

Click here to
DONATE NOW

Dear friend of families in need,

What you have done is indeed wonderful. You have sent hope and restoration to many, many hurting families. It's why we are so grateful for you.

And wasn't last year a record year for distress? We all pray that 2021 will be much better, that COVID-19 will at last be controlled. People have suffered enough. Nearly every person who has come to FAM this past year has been affected.

Today, as I look back on the previous 12 months, as I think of those whose lives you have touched, four families come to mind. **Do you remember...**

Belinda ... She had suffered great abuse from her husband and fled with her three-year-old daughter. In her words: *"I injured my leg at work and had to go on disability, which put me behind in my rent. My landlord gave me an eviction notice. I knew I could go to FAM for help with this because they had been helping me for the past few months with food and case management. I was going to be able to go back to work soon and just needed assistance for one month"*.

"When I walked into FAM and found out that they had the money to help me, I broke down in tears. I felt like 15,000 elephants had been taken off of my shoulders! I just couldn't believe it. FAM came alongside me, even when I was so scared. I want everyone at FAM to know that they are angels sent from God. When you have no one else to turn to and think you have exhausted all of your options, their hands reach out. They have saved my life! I also want the donors of FAM to know that if I could see you in person, I would cry and hug you and tell you that you too are angels!"

Mark ... From his case manager: *"This man was overwhelmed, deeply concerned over the virus and equally concerned over his family's financial future. Because FAM is about hunger and homeless prevention, as his case manager I explained that we wanted to help. We worked out a plan.*

"During our interview, I learned that his senior mother was remaining at home as much as possible to stay safe but needed expensive adult diapers and food, including bread and fresh vegetables. I let Mark know that FAM could help with her specific needs through the FAM Food Pantry. That was a surprise to him.



What a year it has been. We are so very grateful for hundreds of FAM volunteers, local grocery stores, and financial partners (you!) who have made this ministry possible. Since COVID-19 began 3.4 million pounds of food were donated and distributed, providing 2.8 million meals. A big thank you to all! Looking to the future...

"We coordinated with a local church and worked out details for regular delivery. When I told him we would help with food and his mother's hygiene needs, he was literally in tears and so thankful that there was a local ministry like FAM. He was so relieved."

Laura ... Also from her case manager: *“She was so sweet. I asked her many questions and discovered she was homeless. She had family in Texas and Louisiana, but with the virus, they could not help, nor could Laura travel. So, we went to work.*

“I was able to find support from a special one-time COVID-19 fund to put Laura up in a safe motel for 30 days, long enough for her HUD paperwork to come through, which it did. We coordinated with a local church who partnered to pay for the majority of her move-in deposit. *The landlord agreed to give Laura two weeks rent-free. While she was housed in the motel, Laura received food and toiletries from the FAM Food Pantry, and we gave her gas vouchers to search for a place to live. She was an absolute pleasure to help and so very thankful.*”

Laura: ***“I can’t say enough about FAM and Liz. She helped me solve my problems and she helped me off the streets. Liz and all the people who are at FAM are so very caring. They blessed me with food and are staying in contact with me...I’m just so very thankful.”***



For every \$30 donated to FAM, a family of four can be fed for 30 days. A monthly gift of \$100 through the year will accumulate to giving hope and aid to 156 people.

And Shirley ... This mom was victimized by a corrupt landlord and forced out: *“It was really hard on my kids. It broke my heart. That apartment was all they had known. It was home. Now they could not go back. There were many tears. One of my sons is autistic. It was really hard on him, and he still doesn’t understand. Worse, we were faced with living in our passenger van. I had just given up. Then a church referred us to FAM.*



“They were so helpful and friendly. Rather than being rejected, FAM welcomed us. And they moved us into FAMily House, their Emergency Shelter program. I could not believe it. When we heard the word ‘shelter,’ I was picturing people living on the floor. My kids were scared by the word too. Instead, it’s a three-bedroom apartment, living area, kitchen, play area for the children, gated and secure. It’s wonderful! And they are working with us to get back on our feet, to get jobs, allowing us to stay for several months. “Without FAM I don’t know where we would be...It’s peaceful here, and safe ... a home!”

This is what you have done, four families whose lives you have helped restore. I could give you many more examples! During 2020 your partnership reached out in love to people in need. And every person, every family was grateful for the aid they received. **From the bottom of all our hearts, thank you!**

So as 2021 begins—a year we all pray will be much better than 2020—I would like to extend a special invitation. You may have given occasionally in response to a letter, online, or you give once per year. Seeing the needs your partnership has so effectively met, would you take the next step and consider a gift of love every month during 2021? A thank you to those who already partner with us monthly.

Perhaps you can give \$25 monthly, \$50, \$100 or more. Just a regular gift of \$25 will do so much, accumulating through the year to become \$300, helping 40 hurting people or families, providing medical aid, groceries, counseling and guidance, and when needed, assistance with rent until they can make it on their own.

Monthly giving is simple to set up. Many who have become monthly partners will tell you that they receive more blessings than they give. **Moreover, you’ll always be in charge. You can stop at any time. You can give through automatic deductions from your bank checking account (contact your bank), by writing a check, or setting up through a credit card and earning points. Please call the number below to learn how, or better, visit www.family-assistance.org and select “Donate,” then “Monthly Giving.”**

I understand that monthly giving is not for everyone. If that's you, you can still transform lives through your single gift today of \$50, \$75, \$100 or more. According to your ability, can you consider a larger, generous gift of \$500, \$1,000 or \$2,500. Do what you can this month, and perhaps every month—as you feel led. Thank you again for your faithful partnership. We all wish you a great and happy and much better 2021!

In gratitude for your partnership,



Elizabeth Andrade
Chief Executive Officer



P.S. Monthly giving is easy—a satisfying way to touch lives and give hope throughout the year. You can help through a credit card, by mailing a monthly check, or by setting up an automatic deduction from your checking account (EFT). All your gifts are tax-deductible. You can lower the amount you give, increase, or stop at any time. You are always in control. If you like, start with a smaller amount until you are comfortable. For assistance, please give us a call at (949) 492-8477 x123 or visit the FAM website at: www.family-assistance.org and choose “Donate,” then “Monthly Giving.” A monthly gift of any size will make a difference. So please send, call, or post your gift online, and if at all possible, by January 31, 2021. Thank you so much.