

FAITH COMMUNITY HOMES

inspiring hope changing lives

November 2020

Virtual Giving Hope Event Exceeds Expectations

For the first time, Faith Community Homes hosted its annual Giving Hope fundraiser virtually on Sunday, October 11. The charity's primary fundraiser of the year was presented via Zoom due to the coronavirus pandemic. Thanks to the technical coordination of event consultant Nonprofit Learning Lab and the auction site creativity of volunteer Annette Migala, the event went off flawlessly.

Giving Hope opened with a welcome video by FCH Board Chair Jim Mayer. Hosts Jane Drezen and Tim Wayman then led the livestream portion of the event intermingled with several pre-recorded videos. Highlights of the program included:



Mayor Schwantz

Mayor Hayes

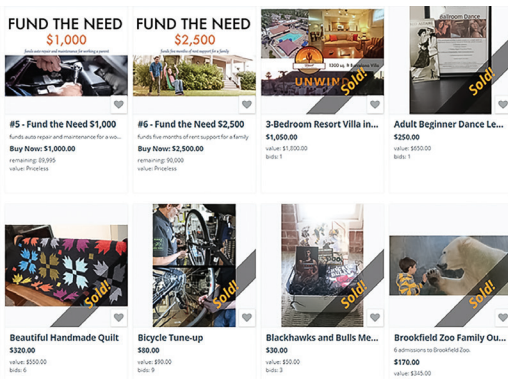
- Video messages from Mayor Jim Schwantz of Palatine and Mayor Tom Hayes of Arlington Heights. Both mayors praised the help and support that Faith Community Homes provides to low-income residents within their communities. They explained that while both Palatine and Arlington Heights have other programs and services that can aid residents who are in or near poverty on a short-term basis, the two-year mentoring and rental support program that Faith Community Homes provides is unique. Working with families in Arlington Heights since its formation in 2003, Faith Community Homes began supporting Palatine families in 2013 through the invitation of several churches, Township officials and Village leaders.

- A video interview conducted by Tim Wayman with ABC7 News Anchor Alan Krashesky of ABC7 News. Alan described some highlights of his 38 years as a Chicago-based reporter and anchor at Channel 7, particularly citing his many trips to and stories about the Vatican. He also discussed the challenging circumstances of poverty faced by so many in the Chicagoland area. Alan talked about his youth and the financial challenges his own family faced after his father was robbed and murdered on his bread delivery route when Alan was just several months old. To view the 14-minute interview in its entirety, visit the fchomes.org home page.



Alan Krashesky

- A discussion with Executive Director Chuck Warner and Program Manager Sarah Harte about how FCH families are faring during the pandemic. See the separate article on page 3 with details.
- A silent auction and "Fund the Need" appeal that was open for bidding and donations from October 7 through the end of the event. Silent auction items included a trip to AZ, gift baskets, sports memorabilia, restaurant cards and more. The "Fund the Need" appeal asked supporters to donate at various dollar levels from \$50-\$2,500 for families in the program, e.g., a \$2,500 donation provides five months of rent support for a family.



Giving Hope Auction

(continued on page 2)

Mission Statement

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

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Sarah Harte

Case Manager
Pam Van De Walle

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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.

You, our supporters, responded magnificently to our first ever virtual event! Faith Community Homes netted over \$60,000, second only in income to our Giving Hope event in 2017. Almost 100 people attended the Zoom event, dozens more visited the auction site prior to the event, 30+ donated to the “Fund the Need” appeal, and 100+ made separate donations. All donors will be listed in our February newsletter (unless a request is made not to do so). Thank you for your incredible generosity!

We especially want to thank our financial sponsors and in-kind auction donors (listed on p. 3). Both the number of sponsors and sponsorship dollars received were greater than for any prior FCH event! We cannot thank you enough for your commitment and dedication to our cause.

FCH Families Persevere Through Pandemic

An inspirational yet heart-wrenching part of our Giving Hope program was the livestream conversation between FCH Executive Director Chuck Warner and Program Manager Sarah Harte about our FCH families. They explained that while each of the families come to Faith Community Homes with unique problems, what they all have in common is a shortage of money. All are faced with the high cost of living and daycare; a disproportionate number of families have a special needs child.



Chuck Warner

Sarah Harte

Chuck stressed that mentors are key to the long-term success of our families. All are volunteers who make a huge commitment of meeting with their families 2-4 times per month. Sarah explained that the initial priority for the mentor/family relationship is to pay the landlord and catch up on rent, thereby easing housing concerns. While mentoring has looked much different during the pandemic due to social distancing requirements and Zoom, etc., mentors continue to help families with budgeting, paying their bills, and decreasing debt. The relationship is often the only “network” the family has.

Sarah stated that several front-line workers in our program have contracted COVID-19. Though all have now recovered, some gave up one or more paychecks. For many, employers have reduced their work hours or they cannot work as many hours due to the need to supervise their children’s at-home learning. In some cases, career development has been put on hold. As a result, some cases have been extended beyond our original two-year commitment.

A case in point. Single mom “Abby” is a direct care provider at a long-term care facility. Over the summer, she contracted COVID-19 at work and became quite ill. During that time, Abby had to send her children to live with their aunt. Now fully recovered from COVID and back at work, Abby’s children are back home for remote learning; she and her neighbor are in a childcare swap.

Despite this health setback, Abby is on track to complete her professional certificate program at Harper College in December. With this certificate, her wage will increase, and she has already had a few job interviews. Due to the challenges she faced, Faith Community Homes offered Abby a six-month extension to her time in the program. Her mentors are helping Abby rearrange her budget to account for the loss of income during her illness, and the rent subsidy will help Abby replenish her lost savings.

Virtual Giving Hope 2020 Sponsors

Champion Sponsor (\$5,000)

Village Bank & Trust

Goal Setter Sponsors (\$2,500-3,000)

Glenview State Bank
Robert & Nancy Lincoln
Dwight & Lou Walton

Challenger Sponsors (\$1,500)

Anonymous
E.A.N. Friends of FCH
Lavelle Law

Mentor Sponsors (\$750-1,000)

Greg & Dale Ford
Gilio Landscape Contractors
Tim & Connie Wayman

Supporter Sponsors (\$500)

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Gerald & Gretchen Gilbertson
Hoyne Savings Bank
Northwest Community Hospital Foundation
Northwest Speech & Hearing Center, LTD
Jon & Bea Sonderegger
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Advocate Sponsors (\$150-250)

Felipa Aguirre
Impressive Smiles
Richard & Laurie Mole
NC Junk Removal, Inc.
Alan & Beverly Palmer

Christmas Giving to FCH Families

Due to changes in logistics and safety concerns during the pandemic, all Christmas donations this year will need to come in the form of gift cards only. The most useful are Walmart, Aldi, and gas station gift cards in denominations of \$25 or less.

For donors who wish to contribute to our pantry, the most requested items are those that cannot be purchased through a Link card: cleaning supplies, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent, Ziploc bags, and aluminum foil.



When you make a purchase on Amazon, think about checking Into Amazon Smile before you finalize that purchase and select FCH as your charity of choice. It will cost you nothing, but FCH will receive a portion of your purchase price.

Virtual Giving Hope 2020 In-Kind Auction Donors

Andigo Credit Union
Brookfield Zoo
Chicago Architecture Center
Chicago Bears
Chicago Botanic Garden
Mary Cay Chisholm
Cole Kmet
Costco Wholesale
Dengeos
d'Vine Wine and Gifts
Fred Astaire Dance Studios
Hey Nonny
Home Depot
Jewel Osco
Lou Malnati's Pizzeria

Lurvey Home and Garden
Mario Tricoci
Mike's Bike Shop
Neater Professional Organizing
Northwest Auto Wash
Paintball Explosion Partners, LLC
Quilts for Others
Todd and Tina Richards
Salon Lorrene
Shakou Corporate
Tap House Grill
Trader Joe's
Triton College Cernan Earth and Space Center
Alex Wayman
Tim and Connie Wayman

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Message from Executive Director Chuck Warner

The pandemic has encouraged us to provide a new service. For the first time ever, we initiated a “mini-program” to assist families seriously impacted financially by the crisis. These families meet the same admission requirements as those in our standard two-year program, but we provide assistance on a shorter term basis (1-4 months) in partnership with townships, churches, villages, school districts, and other social service agencies. Thus far, we have worked with seven families through this program. The common thread for these families is their need to get caught up on rent and other bills due to pandemic-related challenges. We greatly appreciate your financial support in helping us to keep these families from falling further into debt and the risk of homelessness.

Illinois Spinal Care Supports Faith Community Homes



One of Faith Community Homes’ important business partners is Illinois Spinal Care in Palatine. Two years ago, Dr. Brian Mendoza was looking for a local charitable organization partner and chose Faith Community Homes. He strongly believes that the work of FCH is critical and beneficial to the local community. Dr. Mendoza has become a key advocate of the mission and often asks his patients to consider supporting FCH as well. Illinois Spinal Care recently provided a gift of \$3,000 to help FCH families. Thank you, Dr. Mendoza, for your tremendous generosity!!!!

Chuck Warner accepts check from Dr. Mendoza