COVID-19. It's been weird to be on the other side, having been sick and unable to take care of

myself, and it feels really refreshing to be the one helping. I'm grateful to the donors and to EFAA, not only for the nice job they provided me, but also for all the ways they've helped me and my community. EFAA is key to many for survival and/or a decent quality of life, and has helped me and many people I care about enormously. We are all grateful!" — **Rose**

*Thank you to all EFAA staff who have worked tirelessly to provide for our community during times of crisis! Learn how you can support our food bank at [efaa.org/donate/food](https://efaa.org/donate/food).*

## *Support These Local Businesses*

### WHO HELP STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY

We know local businesses have been hit hard by COVID-19. We want to offer thanks to **our generous business donors** who have helped ensure EFAA could respond to meet the pressing community need:

**CELESTIAL SEASONINGS • DENCO SALES • HAZEL'S BEVERAGE WORLD**  
**INNOVATIVE OPENINGS • LUCKY'S MARKET • MCGUCKIN'S HARDWARE**  
**PEARL STREET PUB • NITE IZE • SCHACHT SPINDLE CO.**

A special thank you to these local corporations who have stepped up during this crisis to make exceptional gifts:

**EMERSON PROCESS MANAGEMENT • MAXAR • MEDTRONIC**  
**MICRON TECHNOLOGIES • SCALED AGILE**



# Our Community Cares

For 29 years, EFAA has hosted our annual fundraiser, Celebration, to support our work of empowering families to thrive. With so much uncertainty, we have decided to cancel this year's event. To make up for this loss in funding, we are inviting our supporters to fill the gap and champion individual fundraisers throughout the month of September!

Become a champion and engage your friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors to raise critical funds to strengthen the local safety net and show that our community cares.

**Visit [efaa.org/cares](https://efaa.org/cares) to get started today!**

***Need some inspiration? Learn how these community champions have raised funds and awareness for EFAA!***



## LEVERAGE YOUR CONNECTIONS

Greta is a sophomore at Fairview High School who was looking for a way to stay in shape for soccer while also making a difference for her neighbors impacted by COVID-19. She invited her teammates to join her for a walkathon to benefit EFAA. ***"I think it's important to reach out to friends and family and find someone who is willing to do it with you," said Greta. "Doing it with my three teammates helped us expand our contacts and raise over \$1,000."***

## USE YOUR SKILLS

Jennifer has been teaching fitness classes since 1985. She loves her job as an instructor, but due to COVID-19 has been unable to work since March. One of her friends gave her the idea that she could use her skills for teaching by hosting fitness classes over Zoom. ***"Eventually people started asking me, 'how do I pay for this?'," said Jennifer. "I told them the classes are free, but if you guys know of EFAA, this is our favorite organization that we've been supporting since 2006. You can make a donation to them instead."***



## KEEP IT INTERESTING

Grant and Maxx decided to use their passion for cycling as a way to raise money for families impacted by COVID-19. Together they were able to raise over \$6,000 for EFAA! Their secret? ***"We all started making little side bets and side challenges," said Grant. "Everytime we reached a new goal, I would raise my weight on my trainer which would make it harder for me to ride. Then we made a side bet that if we raised over \$5,000, Maxx would do an extra lap in a speedo."***

## USE YOUR IMAGINATION

Noni, a student at Centennial Middle School, and her grandmother Patsy were looking for a way to stay connected throughout the pandemic while making a difference in their communities. They came up with an idea to write a children's book called Squeakestered and donate the proceeds to nonprofits, including EFAA. ***"I think that we decided that it was really important to take what we had made to give to a greater cause," said Noni. "I really wanted to do something that would help support families that were having a hard time."***

