

# FAMILIES FORWARD

DIGNITY • EMPOWERMENT • HOPE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Media Contact:** Kim Strohm  
Director of Marketing and Communications  
[kstrohm@families-forward.org](mailto:kstrohm@families-forward.org)  
949-716-5858



## **Families Forward Earns 4-Star Rating from Charity Navigator for 6<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year!**

**IRVINE, CALIF. (November 18, 2015) –**

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 6th 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 have "best practices" that minimize the chance of unethical activities and whether they freely share basic information about their organization with their donors and other stakeholders.

"Families Forward's coveted 4-star rating puts it in a very select group of high-performing charities," according to Michael Thatcher, President & CEO of Charity Navigator. "Out of the thousands of nonprofits Charity Navigator evaluates, only one out of four earns 4 stars -- a rating that demands rigor, responsibility and commitment to openness. Families Forward's supporters should feel much more confident that their hard-earned dollars are being used efficiently and responsibly when it acquires such a high rating."

"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](#).



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. Program, Jim Berman, Internal Medicine  
Treasurer, Mark Engstrom, Deloitte & Touche

### **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 8,000 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.

####