

# FAMILIES FORWARD

DIGNITY • EMPOWERMENT • HOPE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pictured celebrating Charity Navigator's "4 Stars" rating left to right are :  
Board President, Jack Stemper, First Foundation Advisors,  
Executive Director, Margie Wakeham,  
V.P. Governance, Jim Berman, Internal Medicine  
Treasurer, Mark Engstrom, Deloitte & Touche



## **Families Forward Earns 4-Star Rating from Charity Navigator for 7<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year!**

**IRVINE, CALIF. (December 7, 2016) –**

Families Forward's sound fiscal management practices and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. This is the 7th consecutive year that Families Forward has earned this top distinction, placing the agency among the top 3% of rated charities nationwide.

Since 2002, using objective, data-driven analysis, Charity Navigator has awarded only the most fiscally responsible organizations a 4-star rating. In 2011, Charity Navigator added 17 metrics, focused on

governance and ethical practices as well as measures of openness, to its ratings methodology. These Accountability & Transparency metrics, which account for 50 percent of a charity's overall rating, reveal which charities operate in accordance with industry best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and whether they are open with their donors and stakeholders. In 2016, Charity Navigator upgraded their methodology to further substantiate the financial health of charities receiving the coveted four star rating.

"Families Forward's exceptional 4-star rating sets it apart from its peers and demonstrates its trustworthiness to the public," according to Michael Thatcher, President & CEO of Charity Navigator. "Only a quarter of charities rated by Charity Navigator receive the distinction of our 4-star rating. This adds Families Forward to a preeminent group of charities working to overcome our world's most pressing challenges. Based on its 4-star rating, people can trust that their donations are going to a financially responsible and ethical charity when they decide to support Families Forward."

"It's important our donors trust that we're using our funding wisely to reduce the number of homeless families in Orange County," said Margie Wakeham, Executive Director. "Our 4-star Charity Navigator rating demonstrates to our supporters that we take our fiduciary and governance responsibilities very seriously. With our careful management of resources, dedicated community volunteers and generous in-kind donations, we proudly report \$0.89 of every dollar directly funds programs and services to our client families."

Information about Families Forward's rating is available free of charge on [Families Forward Charity Navigator Profile](#).

### **About Families Forward**

Since 1984, Families Forward has worked with families to help them achieve self-sufficiency through housing, food, counseling, career coaching, education, and other support services. Operating with a guiding principal of support with accountability, last year Families Forward improved the lives of nearly 9,000 children and adults by providing safety-net services through the framework of our values: Dignity, Empowerment, Accountability, Community Spirit and Hope. For more information about Families Forward please contact us at 949-716-5858 or visit [www.families-forward.org](http://www.families-forward.org).

### **About Charity Navigator**

Charity Navigator, [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org), is the largest charity evaluator in America and its website attracts more visitors than all other charity rating groups combined. The organization helps guide intelligent giving by evaluating the Financial Health and Accountability & Transparency of more than 8,000 charities. Charity Navigator accepts no advertising or donations from the organizations it evaluates, ensuring unbiased evaluations, nor does it charge the public for this trusted data. As a result, Charity Navigator, a 501 (c) (3) public charity itself, depends on support from individuals, corporations and foundations that believe it provides a much-needed service to America's charitable givers. Charity Navigator, can be reached directly by telephone at (201) 818-1288, or by mail at 139 Harristown Road, Suite 101, Glen Rock, N.J., 07452.

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