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Dear friend of families in need,

Rescues ... restorations ... housing ... food ... abundant hope.

You are making all five possible for the less fortunate, for hurting families in our communities. That's why I am so very grateful for you!

This month I have much to share. As you read, I hope you will be encouraged, knowing that your partnership is truly making a difference in the lives of thousands.

➔ You already know this fact: COVID-19 has affected the entire world. That includes people living in the state of Georgia where a young woman had lost her job. Lindy¹ was desperate for work, fearful of eviction. She saw an online ad. ***"We have good jobs available and will provide you with a place to live."*** It sounded too good to be true. It was.

On arrival to our locale, she learned that her new boss was to be her housemate, offering her a room. But he drugged and assaulted her, leading to serious injury, requiring hospitalization. On release, there was no way she was going back to his place. The police found her living behind a local grocery store and brought her to FAM. Your partnership made it possible to house Lindy safely for one night while we worked on a plan to reconnect her with family members. Through FAM's ***Homeward Bound Program***, you provided her with bus fare back to her family. ***She's safe now.*** Thank you!



We are so grateful for FAM's many volunteers and partner organizations. Here some are preparing for a pop-up food distribution in Capo Beach. Because of volunteers, all the stores, and agencies, routing food through FAM, we distributed over 3.5 million pounds of food last year for our hungry neighbors. What a great team! Thank you all.

➔ Mary is a hairdresser, a licensed cosmetologist who rents a chair and space at a local salon. COVID-19 and orders from Sacramento shut the business down. She was completely out of work but still having to pay for the salon lease and her housing rent.

Some hairdressers and barbers have responded by taking care of clients in their homes, risking getting into trouble with the authorities. It's a tightly regulated profession, and she could not afford to lose her license, possibly permanently but she was in dire need of financial help to avoid homelessness. Again, your partnership came into play. Eva, the

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assigned FAM case manager, linked her with the FAM **Food Pantry** enabling her to put the funds she would have spent on food towards rent and provided her with housing rental assistance. Through an agency grant, we were able to give Mary \$500 towards her rent and other expenses.

When Mary came to FAM, it was only for food. She had no idea that other help was available. She was **pleasantly shocked** and very, very grateful. Through the **Food Pantry**, she left with plenty of nutritious food. She is still behind but not in immediate danger of being told to leave.

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She is back at work on a limited, controlled basis, to get her through this difficult time. We're all praying that a vaccine will be forthcoming soon, and she and millions of others will fully get back to work. **You got her through the tough times. Again, thank you!**

→ Daniel came into FAM with his 15-year-old son seeking help for the family. Daniel worked as a custodian, his wife Marta, in hotel hospitality. You know where this is going. She was laid off, and Daniel's hours were reduced. Also, their two full-time-student sons moved back home, hungry young men, increasing their expenses.

Arriving at FAM, they were in trouble, falling behind with rent, utilities, and had no family or friends they could comfortably turn to. How surprised they were as Rudy, their case manager, assessed their situation, analyzed their expenses, and determined they were qualified to receive some assistance, made possible by a temporary grant for deserving people.

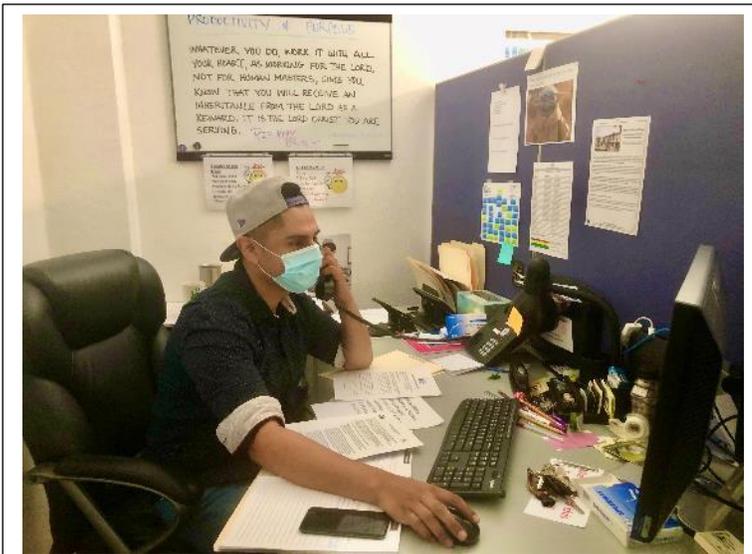
Rudy supplemented those funds with funds you have donated, getting them through their difficult period. And they are

now on FAM's food assistance program through the FAM **Food Pantry**, further freeing up funds they can use for rent and utilities.

I must tell you that when Daniel and Marta arrived at FAM, they were scared and anxious. They left with a huge sense of relief and abundant hope. Rudy described their response as "*... extreme gratitude. They had no idea there was such help available to people like them.*" **Once more, thank you!**

As you know, I often like to let you hear directly from the people you are helping. This month, I asked the case managers to tell you their feelings:

Case Manager, Eva: "*It's so rewarding to see the impact we can have on families when they come to FAM in their time of need. I'm very fortunate because if I had chosen a different career, I may well have been in their shoes, facing the streets. This is such a warm, giving community. I'm so very thankful to all the friends of FAM who make our work possible.*"



This is the FAM strategy, to carefully evaluate every person who comes for help, to devise a strategy and connect them with resources, setting up accountability and extending regular encouragement. The result is success, and effective use of your gifts.

Case Manager, Rudy: *“I feel like Eva. I could easily have been on the other side, without work and in need. I am fortunate indeed. Usually, we can find a plan and resources to help needy folks pretty quickly. They are typically surprised, sometimes shocked by what’s available and that we are here to stand with them. They feel their burdens lifting away. It’s very satisfying to be a part of it.”*

I join heartily in what these two skilled case workers have said. They and all of FAM’s dedicated staff and wonderful volunteers work so hard. As the COVID-19 lockdowns continue, their loads have increased greatly. People need more help and encouragement than ever. We pray the lockdowns and this pandemic end soon for the sake of people everywhere.

Now, allow me to give you some additional news, which I find so encouraging. Food! In addition to the FAM trucks doing their multiple daily runs to pick up and distribute donated food, we are receiving two huge semi-truck deliveries of fresh, quality food every week! This is coming through a great partner, Second Harvest Food Bank. We are very grateful to be able to provide large quantities of fresh fruits and vegetables to our clients. However, due to the demand, we continue to run out of our shelf stable food. Your giving will help us fill this gap.

And several groups that feed the hungry are asking FAM to be their distributor, to help route this food in the most effective ways possible to smaller ministries, to churches and others. Everyone wants to help. This is a real honor, and again, a credit to the marvelous staff and volunteers of FAM. It’s why the reputation of FAM is known for being effective, in no small part because of you and your confidence.

It’s this effectiveness that has once again earned a 5-star rating from Charity Navigator®, their top evaluation for non-profits, assuring donors that their gifts are maximized in the most effective ways. It’s humbling to have received their confidence.

I’m also proud and grateful to announce that FAM was recently the recipient of a substantial grant from Cooper Housing Institute (CHI). FAM is the first recipient of CHI’s COVID-19 relief efforts. In delivering their generous grant, they wrote: ***“Family Assistance Ministries has a well-earned reputation as one of Orange County’s best run and most effective non-profits, and we couldn’t be happier to provide this grant to assist them with their honorable mission.”***

For such confidence, for entrusting your gifts to this ministry, we are all grateful. That grant will become one of several resources from which case managers will, supported by your giving, offer real help to the tens of thousands who come to FAM every year.

As case manager, Rudy, says, “This is a team effort.” And as I started my letter, working as a team results in **rescues ... restorations ... housing ... food ... abundant hope**. Would you feel led to once again bring that hope to many more?

In addition to grants, this extensive ministry requires “the many”: volunteers, churches, government agencies, and friends like you. This is the team.



May I therefore invite your gift of \$50, \$100, or \$250? If you are a new friend of FAM and have recently learned of this local ministry, or perhaps you own a business right here in our community, can you give back with a larger gift of \$500 or \$1,000, or more? Of course, give according to your ability.

One more thing. During COVID-19, we're hoping to find a way to again conduct the FAM **Annual Hunger Walk**. We're exploring ways to stay compliant with health guidelines and still give a great experience to everyone who participates. This local 33-year tradition will go on one way or another on October 25, 2020. We'll keep you posted on the details.

Staff will put whatever you send to the most effective use possible, not creating dependency, not giving "handouts," but offering people a "hand up," to again become self-sufficient. Thank you so very much for whatever you can do.

In gratitude for your partnership,

Elizabeth Andrade

Elizabeth Andrade
Chief Executive Officer



P.S. Being recognized by the highly respected group, Charity Navigator, receiving 5-stars, their highest rating, is a credit to the integrity and skill of FAM's wonderful staff. It is a great team! We're all praying that this COVID-19 crisis soon comes to an end, that people will be able to get back to work. Your gracious partnership will help get them through these difficult times. Should you have any questions, feel free to call me at any time. And if you can, kindly mail or post your gift by August 31st. You can give safely and easily at www.family-assistance.org. And why not become a regular partner of FAM? You can sign up online, knowing that your regular gift will bring hope and help to hurting people every month. God bless you for caring.