“After working as an architect for ten years, the economic downturn of 2008 hit. I lost my job, and no one was hiring. I had to provide for my 3-year-old son and myself, so I took a minimum wage job and lived sparsely. But, come to find out, you can’t live on minimum wage. After rent and gas to get to work are paid, there’s almost nothing left.

I was able to maintain for my son that everything was okay, but I didn’t know where our food would come from or if the heat would stay on. I desperately needed help, and EFAA was there for me. They helped me with groceries and paying a utility bill. And, even more importantly, they gave me hope that I would get through this. Hope is huge. It took me a long way.

The fact that there are people out there willing to help seemed impossible to me at the time. Not to mention that swallowing my pride was very hard for me. I was raised a certain way; you work hard, provide for your family and don’t ask for help. You do it on your own. I was doing it on my own, but the numbers didn’t work out. I had never been in this position before.

One day, working as a courier, I had to deliver a package to my old architecture firm – the one that laid me off. When I went into the office, they were so glad to see me and one of the partners told me they had a lot of work and needed me back. I got my old job back at even better pay than before. Now my son and I are doing great. He’s six years old and has no idea that any of this happened. I worked hard to keep his life as normal as possible, and EFAA helped me do that.

I’ve learned that you never know who you’re helping. It could be someone who looks like you; just a regular person.

...you never know who you’re helping. It could be someone who looks like you; just a regular person...

Thank you!

Thank you to all our sponsors, donors and volunteers who made the 25th Celebration Gala a success.

- Lloyd
It has been an exciting year at EFAA. We went into the year with several new strategic directions to help move families toward self-sufficiency and break the cycle of poverty for children in our community. And, as always, we’ve continued to help stabilize families through food, financial assistance, housing and connection to other resources. Here are a few examples of how we are building more lasting impacts, in addition to the core programs we offer.

- To help low-income mothers improve their long-term earning potential and employment prospects, we launched Internships to Careers for Motivated Moms. Moms receive guidance, connection to child care and other support from EFAA. This local job training program for unemployed and underemployed single mothers will help move families toward self-sufficiency.

- To help families with very young children access affordable housing and educational opportunity to impact their futures, EFAA joined Boulder Housing Partners (BHP) in Bringing School Home. EFAA identifies, screens and provides case management support to families who then move into permanently affordable BHP housing that has access to community centers with libraries, computers, and educational programs.

- Another example of this higher impact programming is our expanded Children’s Program, bringing more services to homeless families living in EFAA housing. All efforts are targeted to specific, identified outcomes linked to improved kindergarten readiness and academic success of these children in order to break the cycle of poverty and mitigate negative impacts of homelessness. We will be looking to scale up these kinds of efforts in the future.

EFAA is also working hard to improve our community by bringing to light the reasons hardworking families are driven to our doors. Our new Strategic Education Committee has identified housing insecurity, family homelessness, and income and wages as key issues affecting our clients. EFAA is enlisting the community as advocates for our work.

All of this honors and builds on EFAA’s almost one-hundred-year tradition of neighbors helping neighbors. This would not be possible without your generous support.

We thank you, our volunteers, donors, partners and advocates in helping us to strengthen families and our community.

Sincerely,

Julie Van Domelen
Executive Director
Your support means that more local families go from being in crisis or vulnerable to safe, stable or thriving. EFAA uses the Self-Sufficiency Matrix (SSM) with our housing program clients to set and accomplish goals across various domains of self-sufficiency. The number denotes the percentage of clients whose wellbeing crossed the prevention line as a result of working with EFAA.

### Improved Wellbeing

- **Employment**: 45%
- **Food**: 47%
- **Health Care Access**: 95%
- **Housing**: 59%
- **Transportation**: 85%
- **Money Management**: 65%
- **Parenting Skills**: 75%
- **Workplace Skills**: 50%

- **Improved Wellbeing**
- 67% of clients went from being in crisis or vulnerable to safe, stable or thriving in the area of child education.
- Improved wellbeing in other areas include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improved Wellbeing</td>
<td>67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In crisis</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
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<td>Prevention Line</td>
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Choose EFAA on Colorado Gives Day

**Tuesday, December 6th**

coloradogives.org/cogivesday

The $1 Million Incentive Fund boosts your donation, making your dollars do more to help local working families in need.

**AFTER 30 YEARS, HOUSING CASE MANAGER RETURNS TO EFAA**

Thirty years ago, Jose Urrutia was freshly out of college and working on his master’s degree when he came to EFAA as a basic needs case manager. Today, after retiring from a long career in social work with Boulder County, Jose has returned as an interim case manager in EFAA’s housing program. We welcome him back and are grateful for the decades of experience he lends to our work and the compassion he shares with our families.

“Things have changed a lot at EFAA over the years, but the challenges our clients face remain the same,” says Jose. “Many families we see come from a culture of poverty, and we have the opportunity to help them, and their children, learn new skills and approach life differently. Budgeting, planning, access to healthcare, mental health services, parenting skills and an emphasis on obtaining a higher education are all things that can work to end the cycle of poverty. When these skills and values are passed down from one generation to the next, long-term change can happen.”

And, speaking of generations, it just so happens that Jose’s daughter, Claudia, is EFAA’s Children’s Program case manager.
Consider your family’s routine: wake up, eat breakfast, get kids to school, go to work, coordinate afterschool activities, get sick kids to the doctor, dinner, bedtime. How lucky you are to have all the elements to make these “givens.”

For working families living in deep poverty, insecurities around food, housing, employment and health can lead to times of crisis, where even the most routine things are not within reach and the family is not in a safe situation. These are the families in EFAA’s housing program, and our accompanying Children’s Program.

Last year, thanks to supporters like you, EFAA was able to expand our Children’s Program, which helps homeless parents and their children access the resources they need to work toward a brighter future.

While EFAA’s housing case managers work with parents on budgeting, saving and planning, our Children’s Program case manager focuses on nurturing skills, child health and healthy development. This looks different for each family. Some parents are connected to healthcare for themselves and their children, setting the family on a lifetime path to better health. In other cases, we connect children to tutoring help and afterschool activities — often critical outlets for stress and important platforms for lifelong success.

...vulnerable kids are better able to become school and life ready...

Children exposed to traumatic stressors from homelessness and other issues related to poverty are more likely to have long-lasting negative consequences unless given appropriate support as early as possible. With the support of EFAA’s trauma-informed Children’s Program, vulnerable kids are better able to become school and life ready. EFAA’s goal is to break the cycle of poverty with parents and their children by setting them on a course for success.

HOW INFORMED ARE YOU?

EFAA is committed to raising awareness of the core issues facing working families in need. Our newly formed Strategic Education Committee is working hard to inform the community and contribute to discussions related to public policies that impact our client’s ability to become self-sufficient. Read more at efaa.org/about-efaa/strategic-education/.