



Congratulations to Maria, who just received her Associates Degree from College of DuPage! Maria has four small children and will continue her academic journey toward her bachelor's degree in Business Administration. We are honored to be part of Maria's life and in awe of her energy and drive.

2019
UPDATE

A Bridge Communities Partner

Celebrating 26 years!

Dear FHF Friends,

After 26 years of providing housing and mentoring to homeless moms and their children in Naperville, we are convinced that the most important things we offer our families are hope and empowerment. Recent studies show that there is a very strong correlation between the strength of the client/mentor relationship and the client's success. This is not surprising given that our volunteer mentors at FHF may well be the first people in our clients' lives who believed in them, exposed them to healthy financial decisions, and helped them see a path toward self-sufficiency.

We work hard to be nonjudgmental, which isn't always easy. Nor is it easy at the beginning for our clients to trust their mentors. Poverty and abuse in their past make it hard for our clients to believe that their mentors will be there for them through good and bad, with no hidden agendas. Learning productive communication skills is slow and painful. After weeks of meetings, phone calls, and texts the transformation begins.

We are grateful for your financial support and belief in our mission. You allow us to continue the important work we do.

Thank you!

Vicky Joseph

Fair market monthly rent for a 2-bedroom apartment in DuPage County: **\$1,176**

Number of hours needed to work per week, at minimum wage to afford rent: **110**

NOTES FROM OUR CLIENTS

- *My son and I are blessed to have been a part of FHF. It has positively impacted our lives tremendously. We had the best mentors that one could ask for. I'm forever grateful for FHF.*
- *I'm learning to distinguish between needs and wants. Making a budget made me more aware of what I spend my money on and it helps me stay within my financial limits. I am beyond blessed and grateful that FHF chose me to be in this program. I can never say thank you enough.*
- *I've learned three things in this program: 1) I am going to be ok, 2) I am stronger than I think am, and 3) I am capable of being a great mom and woman.*
- *My mentors' unconditional love and amazing support really heals a broken person. I've been blessed to relearn how to love, trust and know that there are people who care about my children and me. Thank you for choosing me to be part of the FHF family!*
- *I think one of the hardest things for us as a family to accept when we first started was that people really do exist who are this kind. That they really are invested in us and want to see us succeed. Our normal was not that of feeling kindness. And because FHF really is full of kind people we were able to adopt a new normal for our family.*
- *With the help of FHF I have gotten more completed in my first 45 days than I had in five years! The progress is catapulting forward and closer to obtaining my dream to become the first person in my family to earn a college degree.*

HOW CAN YOU HELP?



Monetary Donations: To pay housing and utility costs. Please make checks payable to FHF.

Mentors: Volunteers willing to go through training and become involved in the day-to-day lives of our clients.

Cars: Our families need serviceable cars to get to school and work. Your donation is tax deductible.

Your Involvement: Help us with community fundraisers and client classes. It takes hundreds of volunteer hours to organize and staff events. **Service Projects:** If your group is looking for a service project, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss it with you: famhelpingfam@gmail.com.

Professional Services: Occasionally we need the services of an attorney, physician, dentist, etc.

Supply closet: We welcome donations of personal products and cleaning products since our clients cannot buy these with their food stamps. Ask us for a list of needed items: steveandkay2@gmail.com.

Gift Cards: Sometimes our families have budgets that come up short. Gift cards for gas, groceries, Walmart, and Target are lifesavers. Any amount is appreciated!

Other donations: Join our LINK email list to see what our clients need and to offer donations of

Family Updates



“A”

After traumatically losing her job and ability to pay her rent, A and her two children were facing homelessness. They joined FHF and began the process of healing from domestic and workplace abuse. Counseling and being in a safe environment have helped a great deal. The kids are thriving with the help of tutoring and counseling. A is working hard, living lean and saving money so that she can, hopefully, buy a small home for her family next year.

“S”

S and her 5-year-old daughter were living in a homeless shelter after escaping an abusive relationship. Her ex ran up her credit cards, stole her car and furniture and left her emotionally and physically fragile. S is smart, organized and very motivated.

We are amazed at the way she plows through her impressive To Do list every week. She is so excited to continue her college education. S is determined to be the first college grad in her family.

“D”

D and her 12-year-old son are thriving after being with FHF for almost a year. They were in an all-too-familiar situation when we first met them. D was working very hard at job that paid \$9.50 per hour. Of course, she could not pay rent, car payment, etc. They had no family support and became homeless. D has now paid off much of her debt and has found a new job as a para-professional in a high school setting that pays 50% more than her old job. She is a very positive person and has a strong work ethic. Her son is active at the after school Alive Center in Naperville and helps in their fundraising.

SAVE THE DATE!

Our **13th Annual Benefit Dinner and Auction** will be held on February 8, 2020 at the Cress Creek Country Club in Naperville. Enjoy cocktails, dinner, and dancing. Meet our volunteers, hear from one of our clients about her journey toward self-sufficiency, and bid on fabulous auction items!

We would love to see you there!



Invitations can be obtained by emailing: sueshanahan6@gmail.com

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The Bruce Terlep Memorial Education Fund

Bruce Terlep was a long time and enthusiastic supporter of FHF. Sadly, he passed away in 2017. He was passionate about education and felt that everyone deserves a chance to go to college or trade school. Being the youngest of seven children who all went to college, Bruce was aware of the sacrifices his parents made so that they could all get a degree—and many of them got advanced degrees.

With this in mind, after Bruce's death, his family requested that donations be made in his memory to Families Helping Families. His wife, Ginger, who is an FHF mentor and board member, established the Bruce Terlep Memorial Education Fund. Today, the fund helps FHF parents and children go to college.



2nd Generation Magic!

The best way we know to break the cycle of poverty is EDUCATION. Two FHF kids will be graduating from college in 2020! We are so proud of them and grateful we can help fund their education.

Diana is a senior at ISU. After two fabulous summer internships she has decided to get a master's degree in accounting and finance. She speaks three languages and sees international business as her goal. Diana plans to "take care of her mom" since she has seen, firsthand, the sacrifices her mom made to give her this chance to go to college.

Ryan is a senior at Bradley University majoring in marketing. He had a semester long internship in marketing with an international company that included lots of international travel. Ryan feels very protective of his two younger brothers and his mom. It is because of him that his mom was able to escape his abusive father. He is one motivated young man!

Please mail this form with your donation to:

FHF/Sally Meno, 1164 Dickens Ave., Naperville, IL 60563

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email address (needed for emailing your receipt):

Donation: (Check made out to Families Helping Families)

\$ _____

Donation to Bruce Terlep Memorial Education Fund (Check made out to Families Helping Families with BTMEF in memo)

\$ _____

(If your company offers to match your donation, please include this information with your check.)

Visa/MasterCard (circle one):

Verification Code _____ Expiration: _____

Name on Card _____

Authorized amount to charge \$ _____

We have no paid staff or overhead...

We are all volunteers!

- **\$35 Provides housing for a family for 1 day.**
- **\$245 Provides housing for a family for 1 week.**
- **\$1050 Provides housing for a family for 1 month.**

For questions or to make a payment via phone, call Sally Meno at 630-778-0981 or email sallymeno@gmail.com.

Abby is a sophomore in the nursing program at Carroll University in Wisconsin. She is working two jobs along with her rigorous classes in order to fulfill her dream of being a healthcare professional.

Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.

Nelson Mandela