



Faith Community Homes
302 N. Dunton Avenue
Arlington Heights IL 60004
www.fchomes.org
847-342-0846

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May 2017



Spring is Move-in Time for Families

In April and early May, FCH moved in five new families including three in Arlington Heights and two in Palatine. As we go to print, two more families are waiting to be accepted. Our case managers have been working overtime! Each time a new family enters our program, their finances and employment are assessed, long and short-term goals are developed, and mentors are assigned. More often than not, our staff must find new apartments and make arrangements with landlords. Then the moving begins: needed furniture must be found and volunteers recruited to help with the move-in and welcome the family. It's tiring but rewarding to see a family eager for a new future ahead.

FCH Family News & Celebrations

- Marina* has taken a new position as a school social worker. Her oldest son has been accepted to the University of Chicago on a full scholarship!
- Camarie* is happy in her new professional job after a year-long search. Her son graduates high school in June and will attend Harper College.
- Joy* is a CNA at a local hospital and hopes to enter the LPN course at Harper College. She is working with the Women's Program there to determine the appropriate path.
- After unsteady employment since the 2008 downturn, Alicia* just accepted a customer service position with a raise in pay to \$15/hour.

FCH Leader - Facts on Rental Hardships

Recently, Chuck Warner, the Executive Director of FCH, gave a presentation to public and non-profit agencies in Elk Grove Township focused on the increase in rental costs relative to income requirements and the resulting challenges for lower-income families.

The standard used for determining appropriate housing costs is 30% of family income. Apartments that rented for \$900 per month 7-8 years ago needed incomes of \$36,000 (\$17 per hour full-time) to meet the 30% standard. Today those apartments rent for about \$1,100 per month, requiring \$44,000 (\$21 per hour).

24% of renters in northern Cook County are "rent-burdened," meaning at least 50% of their income goes toward rent. In addition to inflation, housing shortages and upscaling of apartment complexes are causing rents to increase.

Board Chair's Report

Recently FCH revamped its committee structure. We streamlined our committees into three and we sure could use your assistance in helping make these committees strong and supporting FCH's overall mission.

The primary committees are:

Fund Development - This group works on the 3-4 activities FCH undertakes each year to expand our awareness in the community and provide exciting and fun fundraising activities. If you like to plan, throw or simply attend parties, you might to think about this committee. For more information, contact Jane Drezen, Chair, jdrezen@bankatvillage.com.

Communications / Marketing / PR - This team is currently working on our "branding". They are working to provide consistency of message through a variety of mediums. Do you have a little flair for writing, are you engaged in social media, do you recognize or notice effective communications? If so, we give us a shot. For more information, contact Tim Wayman, Chair, (224)558-0916.

Outreach - This committee is working to strengthen and more clearly identify organizations and groups as potential supporters of FCH. Many of these organizations and groups are supporting or have supported FCH in the past. Our goal is to keep them better informed regarding our activities and needs. Do you have a organizational skills?. Help us reach potential partners in our community. For more information, contact Michelle Johns, Chair, (630)606-9801.

Thanks for considering assisting with the FCH mission.



Jim Mayer
Board Chair

Mark Your Calendar

Please plan to join us for our "Giving Hope" annual fundraiser in the Metropolis Ballroom on Sunday, September 24, 4-6:30pm. The event will feature silent & live auctions, raffles, entertainment, "heavy" appetizers, and other surprises. Tickets will be available through the FCH website (fchomes.org), from FCH board members and staff, or by calling the FCH office at 847-342-0846.

Mission Statement

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

Support FCH through amazon smile

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.

Faith Community Homes



**Named Arlington Heights
Chamber of Commerce
Not For Profit Organization
of the Year - 2015**

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Sr. Carrie Miller, SLW

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Special thanks to Palatine
Township, Wheeling
Township, and the Village
of Arlington Heights for
providing significant financial
assistance as well
as help to our client families.

Winter & Spring Events Benefit FCH Families

Faith Community Homes recently hosted two events that drew a large number of enthusiastic supporters.

Organ & Music Concert

The annual concert was held on March 12 at First Presbyterian Church in Arlington Heights. Featured performers included:

- Linda Camp & Kay Daugherty, First United Methodist Church, Palatine
- Paul Cochran & Linda Styzek, St. John UCC, Arlington Heights
- Martha Garmon, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Palatine
- Ken Spengler, Christ Lutheran Church, Palatine
- Christopher Urban, First Presbyterian Church, Arlington Heights

The concert included a wonderful variety of organ and piano music that was thoroughly enjoyed by an inspired audience. A brief reception was held after the event to chat with the performers.

Our heartfelt thanks to the very generous attendees who contributed significantly through a free-will offering. Also, great thanks to the musicians who volunteered their time and incredible talents, to First Presbyterian Church and Pastor Alex Lang for hosting, and to Paul Cochran who once again organized and coordinated the event almost single-handedly. Bravo!

Wine Tasting Event



On the evening of April 22, Faith Community Homes and Tuscan Market in Arlington Heights hosted a wine tasting event featuring dozens of wonderful wines from around the world. Nearly 100 attendees enjoyed the tasting along with delicious appetizers provided by owner Colin Gilbert and his dedicated crew. Friendly distributors took their time to explain the uniqueness and nuances of each of the wines served. Tuscan Market was also very generous in dedicating 10% of total evening wine sales to

Faith Community Homes.

The Spring Raffle Basket was won by John & Kathy Cooney, first-time visitors to an FCH event. Organizers of the tasting were thrilled to see many new faces and donors to Faith Community Homes. It turned out to be an enjoyable evening of fun and friendship that significantly benefited the families of Faith Community Homes.



Family Night Builds Community, Empowers Families

April 17, 2017 - Joint Press Release of First Presbyterian Church & Faith Community Homes

Family Night is a free community program held Wednesday evenings, September through May, at First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights. Begun last September, the program is an effort to bring people together to grow relationships and offer specialized help for those who need it.



A key partner in Family Night is Faith Community Homes, a local organization whose mission is: “Strengthening northwest suburban families to achieve financial stability and independence through mentoring, rental assistance and support services.”

Through Family Night, First Presbyterian and Faith Community Homes work together to offer education, mentoring and other types of support for families involved with Faith Community Homes. This partnership connects people and resources to allow the First Presbyterian community to actively help people in the local community rise above challenging circumstances to create a better life for themselves.

Each Wednesday evening, participants enjoy a drop-in dinner time from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, followed by classes and activities for all ages from 7:00 to 8:00 pm, all for free. Child care is also provided.

At Family Night, church members provide teaching and mentoring for adults, youth, and children. Adult learning opportunities currently include computer training, life skills development, and financial training. Family Night also offers adult Christian education, including the church’s “Engage & Encounter” education series. Another current offering is a parenting small group. Anyone can participate in these programs.

Children and youth can take part in fun and educational activities at Family Night. Grades K-5 are encouraged to attend Kids Connect, for gym time, hands-on creative-learning activities and a reading time (read-aloud and silent reading). Youth in grades 6-8 are invited to MSYG (Middle School Youth Group), a time to meet new friends, explore faith and have fun.



Family Night is the result of nearly two years of brainstorming, researching, and planning by the church, as its members sought an impactful way to reach out to neighbors as well as facilitate meaningful, positive and lasting change in the lives of working-poor families in the area. Once the church decided on its goal, its members determined that Faith Community Homes, with its emphasis on helping working-poor families, was a ready-made partner.

According to Faith Community Homes, low-income families are often faced with spending 50 percent or more of their income on housing. With a guideline that no more than 30 percent of a family’s income should go toward housing, Faith Community Homes attempts to fill the gap for qualified families by paying a portion of housing costs (rent) for two years. Additionally, families receive guidance from trained volunteer mentors who meet with them at least twice monthly for the entire time they are in the program.

The programs offered at Family Night are an ideal match for the mentoring and educational assistance offered by Faith Community Homes. “Family Night is designed to bring people together,” said Rev. Alex Lang, pastor at First

Presbyterian. “Our goal is to get to know our neighbors and to help under-resourced parents learn valuable skills to improve their lives and the lives of their children.”

Charles Warner, executive director of Faith Community Homes, said, “Family Night is a wonderful opportunity to come together each week for fellowship, learning, and fun. It is a time to build relationships and strengthen the community.”

First Presbyterian Church is at 302 N. Dunton Ave. in Arlington Heights. To learn more about Family Night, visit www.fpcah.org or call 847-255-5900. To learn more about Faith Community Homes, visit <http://fchomes.org> or call 847-342-0846