



**Emergency  
Family  
Assistance  
Association**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Five Years After a Devastating House Fire in Boulder, Family Pays it Forward**

*When Amy and David Harpool lost their home to a fire in 2016, the community stepped in and raised \$24,000 to help them get back on their feet. Today, the family is paying it forward by donating to help other Boulder families in their time of need.*

**August 5, 2021, BOULDER, CO** – Five years ago, Amy Harpool and her family of five were living on Eldorado Springs Drive in Boulder when the unthinkable happened: they lost their home in an electrical fire. While thankfully nobody got hurt, the family lost all of their belongings and their beloved dog, Clyde.

“My kids were left with only the clothes on their backs and a toothbrush from the Red Cross,” said Harpool. “Everything was totally lost.”

The Boulder community sprang to action to help the Harpools, who found themselves underinsured and facing an insurmountable loss. A GoFundMe campaign provided a critical lifeline that helped the Harpools rent another home and cover the cost of immediate basic needs, like clothing.

**In June 2021, the Harpools donated \$24,000—the same amount that had been raised in their name five years earlier—to Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA).** Now that Amy Harpool and her family are back on their feet, they are paying it forward by helping other Boulder families during their time of need.

“It was eye-opening to see how everything can change in a matter of moments – how quickly our family was left unhoused. Luckily we had a safety net to help us recover, and we want to do our part to ensure that other families in crisis have the resources they need to recover too.”

Since 1918, EFAA has been Boulder’s community safety net for families in times of need. Throughout the organization’s 100-year plus history, EFAA has helped tens of thousands of families get back on their feet by providing food, financial assistance, family housing, and supportive case management. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, EFAA has distributed over 1 million pounds of food and \$3.5 million in direct financial assistance to those in our community.

“The Harpool’s generous gift comes at a key time when we are helping so many in our community working hard to recover from this pandemic,” says Ashley Rumble, EFAA’s Director of Development. “It’s a beautiful example of neighbors helping neighbors.”



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“It was really important to us to give back to our community after our community was so good to us, and donating to EFAA was really a no-brainer,” says Harpool. “We’re paying it forward, and we hope others will too.”

Find out how you can donate funds, food, or time to EFAA by visiting [www.efaa.org](http://www.efaa.org).

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#### **ABOUT EMERGENCY FAMILY ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION**

For 100 years EFAA has been dedicated to empowering families to thrive. Since 1918, EFAA has been Boulder County’s community safety net for families, seniors and people with disabilities to meet their basic needs. As Boulder’s official Family Resource Center, EFAA operates 57 emergency and transitional shelter units, provides food, rent assistance, utilities assistance, and supports participants’ 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](http://www.efaa.org) or connect with EFAA Boulder on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Visit [efaa.org](http://efaa.org) for more information.