

Dear FHF Friend,

A recent CBS interview with a Naperville North High School administrator, revealed that there are five times as many homeless students this year in his school than there were last year.

**What is the best way to help these students? Help their parents. That is what we do at Families Helping Families.**

As a partner of Bridge Communities, we provide housing and mentoring for ten homeless moms and their children in Naperville. Each family has a team of 2 volunteer mentors who meet with them weekly serving as their unpaid "life consultants."

We are a small but mighty group and we are profoundly grateful for your support.



Please detach and mail with your donation to:

**FHF, 825 Lyndhurst Court, Naperville, IL 60563**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (needed for emailing your receipt): \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: (Check made out to FHF) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Questions- or to make a payment via phone-

Call Vicky at 630-355-1043

# ~ Hellos & Goodbyes ~

Over the past 17 years we've said a lot of hellos and goodbyes at Families Helping Families. No two clients are ever identical but they do share one commonality. They are determined that their children will have opportunities they never had.

**Hello to Caitlin** – Caitlin is the mother of a four-year-old daughter and a full time nursing student. She loves her nursing classes and is very motivated to successfully complete the program in 2013. She is struggling to work enough part time hours to pay her basic living expenses (car insurance, gas, phone, and child care). Occasionally she receives a few hundred dollars in child support but she can't count on it to pay her modest bills. Caitlin's FHF mentors find her to be motivated, smart, and proactive and they look forward to watching her walk across the stage when she receives her nursing pin.

**Hello to Tara** - Student loans are a major problem for Tara. She had no help or funds from her parents as she made college decisions and found herself at an expensive, unaccredited school. She now owes \$30,000 to a school whose credits won't transfer anywhere. But Tara has dreams and she's motivated. She also appreciates her "wise women" mentors, as she calls them. She's never had people in her life to help her make good decisions as she plans for the future of her two year old son.

**Goodbye to Lynne** - When we first met, Lynne was suffering from depression and low self esteem, common among women who have been in an abusive marriage. FHF mentors saw Lynne through her divorce and helped to rebuild her self-confidence. She seems like a different person today as she prepares to graduate with her degree in Health Information Technology. She feels great about her academic success and feels confident that the financial literacy she's gained will carry her securely in to the future. Lynne and her eight-year-old son hope to move back to the east coast to be closer to her family as she starts her new life.

**Goodbye to Shana** – Having bounced from one low paying job to another, Shana was rudderless. Her debt situation was exacerbated by her mother's gambling addiction and the subsequent cash advances her mother took out against Shana's credit cards. Though it took some time and lots of encouragement by the mentors, Shana completed her training as a pharmacy tech and is working full time. She and her darling young son have their own apartment though they remain close to their mentors.

*"My parents were poor role models. I had to raise myself. I made mistakes."*

~FHF Client

*"This program is a gift. I am learning to make good decisions by talking through all the options with my mentors."*

~FHF Client

*"I want my son to be proud of me."*

~FHF Client



*"These families are doing some of the hardest work possible. They are escaping broken pasts and dead-end futures."*

~FHF Mentor

FHF is a partner of Bridge Communities, Inc  
501(C)(3) 36-3705951

Visit us at  
[www.famhelpingfam.org](http://www.famhelpingfam.org)

## Did you know...?

Did you know that Families Helping Families is a Program Partner with Bridge Communities? Bridge Communities is the largest and most effective provider of long-term transitional housing solutions to help families in DuPage County cross the bridge from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

As a part of its partnership with Families Helping Families, Bridge Communities provides safe, stable housing along with the support of social workers, private tutors and counseling for parents and kids, and employment professionals to help with interview skills and job search. Families Helping Families volunteers serve as mentors, meeting weekly to help with budgeting, debt repayment strategies, educational goal setting and support. Most importantly, FHF mentors offer guidance and encouragement along the journey.

Since our beginning 17 years ago, FHF has partnered with Bridge Communities, and we continue to appreciate this professionally developed, strategic program that has proven successful over its 23 year history.

Next month, you'll receive more information in the mail about our Program Partner relationship. Can't wait to learn more? Call me at (630) 355-1043 or Amy at Bridge Communities at (630) 545-0610 ext. 12 or visit [www.bridgecommunities.org](http://www.bridgecommunities.org) for more information.

## Looking for a unique gift?

**Make a donation in honor of that Special Person!**  
Holiday Giving ~ Birthdays ~ Anniversaries  
Memorials ~ Teacher Gifts ~ Coaches ~ Scout Leaders

Please call Yuneh at 630-527-1368 or email her at [buttercup96@wowway.com](mailto:buttercup96@wowway.com).

Printing and Mailing provided by  
**Hawthorne Credit Union**  
[ehawthorne.org](http://ehawthorne.org)

## How can you help?

**Monetary Donations:** To pay housing and utility costs. Please make checks payable to Families Helping Families.

### *We have no paid staff or overhead...*

(we are all volunteers and even this mailing was donated)

- **\$30 Provides housing for a family for 1 day.**
- **\$210 Provides housing for a family for 1 week.**
- **\$900 Provides housing for a family for 1 month.**

**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. 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.

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

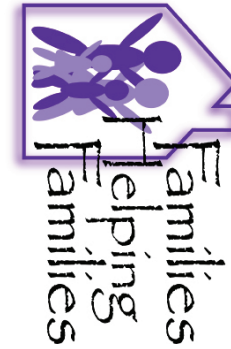
**Gift Cards:** Sometimes our families have budgets that come up short. Gift cards for gas, groceries, Wal-mart, and Target are lifesavers. Any amount is appreciated!

## Want to Volunteer?

If you are interested in helping with any of the above opportunities, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Joan, via email: [tancks5@wowway.com](mailto:tancks5@wowway.com).



[www.famhelpingfam.org](http://www.famhelpingfam.org)



To be removed from our Mailing List  
or to go Paperless, please notify us at  
[famhelpingfam@gmail.com](mailto:famhelpingfam@gmail.com).

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