

FAITH COMMUNITY HOMES

inspiring hope changing lives

May 2018

Message from the Board Chair – Jim Mayer



Faith Community Homes moves into the late spring of 2018 with reflection and excitement. We reflect on the growth FCH has enjoyed over its 15-year history and the hundreds of lives we have been able to touch and positively impact. An important part of FCH during this period has been Sr. Carrie Miller, our program manager. Sister Carrie will soon be leaving FCH to assume a leadership role with her Sisters of the Living Word Community. We have been so blessed to have had Carrie's deep care and love for our families as well as her leadership within our organization for all these years. We congratulate Carrie on her new and challenging role.

We are excited as we look forward to the many opportunities presented to FCH.

The first of these opportunities is to be able to welcome Sarah Harte to the position of program manager. (See "Meet Sarah Harte, New Program Manager," p. 4.) We are also excited for the opportunity to continue to serve low-income families in our community with mentoring, rental assistance and other support services such as enhanced education and skills training. Enabling the acquisition of new skills is critical to empowering our families to improve their wage-earning potential. All these opportunities are made possible through the continued outpouring of generosity from supporters like you. Thank you for your trust and commitment to the mission of FCH.

Mark Your Calendar

Faith Community Homes' annual fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday, September 30, from 3-6pm. Due to the popularity and growth of the event, we will be moving to a larger venue this year, Rolling Green Country Club in Arlington Heights. Once again, we will feature appetizers, silent auctions, raffles, a stand-up comedy performance by Kevin Bozeman, and more. Hope to see you there!

Note: We are seeking assistance with coordination of silent auction. Contact FCH office if interested.

Visit Our Updated Website

Thanks to the efforts of the FCH Marketing/Communications Committee, and particularly Annette Migala and Kris Mainellis, FCH now has a more engaging, contemporary and interactive website.



Check it out at fchomes.org.

Mission Statement

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

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Sr. Carrie Miller, SLW

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

Volunteer Spotlight - by Lou Walton



I had the pleasure of meeting and “interviewing” Sam Psimoulis. What an interesting guy! He has mentored two FCH families and seems perfect for the job. Sam and his wife, Barb, are members of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights and first learned about Faith Community Homes from fellow member Jim Mayer. Since they had worked with PADS for many years, volunteering with FCH seemed like a natural step.

Sam’s mentoring partner is Mary Weber, whom he admires. He says they complement each other and get along very well. Their first family, a mom and dad with four children at home, completed the program in a year. Both parents have found good jobs. Sam stays in touch with them and still gets together with the dad when he can. Currently, Mary and Sam are mentoring a single dad with two small children.

Sam calls himself a “planner”. He has enjoyed helping families get more organized with their finances and other affairs, although admits that progress may sometimes be slow and uneven. Sam believes that the families primarily need guidance in making decisions and overcoming obstacles. He is a very caring person totally committed to helping families improve their lives.

Sam attended North Park College and received an MBA from Northwestern. Barb has an MBA from Vanderbilt. They met on a blind date at Alexian Brothers where he began his career as a manager of medical properties. Their son, Gus, is graduating from the University of Illinois in Sports Management and is deciding between an internship with the Cubs or taking a scholarship for graduate work. He has worked for the Cubs over past summers, including the year they won the World Series, and has a ring to show for it!

Sam is now retired. He and Barb recently moved to a condo in Chicago overlooking Grant Park and Soldier Field. They currently support Night Ministries in Chicago and are seeking other volunteer opportunities in the area.

Supporters Enjoy “Fun & Games”

On Sunday, April 29th, 120 supporters of Faith Community Homes attended its spring fundraiser, “Fun & Games”, at Arlington Ale House. Attendees had the opportunity to enjoy tasty appetizers, drink vouchers, bar games and contests, and raffles. It was a great way to spend a lazy Sunday afternoon with friends and neighbors while directly helping families served by FCH.

A huge thank you goes out to local restaurants that donated food for the event: California Pizza Kitchen, Francesca Tavola, Peggy Kinnane’s, Porky’s BBQ, Tuscan Market and Wayne’s Pizza. Thanks also to contributors to the raffles that proved so popular: Cathy & Skip Robertson for Cubs tickets, Rolling Green Country Club for a complimentary 18-hole foursome, and FCH board members for games and gift cards. We also want to thank the management and staff of Arlington Ale House for their hospitality and support, and to Jane Drezen and her Fund Development team for planning all the details. And finally, thanks to all of you who attended and contributed to the cause!



A Heartfelt Thank You to FCH Co-Founder Sister Carrie Miller



Faith Community Homes has been blessed and privileged to have Sr. Carrie Miller as part of our organization since our beginning, 15 years ago. “Sister Carrie has provided our families with loving care throughout these years and she has provided the organization leadership and an attitude of ‘we can do this’ her entire time with FCH,” says Jim Mayer, board chair of FCH.

Family has always been important to Carrie. She comes from a caring and thoughtful family filled with love and support for each other. Her love for family extends to the families she has nurtured at FCH. “She has found positive growth in every family, regardless of the challenges each family faced and her own challenges in working with them,” explains Chuck Warner, FCH executive director.

Carrie has been dedicated to helping disenfranchised, forgotten, impoverished families, “to help them to a stronger existence,” adds Chuck. Time and again, her rock-solid faith has proven well-founded—that solutions for difficult problems are always within reach. “Sometimes, she seemed like a magician in finding answers to problems.”

Carrie was instrumental in starting Faith Community Homes in 2003. She provided the expertise needed to review family needs and set up the program that has continued to this day. “As we grew, she became the face of Faith Community Homes to the churches and organizations in the community while providing the professional social work with the families and guidance for the mentors,” according to Lou Walton, board member and one of the founders of FCH. Until 2009, Carrie was the only paid staff at FCH. We are grateful that for the first few years, Carrie’s faith community, Sisters of the Living Word, supported Carrie and made it possible for her to serve Faith Community Homes.

In her time with FCH, Carrie has helped all the families in our program and many more families who did not enter our program but received her guidance, ideas and help in finding other sources of help. Most of these families are thriving today because of her dedication and vision. In addition, “our families can be extremely grateful that Carrie had the foresight to solicit participation from the community: Christmas gifts, school supplies, gift cards, food pantry donations and many other donations of needed items,” says Lou.

We are all very grateful that Carrie has shaped and nurtured our program and shared with us her many gifts. Sister Carrie will be missed as she moves into her leadership position with her Sisters of the Living Word Community in June, but her impact on FCH and our families will be felt for years to come.

A Message from Sister Carrie

Dear Friends and Supporters of FCH:

Life is full of surprises, often evoking mixed emotions, always presenting opportunities for newness and growth.

Such was my experience this past February when my Community of Sisters of the Living Word gathered in Arlington Heights for our Election Assembly and called me to serve the Community in Congregational Leadership. Truly that was a humbly affirming moment! It was with joy and excitement that I said “Yes” to this service to my Community.

As that is a full-time ministry, I also felt a strong tug at my heart knowing that I would not be able to continue serving Faith Community Homes! In one way, after 16 years, it’s hard to imagine “life” without FCH; at the same time, however, I trust that this new chapter of life – both for myself, and for FCH – will be filled with blessings, new opportunities, and special growth.

Personally, I hold in high regard all who are involved in FCH in any way – you are an inspiration to me as people who take seriously the mandate to reach out to others in love, to offer your time in concern for people who need a ‘hand up’, to share what you can to help others improve their lives - to bring HOPE! As I move on, I will carry the blessing of that inspiration in my heart.

With gratitude for all you do or make possible for the families of FCH, and praying God’s blessings upon you always – in all ways,

Sister Carrie Miller, SLW
FCH Program Manager



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Meet Sarah Harte, New Program Manager

It is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of Sarah Harte to the position of Program Manager for Faith Community Homes.

Sarah is a graduate of Yale University and holds a M.A. degree from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration. Her work experience includes organizational duties with Special Olympics, Inc. She worked at Rush Alzheimer's Family Care Center and at Rush Medical Center as Manager of its Outpatient Day Rehabilitation Program. In these positions, Sarah conducted and managed intake interviews and worked on care plans for patients. This experience in working with families in various stages of crisis is directly related to our mission in the community. The position at Rush Medical Center also included supervisory duties.

Sarah is currently a valued volunteer at the Lutheran Home and has been the PTA President at Patton School in Arlington Heights. She resides in Arlington Heights with her husband, Michael, and their two children.

Her duties will include managing the intake of new families to the FCH program, working with our case managers and mentors as they provide guidance to families, and coordinating the provision of all services that FCH provides to families. Welcome, Sarah!



*Sarah Harte
Program Manager*