



Fall 2025 • Meeting our community's basic needs since 1918.

efaa news

FROM ARTIST TO ADVOCATE: *Adrienne's Journey Home*

At 63, Adrienne was a thriving local artist who owned her mobile home and had built a sustainable life combining her Social Security benefits with income from selling handmade sculptures and carved statues to tourists. She had found her rhythm — creating beautiful art while maintaining her independence and contributing to her community's vibrant arts scene.

Then the pandemic hit, and everything changed overnight. The tourist economy that sustained so many local artists vanished completely. Without that crucial supplemental income, Adrienne faced an impossible choice: her Social Security alone wasn't enough to cover her mobile home's lot rent. Despite her best efforts, Adrienne lost her home and her way of life.

For the next three years, Adrienne experienced the harsh reality of homelessness. She cycled between shelter waitlists and sleeping outdoors—navigating a world that had suddenly deemed her unwelcome everywhere. “As a homeless person, you aren't allowed to be anywhere,” she reflects. “You are constantly on the move.” Public spaces that had once welcomed her as a community member now banned her from simply sitting and resting.

The streets proved especially dangerous for Adrienne. After surviving a physical attack, Adrienne used her limited SSDI income to hire protection. Yet even in her darkest moments, she refused to abandon her compassionate spirit.

Using her bike and trailer, Adrienne became a lifeline for other homeless individuals who couldn't access traditional services, delivering food and supplies throughout the



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community. She taped pictures of baby faces to her handlebars, a simple but powerful gesture. “People would say they wanted to be angry, but then they'd see those cute baby faces and couldn't. And they would talk to me,” she remembers.

“My resources aren't just for me,” Adrienne explains. “They're for me to share.” This philosophy sustained her through the most dangerous periods and continues to guide her today.

When Adrienne finally qualified for sustainable housing, one barrier remained: the security deposit. That's where EFAA's Basic Needs Program became the crucial bridge, providing up to \$1,000 in deposit assistance that made it possible for her to get the keys to her very own apartment.

Months later, when public funding cuts unexpectedly eliminated Adrienne's job program, EFAA stepped in again with rent assistance, ensuring

this setback wouldn't become a housing crisis. Today, Adrienne has stable housing and continues advocating for her community, proving that strategic support creates lasting change.

Adrienne's journey home was made possible by the collective efforts of many partner agencies and organizations coordinated through EFAA's Basic Needs team. Because of donations from community members like you, EFAA continues to bridge the gap and help break down barriers participants face when working to create a sustainable future. “This is so amazing — to be in the right place at the right time with the right people is extraordinary,” Adrienne reflects as she considers where she is today.



EFAA'S MISSION

EFAA provides stabilizing services, innovative programs, and transformative advocacy to strengthen families and create a thriving community.

Emergency Family Assistance Association

Meeting our community's basic needs since 1918.

Fall 2025

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DOUBLE YOUR DONATION!

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

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is a true honor to be writing to you as EFAA's new Executive Director.

After more than 25 years in nonprofit leadership — spanning direct services, community education, and advocacy — I've been privileged to work alongside remarkable teams and resilient communities. At the heart of this work has always been a belief in dignity, respect, and the power of people coming together to create real, lasting change.

That's what drew me to EFAA and what continues to inspire me every day. This organization isn't just meeting immediate needs. It's building solutions, standing beside people in moments of crisis, and walking with them as they rebuild their lives.

In this issue, you'll meet Adrienne, a resilient artist who, after losing her livelihood during the pandemic, found strength in community and purpose through advocacy all made possible with timely support from EFAA and donors like you. You'll also be introduced to Harrison, our new Food Program Manager, whose global experience is helping us navigate rising food insecurity with determination and innovation. And you'll learn how our new online financial request system is not only improving access, but also revealing the depth of need — and the strength within our community.

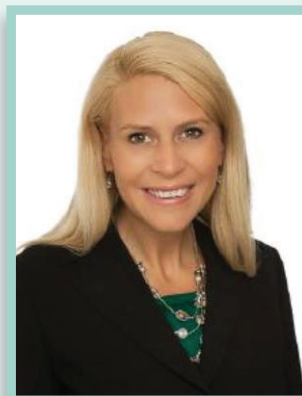
We are facing challenging times. Federal changes to SNAP, reductions in food supply funding, and growing pressure on working families are stretching the social safety net. But we are not powerless. Together, we are building systems, partnerships and support that are resilient, and rooted in compassion.

As I step into this new role, I am deeply grateful for the warm welcome I've received, for the incredible dedication of our staff and volunteers, and for you, our community of supporters, who make this work possible.

I look forward to getting to know you in the months ahead. And more importantly, I look forward to what we can continue to accomplish together.

With gratitude,

Debbie Pope
Executive Director
EFAA (Emergency Family Assistance Association)



MEET HARRISON: EFAA'S NEW FOOD PROGRAM MANAGER

Building Solutions in Uncertain Times

This summer, EFAA welcomed Harrison as our new Food Program Manager. Harrison brings a “world of experience,” quite literally. Harrison’s international journey may prove to be ideal preparation for leading EFAA’s food program through unprecedented challenges.

When his service in the Marine Corps Reserves came to a close, Harrison broadened his focus to international aid delivery. After landing in Madrid, he interned at a development NGO, which evolved into program coordinator roles in Zambia, and later, a camp for South Sudanese refugees entering Uganda. These roles required Harrison to build strong relationships, source materials, ensure delivery, and maintain strict accountability in uncertain, high-conflict, high-corruption regions.

Harrison’s predecessor, Walter, had focused on building foundational operating systems and infrastructure. With this foundation in place, Harrison can concentrate on addressing new challenges.

Unprecedented funding cuts are impacting food banks nationwide — from the USDA’s ending of the Local Food Purchase Program to cuts to SNAP. SNAP cuts will likely increase the number of families turning to food banks like EFAA as their primary food source. The result — increased demand while resources decrease.

Cuts are also affecting EFAA’s partner and primary supplier, Community Food Share (CFS). CFS which provides 50% of EFAA’s food supply is also feeling the strain. Their funding to purchase foods outside of donated items dropped from \$2.4 million last year to \$1.5 million — a 38% drop. This makes delivery volumes to EFAA increasingly unpredictable. Both organizations are working together to navigate these challenges and explore creative solutions to maintain food access for the community.

Witnessing our community’s need firsthand has strengthened Harrison’s resolve. “I’m watching all of the people that come to the food bank, and how much need there is in this community and it’s concerning. It should motivate all of us to double down and really work hard for these folks who need it most.”

This crisis has ignited Harrison’s determination. “It has definitely lit a fire under me to try and figure out this problem of how we are going to meet increased demand and decreasing availability of products,” he says. Harrison is hopeful his overseas experience navigating resource scarcity and systemic challenges has given him the tools to face the uncertainty ahead.



FY 25 IMPACT

Thank you for
coming together to
help our neighbors!



3,104 Households
representing 7,921 individuals
including 2,778 children



\$2,859,894
in financial assistance
distributed for rent, utilities,
and minor medical costs



1,358,944 Lbs.
of food distributed worth
\$2.6M to keep families fed



90%
of EFAA’s housing
participants transition to
safe, sustainable homes



589 Volunteers
contributed 24,615
hours of service

EFAA's New Online Financial Request Form Yields Surprising Results

This summer, EFAA implemented a new online form to streamline the appointment scheduling process, reduce the number of inquiries coming from people outside our service area, and help EFAA prioritize appointments for the most urgent needs.

This initiative was led by Jordyn, EFAA's Basic Needs Programs Manager. She enlisted the help of EFAA's front desk team and volunteers to help create a simple online financial request system. The launch of the online Request Form was an overwhelming success, receiving more than 1,000 requests in just the first two months. "We are hearing from many participants who couldn't make an appointment before, and now they can," Jordyn said.

"The incoming applications have revealed far greater need in the community than previously thought, and the need is

far more dire" said Jordyn. Armed with better information, the most urgent and critical needs are being addressed first: eviction prevention and deposit assistance to help people get into and stay housed.

The data captured in the new system is also bringing visibility to trends. We track incoming request patterns which will help us identify trends as they emerge. This capability allows EFAA to better anticipate challenges before they become crises, positioning the organization to respond proactively rather than reactively to shifting economic and social pressures.

Jordyn is encouraged by the system's data collection capabilities, enabling more effective collaboration with local partner agencies as they respond to evolving community needs.

THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS TO *help others* THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Colorado Gives Day is Tuesday, December 9



Your gift to EFAA on Colorado Gives Day will go even further thanks to a \$1.4 Million Incentive offered by the Colorado Gives Foundation.

Homeless Tax Credit

The Colorado Homeless Contribution Tax Credit offers a 25% Colorado state income tax credit for cumulative gifts of \$100+ made by December 31. Questions? Visit efaa.org/donate/funds



Food Bank

HELP PROVIDE THE FIXINGS FOR A SPECIAL HOLIDAY MEAL.

HERE'S OUR HOLIDAY TABLE WISH LIST:

HOLIDAY DINNER

- Frozen Turkey
- Ham
- Dehydrated Mashed Potatoes
- Gravy Mix

HOLIDAY TAMALES

- Masa Harina
- Corn Husks
- Dried Chiles
- Lard
- Beef Broth
- Frozen Pork Loin

HOLIDAY DESSERTS

- Frozen Pie Crusts
- Canned Apple Pie Filling
- Canned Pumpkin
- Evaporated Milk
- Pumpkin Spice Mix
- Mexican Hot Chocolate

