



# efaaneWS

## EFAA'S CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY PROGRAM BRINGS *summer camp fun* TO EFAA HOUSING FAMILIES

It's summertime! For many kids, this is the time of year they most look forward to. But for working parents who are struggling to make ends meet, it can be an extremely challenging time. When school is out, families are challenged not only with finding activities to keep their children entertained, but also needing to make sure their kids are safe and cared for while parents are at work. Boulder County offers a variety of summer camps, but the costs are out of reach for many local families, and partial-day camps don't meet the needs of full-time working parents.

For families living in EFAA's Housing communities, our Children, Youth, and Family Program (CYF) can help make camp a viable option. Raul, a CYF Resource Navigator, meets with each of EFAA's housing families to learn about their kids' interests and the scheduling needs of the parents. This helps him determine the criteria to consider when looking into camp options for the kids. Raul has helped EFAA Housing families enroll their kids in camps focusing on everything from gymnastics and sports to coding and Renaissance adventures. **This past year, EFAA was able to provide 142 weeks of camp for 45 kids living in EFAA's housing communities.** The camps are a valuable resource that not only help fill a childcare gap, but promote social, emotional, and mental development, and allow kids to stay connected with their peers and actively engaged in activities.

One of EFAA's key partners for summer and school-year camps is the YMCA of Boulder Valley. In partnership with EFAA, the YMCA allows families living in EFAA housing to enroll their children in the YMCA's summer and school-year camps at half price which is then paid



by EFAA. The YMCA offers a variety of full-day camps to accommodate the work schedules of parents who work full time, and provides a range of experiences for kids age 3-16 throughout the summer break.

EFAA's CYF resource navigators collaborate with the parents and children living in EFAA's Housing communities to work to alleviate the trauma of homelessness and work to ensure every child is healthy, happy, and thriving. CYF does this through resource navigation and children's enrichment. Resource navigation provides advocacy and connects families to community resources. Children's enrichment includes fun and educational field trips, summer camps, and after school programs. EFAA also hosts gatherings at the housing sites to help build community and connection among residents. To learn more about EFAA's Children, Youth and Family program, visit [efaa.org/get-help/children-youth-family](http://efaa.org/get-help/children-youth-family).

### HERE IS WHAT SUMMER CAMP MEANS TO SOME OF EFAA'S HOUSING FAMILIES:

“ Being part of a camp brings new experiences and learnings that you can share with your family, as well as the opportunity to interact with new people and learn new things from each other. ”

“ For them [2 daughters] to feel more secure and believe in themselves and see the things they can accomplish on their own. ”

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## 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.

Summer 2024

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## DOUBLE YOUR DONATION!

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

**H**ousing is central to well-being. The stress of not knowing if you will make next month's rent or where you and your children will be able to sleep safely tonight is excruciating. With skyrocketing local housing costs and limited affordable housing available, more and more residents in our community are facing housing instability – either spending over 50 percent of their income on housing or losing their housing outright to price increases and evictions. This hits families with children especially hard. For example, this past school year, about 900 children in the Boulder Valley School District experienced episodes of homelessness.

EFAA works across the continuum of housing instability. We are the leading provider in our community of rental assistance to prevent eviction and keep families housed – the first best line of defense in retaining housing. Demand at EFAA for emergency rental assistance is as high as we have ever experienced, with resources stretched to help over 1,400 households make rent. For those families who have lost their housing, EFAA provides emergency short-term hotel stays to keep families with children safe and intact, as well as 66 apartments for short term and transitional housing across Boulder County. Each year, this provides more than 100 families with children, a roof over their heads and wrap-around supportive services as they work to stabilize and secure more permanent arrangements. Our wait list of families seeking access to EFAA housing now stretches into the weeks and months.

In this newsletter, you will read some of the various strategies and partnerships EFAA relies on to address housing insecurity. I am often asked if these programs are effective. Even though the challenge is greater everyday, I am happy to report that in our last ex-post survey of families receiving rental assistance, none had lost their housing and the majority reported other improvements in household well-being (less debt, less food insecurity, etc.). Eighty-seven percent of the families exiting EFAA's temporary housing program were successful in securing safe, adequate, and affordable (at less than half their monthly income) housing.

With support, our community members can find housing stability. EFAA remains committed to this end. I thank you all for joining us in meeting this challenge.

Sincerely,

**Julie Van Domelen**  
Executive Director



# EFAA'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF BOULDER KEEPS FAMILIES HOUSED

This past school year, more than 900 kids in the Boulder Valley School District experienced homelessness. The long-term impacts of homelessness on children can be significant. In addition to more episodes of hunger, children without a home, experience more frequent physical and emotional health issues than other children, as well as delays in development. Recognizing this, **one of EFAA's primary missions is preventing family homelessness by helping families keep the housing they already have.** Through a program called *Keep Families Housed*, this past fiscal year, EFAA provided financial assistance to help more than 750 families, including 1,300 children stay in their homes.

*Keep Families Housed* is a three-month rental assistance program for families with children under the age of 18 living at home. The program offers rental assistance based on need for the first month and requires the family to demonstrate an investment in the development and well-being of the children in order to receive financial assistance during the second and third months. This includes doctor and dentist check-ups for the children in the last 12 months and signing up for the school district's parent-teacher platform.

EFAA designed the program in 2017 based on emerging research indicating that many low-income families experience financial shortfalls more than once a year. By expanding financial assistance for families with children from once per year to three times per year, the program works to be more protective against family homelessness. The City of Boulder provided seed funding during the first year of the program and EFAA followed up with an extensive external evaluation on the program design and impact. The outcomes for families who were enrolled in the program speak for themselves.

- No family became homeless
- Food security improved
- Financial hardships declined

According to Elizabeth Crowe, Deputy Director of the City's Housing and Human Services Department (HHS), "the *Keep Families Housed* program is one that years ago, was seen by City Council and city staff as a priority program and one of the foundations of our services to make sure that families have a safe place to live. It has its own non-competitive funding source, in order to provide support for this program and its unique process and outcomes in a consistent way."

Investing in EFAA's *Keep Families Housed* program is one of the City's primary means of addressing family homelessness. "Local government can't do everything ourselves and neither can nonprofits. So, we really have to be able to work together on those shared outcomes," said Deputy Director Crowe. EFAA provides mid-year and end-of-year reports to HHS to ensure that the dollars are being spent as intended and the program achieves the desired outcomes.

Boulder is seeing an unprecedented level of housing instability, which is driving families-at-risk-of-homelessness to EFAA. Deputy Director Crowe values the City's "ability to work as partners with EFAA and other organizations. It's not just a transactional relationship... It's what we are going to do within the spheres of ability and influence that we have, to address these community programs."



## Preventing Homelessness

### EFAA'S FY '24 IMPACT



**EFAA HOUSING**  
supported **109** families  
(including 215 children)



**KEEP FAMILIES HOUSED (KFH)**  
supported **752** families  
(including 1,300 children)



**EVICTION PREVENTION RESOURCE ASSISTANCE (EPRAS)**  
supported **366** Households



**HOUSING STABILIZATION PROGRAM**  
supported **51** Households



**EFAA DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**  
supported **1,442** Households with rent





# Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

## Tyson and Janet Peck

### USE THEIR TALENTS TO BRING JOY TO KIDS LIVING IN EFAA'S HOUSING COMMUNITIES



**T**yson, affectionately known as “Ty the bike guy,” fixes bikes at EFAA’s Lafayette and Louisville housing sites. Whether it’s straightening the handlebars, putting the chains back on, or pumping up the tires, Ty does whatever it takes to keep the bikes going. “It sure is nice to see the kids smile when they jump on a bike and take off racing in the parking lot.”

Ty started fixing bikes for organizations 20 years ago. Since that time, he has repaired and put in motion close to 500 bikes! He repairs bikes for Sister Carmen Community Center as well.

Ty’s wife Janet has been making doll beds for kids in EFAA’s Housing communities and Holiday Gift room for the past several years. Janet loves to sew and remembers how much she enjoyed playing dolls with her identical twin sister when they were kids. The doll beds are beautifully stitched and roll up like a sleeping bag, with a pillow and sheet attached. She then buys a doll to include with each bed. Janet enjoys shopping for colorful fabrics to use for the beds and says “I always end up adding more to it because I’m having fun too.”

Thank you Ty and Janet for sharing your gifts to bring smiles to so many kids!

## Mark your Calendars



### TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Join us at EFAA’s 3rd Annual  
Farm to Table Dinner  
*The Secret Garden*

Sunday, September 15th  
3:30 – 7:30pm  
River Bend, Lyons

Tickets available at  
[efaa.org/farm-to-table-2024](http://efaa.org/farm-to-table-2024)



### LAST CHANCE TO DOUBLE YOUR DONATION!

Summer is a time when donations slow and yet the needs continue—especially as kids are out of school and no longer receive free lunch. Make your gift now to help ensure local kids have enough food to eat and

#### **DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!**

Our dear friends, the Leffingwell Family, will match every dollar you donate up to \$100,000.

**Hurry—deadline is August 31, 2024.**



SCAN HERE TO CONTRIBUTE