Your gift.
A place to live.
Their chance to succeed.
2017-2018 Donor Impact

Your Support Helped More Than 11,700 People in Need

1,700 children started the school year with supplies to be successful

6,530 people received basic food support

233 homeless families found a place to live

349 parents stopped worrying about where to sleep tonight

507 children felt safe in their own beds

2,200 children were surprised with holiday gifts

2,000 volunteers donated 21,000 hours to give more people more services
Linda Flees Abuse to Build a New Life

“Families Forward changed my life. At the beginning of this year I felt trapped, hopeless, worthless and deeply depressed. I found myself in an increasingly abusive relationship and felt like I had no escape. I knew I had to figure out a way to get my son and I out of this toxic environment, no matter how hard it was going to be. Living in a shelter was not the home I wanted for my son, so I took a chance and called Families Forward.”

After that leap of faith, Linda and her son were housed right away. Linda worked closely with her Case Manager to develop a plan for her future. A Housing Resource Specialist worked with Linda to improve her credit and develop a manageable budget. She also met with one of our counselors, receiving understanding and emotional support while her confidence grew.

“Families Forward has set me up for success by giving me the tools to take control of my life, opening the door for a healthy, positive and much brighter future for me and my son. The support of Families Forward gave me confidence not only in my personal life but in my professional life as well. I feel so honored to be part of such an amazing and life changing organization.”

“Families Forward changed my life. They not only changed my life, they gave back my life to me. They helped me create a better and brighter future for me and my son.”

— Linda
Dear Friends of Families Forward,

Linda’s is just one of the thousands of lives changed for the better because of your ongoing support. Each person that walks through our doors has a story to tell and a future that’s brighter because of you.

**Together, we can end homelessness one family at a time.**

Families Forward has been at the forefront of ending homelessness in Orange County since 1984. The strength of our donors enabled us to increase our affordable housing units by 43% over the past year, and we were able to serve 15% more families through our Housing Program overall. We have new endeavors in Huntington Beach and have increased the number of families receiving rental assistance, ensuring stable housing for more families. In addition, Families Forward is the financial backbone agency for the Family Solutions Collaborative, a coalition of homeless service providers from across the county. Our collective goal is to reach a functional zero for family homelessness in Orange County by 2020.

We have always believed that homelessness can only be ended through the creation of more housing opportunities. For this reason, Families Forward has sold three of our units with the plan of acquiring a multi-unit complex within the next 12 months. These units will provide much needed affordable housing to families like Linda’s right here in Orange County.

Linda’s story is one of hope, determination, and perseverance. We believe her story of success can be the story of so many other families in Orange County. With your continued support, and bold, strategic initiatives, we can solve this crisis together and create a community where no parent must worry where their children will sleep each night.

**Because of your generosity, ending family homelessness is within our reach.**

With gratitude,


![Gary Cohn, Chairman of the Board of Directors](image)

“**Our clients always thank us, but sometimes a child who’s genuinely wide-eyed with delight at receiving some basic food items says it more touchingly than any other appreciation we receive. This is why I come back each week to volunteer.**”

— Mary Jane, Food Pantry Volunteer
Thank you to our Board of Directors for their dedication, guidance, and commitment to helping local Orange County families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

“I have donated and volunteered at Families Forward for many years. I see and hear about so many families who just need a hand up, not out, to get on their feet and have some security and dignity, especially for their children. This could happen to anyone.”

— Carol, Donor and Volunteer
Families Forward is grateful for every gift of financial support. Due to space limitations, the list above includes Circle of Impact donors who made gifts of $5,000 or more between October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018.
Families Forward understands the importance of having a diverse funding base. The strength of our budget comes from a balanced approach of government, corporate, foundation, and individual contributions to implement our programs and services.

Families Forward is in the process of expanding our housing base to support more homeless families. The majority of the $1M revenue in excess of expense at year end resulted from the gain on sale of existing homes that is designated to purchase additional units in 2019.

For the ninth year in a row, Families Forward earned Charity Navigator’s top 4 star rating, placing our agency among the top 2% of rated charities nationwide.
Families Forward exists to help families in need achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through housing, food, counseling, education, and other support services.

Families Forward

Dignity
Empowerment
Accountability
Community Spirit
Hope