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May 2019

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Dear friend of families in need,

I wish you could be here to see their smiles...

...to hear their words of gratitude, to feel their tears of relief as hurting people and families discover hope and help at the FAM Resource Center...

...hope and help YOU are providing.

Let me tell you about some of the people whose lives you have touched:

◆ We all know about the growing homeless crisis that has gripped so many cities. FAM is doing our part locally to do everything possible to help provide effective solutions. One of those we helped is Tom¹. Six years ago he lost his job and ended up homeless—**six years, living on the streets of San Clemente!**

When Tom came to FAM, he met with one of our case managers, Colleen, and she asked him where he was from and if we could help him get back home.

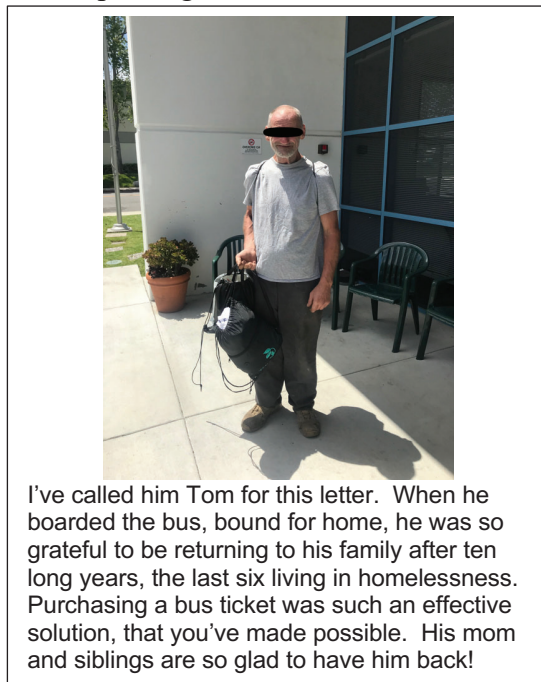
Tom was surprised to find out that we would connect him with family and provide transportation. Tom was dealing with some challenges and had not talked to his mom in those 6 years on our streets – and hadn't seen her in 10 years! Tom left his mom a voice message, *"Mom, I think I can come home. Would that be ok?"*

Mom called us back the next day with an enthusiastic, *"Yes!"*

FAM used funds you provided and purchased a Greyhound Bus[®] ticket back to Minnesota, to a warm bed, reconnection with family, meals, and a roof over his head.

A few days later, Colleen heard back from Tom's mom, who is in her 80's, that he had arrived safely: ***"The whole family is grateful and thrilled to have our son and brother back home!"***

What a special Mother's Day for Tom's mom this year!



I've called him Tom for this letter. When he boarded the bus, bound for home, he was so grateful to be returning to his family after ten long years, the last six living in homelessness. Purchasing a bus ticket was such an effective solution, that you've made possible. His mom and siblings are so glad to have him back!

What a wonderful, simple solution to a six-year problem. This is the FAM strategy, compassionate intervention...personal involvement...finding solutions that work. Not every homeless person can get back to a support system, but in Tom's case it was the best solution—made possible by your partnership. Thank you!

◆ Let me tell you about Gillian*, a now single mother of two young children. Her youngest, Trevor, was born on the last day of 2018, one month premature, with underdeveloped lungs and reflux disease. This little guy could not eat without some of his food coming back up. Fortunately, the reflux will cure itself with time, but caring for his lungs was serious business.

Trevor needed regular lung treatments using a nebulizer and masks to inhale the needed medication. Being on a fixed income, Gillian didn't have enough funds to purchase the nebulizer and masks, which must be changed regularly to prevent infection.

We were able to provide the funds needed to make up the difference to help this little guy and his young mother. And I want to tell you that Gillian was relieved and grateful!

◆ Next is Shirley*, a senior also living on a fixed income. She mostly makes ends meet, but she needed more help. Due to limited funds, she wasn't receiving enough nutritious food (seniors and children are the most vulnerable to malnutrition). So, a friend urged Shirley to come to FAM. This dear woman had been self-sufficient her whole life and was reluctant and a little embarrassed to ask for help.



Again, FAM stepped in with case management. Because of your caring gifts, FAM was able to place this senior on a bi-weekly food program with the FAM Food Pantry and we arranged for a little assistance to help with her water bill which also alleviated some of her stress.

We're looking forward to seeing Shirley at the Food Pantry, as she checks in with her case manager to make sure she has the nutritious food she needs.

And we're rather encouraged. Shirley isn't embarrassed anymore, but grateful for this family of caring partners, staff and volunteers who pick up food from local stores and then

provide it to hungry people like Shirley as a part of their overall plan towards self-sufficiency.

◆ Lastly, I want to tell you about Phil*. He came to FAM in need of rental assistance, and without intervention, his family was facing eviction. You see, Phil's young son had suffered a head injury and was hospitalized for two weeks. This is very serious and weighed heavily on their family. Not being able to work for those two weeks resulted in his income being cut in half during March and this family fell behind on rent, not to mention the burden of mounting medical costs. Again, a FAM case manager stepped in. Phil provided proof of his job history to the case manager and showed how their income took a major hit. The case manager was able to verify this family's situation.

I'm happy to tell you that Phil is back at work and FAM has arranged a collaboration to include local partners to provide temporary rental assistance until they are back on their feet. This is that "Hub of Hope" we often talk about, partnering with you, local houses of worship and other agencies to find the right combination of assistance—to not create dependency, but provide real help until families can recover on their own.

With my letter, I've given you just a glimpse of how your faithful partnership is reaching out and changing so many lives. And often, that help is received with smiles, and sometimes some pretty heartfelt tears of relief, even joy. Many times, FAM clients tell us they had no idea that so many people cared and were ready to help. They are grateful.

We are grateful too! As you know, with every letter I ask your help, but I also strive to report back the results of your gifts. I will continue to do so, with many thanks. So, as you are able, and as you feel compelled to give back to those who are less fortunate, can you consider a gift this month of \$50, \$75 or \$100?

Do you own a local business, or are blessed financially? If so, I will be bold and invite you to consider a larger gift, perhaps of \$500, \$1,000, or more. Regardless of what you can send, every gift will help touch lives. Please do what you can.

And may I also invite you to become a monthly partner?

A gift of as little as \$25 each month will add up, providing real and lasting help to several individuals or families during the next year. As a regular partner, you'll have the blessing of knowing you are giving hope every month. If you would like to join in this way, please call FAM at the number below. You can partner using a credit card or your checking account.

I want you to know that it's our privilege and responsibility to serve as your arms of love, to help as many as possible, to give hurting people the hope and assistance that truly changes lives. God bless you for being part of the FAM family.

Serving the needy among us *together*,

Mary Gray Perdue

Mary Gray Perdue
Family Assistance Ministries

P.S.: Monthly giving is safe, secure and easily managed. You can give through a credit card, or by setting up an automatic deduction from your checking account. Remember that all your gifts are tax-deductible. You can lower the amount you give, increase, or stop at any time. To set up, please give us a call at (949) 492-8477, extension 118. If you can, please send, call, or post your gift online at family-assistance.org by June 15, 2019. Just click on "Give Now". Thank you so much.

* I don't use client's real names to protect their privacy.