

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR TWENTY YEARS AND COUNTING...

by Tim Wayman



This is a big year for FamilyForward, our 20th anniversary! In 2003, Faith Community Homes — as our organization was then known — was founded by a small group of churches in the Arlington Heights Ministerial Association. The group identified a dire need to assist and improve the lives of families at risk of homelessness within the community.

Now in 2023, we celebrate all that has been accomplished over the past 20 years. The seed that was planted by these compassionate and forward-thinking individuals has grown into a vital nonprofit, charitable organization helping hundreds of low-income, working families in the northwest suburbs overcome difficult circumstances in their quests to become financially self-sufficient.

Our organization has grown due to the commitment of so many people: the professional and enthusiastic FamilyForward staff, the passionate leaders comprising the board of directors, and the big-hearted, dedicated mentors and other volunteers. We also must recognize all the amazing donors and supporters who have consistently helped fund our operations and services for program families. Without your generosity, none of the success achieved could have been possible.

Throughout the year, we will lift up our 20th anniversary by sharing memories from those involved in our founding; a timeline of important milestones; facts and figures about our mission; and other surprises along the way. The celebration will culminate in a special 20th anniversary *Giving Hope* event in October. We hope you will plan to join us.

But let us not rest on our laurels. There remains much need in our communities as rent continues to increase while the shortage of affordable rental housing only intensifies. The families we serve today often face more complex challenges than we have witnessed in the past, requiring even more creative and strategic assistance by staff and volunteers. Our organization must continue to adapt and change with the times and the new obstacles confronting us; we are steadfast and committed to doing so. THANK YOU for your ongoing support as together, we continue to serve and empower low-income families right here in our local neighborhoods.



CAPTURING GENEROSITY!

Active Care Chiropractic, Jewel-Osco Palatine, Pure Salon and other wonderful community partners represented the best of the holiday spirit. *Turn to page 5 for more!*



MISSION STATEMENT

Strengthening northwest suburban families to achieve financial stability and independence through mentoring, rental assistance and support services.

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family-forward.org
info@family-forward.org

To opt out of future newsletter mailings, please send an email to info@family-forward.org.

Special thanks to Elk Grove Township, Palatine Township, Schaumburg Township, Wheeling Township, and the Village of Arlington Heights for providing significant financial and other assistance to our client families.

FAMILY SUCCESS STORY

BREAKING DAILY SPENDING HABIT SAVES MONEY AND TIME



Stock photo from Pexels

When volunteer mentors started working with “Lynn,” they were immediately struck by her bank statements and how many transactions she had. She was spending money multiple times every single day, whether at the grocery store, Walmart, dollar store, drive-thru restaurants or the gas station. This spending habit coincided with Lynn’s pace of life — constantly running around, dropping off or picking up the kids, racing to the next place, go-go-going, living in survival mode without any real strategy.

To help Lynn become more intentional with her spending, her mentors challenged Lynn to go a day (or maybe two!) each week without spending any money at all. This challenge would require making a meal plan and shopping lists, which the mentors helped with, and giving herself permission to “do without.”

After a few weeks of the challenge, Lynn was happy to report back to her mentors that she went several days in a row spending no money at all. The only places she went were to work and to the kids’ daycare. She told her mentors, “I used to spend so much time running to the store. When you stop, you realize how much more time you have.” In the FamilyForward program, Lynn is learning how to conserve her money and her time, both of which will benefit her children in the long run.

Visit family-forward.org/blog for more family stories.

BUSINESS PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

FOR PAPA’S SAKE HOME CARE

We are extremely grateful to For Papa’s Sake Home Care (FPS) for generously supporting FamilyForward families through its annual holiday gift card drive in November and December 2022. FPS asked the community to “adopt” FamilyForward families by donating gift cards from local stores, empowering these parents to choose and purchase their own gifts for their families. After collecting \$13,530 in gift cards and monetary contributions from its supportive community, FPS then matched the cumulative donation amount dollar for dollar, making the total donated \$27,060! *Read more about the FPS gift card drive at family-forward.org/blog.*



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS FINANCIAL DONORS

We are grateful to the following people and organizations for their generous financial donations in 2022.

With your partnership, FamilyForward continues to help local families build a brighter future.

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All Saints Lutheran Church, Palatine
Arlington Countryside Church, Arlington Heights
Christian Church of Arlington Heights
Congregational United Church of Christ,
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First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights
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The Orchard Evangelical Free Church,
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continued on page 4

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Village of Arlington Heights
Wheeling Township

OTHER FORMS OF SUPPORT

In addition to the financial donors listed, we are grateful to all who contribute in other ways, including sponsoring events, purchasing event tickets, participating in auctions, and donating goods and services. Thank you!
Visit family-forward.org/supporters for more.

THANK YOU FOR HOLIDAY DONATIONS

Thank you to the following individuals, groups and organizations for the donations of gift cards and other gifts to make the holidays special for our program families.

Active Care Chiropractic
Drost, Kivlahan, McMahon & O'Connor, LLC
First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights,
Presbyterian Women Circle 2
First Presbyterian PDO and Preschool, Arlington Heights
First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights,
United Women in Faith
For Papa's Sake Home Care
Getz Family
Grace Unfolding Yoga
Jewel-Osco of Palatine, Steve Colello, Manager
Klamer Family
Kleinschmidt, Inc.
McGrath Family
Podkowa Family
Pure Salon
Rosemary & Marty Schaer
St. Edna Catholic Church, Arlington Heights
St. James Parish, Arlington Heights, Women of St. James
St. John United Church of Christ, Arlington Heights
Lou Walton



United Women in Faith, First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights



Women of St. James, St. James Parish, Arlington Heights

THANK YOU, JOHN SONDEREGGER

BOARD MEMBER EMERITUS

After 15 years of dedicated leadership and service, John Sonderegger retired from the FamilyForward Board of Directors in December 2022. John has contributed greatly to our organization's direction and development since he joined the board in 2007.

Over the years John has lent his talents for writing, planning, fundraising and problem solving to a variety of committees and projects. His generosity and serving spirit have been an example to his friends, neighbors and all with whom he has interacted on behalf of FamilyForward. "This organization, and the community at large, have truly benefited from John's long-term, committed service," said Tim Wayman, board chair. "Additionally, I have always personally appreciated his straightforwardness, critical thinking and sense of humor."



John Sonderegger

As he was preparing to step away, John shared some reflections, or "thoughts from the fence post," as he calls them. These musings contain his observations, a few words of wisdom and even a little advice:

In many facets of my life, observing what is going on around me is a favorite pastime of mine. It is as if I am sitting on a fence post watching events unfold. Sometimes those observations are from a distance, other times from up close. And equally importantly, I have been able to offer suggestions and advice and impressions on the scene evolving, always seeking to be constructive in those thoughts.

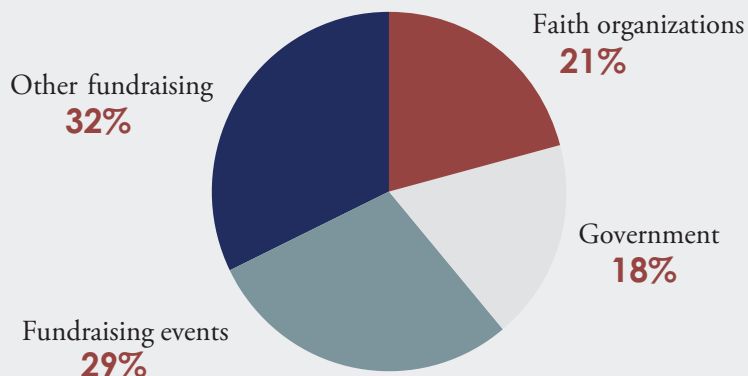
Serving on the board of FamilyForward for a passel of years, I have had the opportunity to be nearer to the action, to watch very talented associates perform almost miraculously in guiding souls from at times the depth of despair into new life. I guess, in a way, my time on the board has been one of reflection, of advising, of supporting the organization and those more involved in the doing that makes possible achievement of its mission. Once in a while, I even challenge fellow board members and staff on why we are doing certain things. Equally important, such thoughts are viewed positively.

Greatly, I admire fellow board members for their dedication that makes the organization tick so successfully at first in Arlington Heights, then also in Palatine, and now in other nearby suburbs. I wish I could see the future, but it is over the horizon. Assuredly, it will bring new challenges to FamilyForward, to its mission, to its outstanding supporters, to those it serves. Be nimble. Be not afraid to adapt to meet those challenges. I will continue to root from the sidelines.

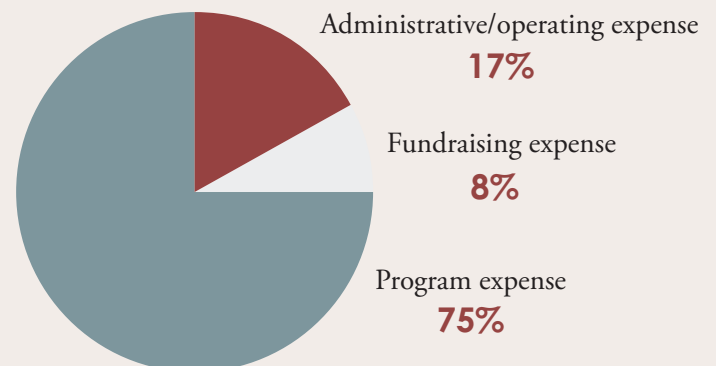
Fortunately, this is not goodbye. John has accepted the invitation to serve as our very first Board Member Emeritus — an ambassador for FamilyForward and a resource when wisdom is needed. Thank you, John!

FAMILYFORWARD FINANCIALS

INCOME % FOR FISCAL YEAR



HOW OUR MONEY IS SPENT



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF EMPOWERING LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

Join us for a year-long celebration of the 20th anniversary of our founding! From our beginnings back in 2003, and over the course of the last 20 years, FamilyForward has mobilized the community to provide help and hope for hundreds of families across the northwest suburbs. We're lifting up our past as we look toward the future!



FamilyForward Fact #1: We accepted our first family in May 2003.

*Be on the lookout for more **FamilyForward Facts**, across all our media, as the year goes on!*



Rev. David Russell

COMING UP...

In the next issue of **MOVING FORWARD**: Read board chair Tim Wayman's interview with the Rev. David Russell, a key leader in founding FamilyForward and the first board chair of our organization, originally known as Faith Community Homes (FCH). David shares insights on the specific needs in the community back in 2003; the challenges FCH faced at its formation; high points and favorite memories along the way; and much more!

TRANSFORMING LIVES, ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

"The presence of this program in my life has impacted my ability to grow as a parent. With their constant support, my mentors paved the way for me and told me I was on the right path. I have a home because of your program." — Jenny

FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

GIFT CARDS PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY

by Sarah Harte



All the families of FamilyForward were extremely grateful for the unexpectedly generous number of gift cards they received to help them with holiday shopping as well as groceries, gas and household supplies in the coming months.

A gift card allows parents to shop for the toy, clothing or gift that is most suitable for their children. A gift card allows a parent the discretion to decide when to spend the money, and what to spend it on. At FamilyForward, we appreciate all donations, large and small, as we strive to relieve the financial burden on low-income families and to help parents feel empowered so they can thrive. Gift cards for Aldi, Walmart or any gas station, in the amount of \$25 or less, are always welcome! **Questions?** Contact me at sarah.harte@family-forward.org.



Celebrating 20 Years

FamilyForward

302 N. Dunton Avenue
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

family-forward.org
847-342-0846

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access to news and events!*

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FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Help spread the word about FamilyForward by following us on Instagram and Liking and following our Facebook page! Find us @FamForward. Connect with us on LinkedIn at FamilyForward Arlington Heights and subscribe to our YouTube channel as well (search for FamilyForward). With your help, we can reach more people and assist more families!

SAVE THE DATE

FamilyFOREward Golf Outing | Wednesday, June 7

Old Orchard Country Club

700 W. Rand Rd., Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

Shotgun Start at noon. Registration opens soon!

