

# FAMILIES FORWARD

DIGNITY • EMPOWERMENT • HOPE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Media Contact:** Sarah Stokes  
Marketing Specialist  
sstokes@families-forward.org  
(949) 379-8325



## FAMILIES FORWARD EARNS COVETED 4-STAR RATING FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR FOR 9<sup>TH</sup> CONSECUTIVE YEAR

**IRVINE, Calif. (February 8, 2019)**– FAMILIES FORWARD’S strong financial health 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 9<sup>TH</sup> year in a row that Families Forward has earned this top distinction, placing it amongst the top 2% of rated charities nationwide.

Since 2002, using objective 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 and whether they are open with their donors and stakeholders. On June 1, 2016, we upgraded our methodology for rating each charity’s financial health with CN 2.1. These enhancements further substantiates the financial health of our four star charities.

“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 their donations wisely to accomplish Families Forward’s mission,” said Margie Wakeham, Executive Director. “Our 4-star Charity Navigator rating demonstrates to our supporters our good governance and financial accountability.”

Families Forward’s rating and other information about charitable giving are available free of charge on [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org). More-detailed information about Families Forward’s rating is available to Charity Navigator site visitors who become registered users, another free service.

### **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 11,000 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 949-552-2727 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.

####