

FAITH COMMUNITY HOMES

inspiring hope changing lives

September 2019

Upcoming Events

Giving Hope 2019

This year's *Giving Hope* annual fundraiser is right around the corner! While there is still time to purchase your tickets, you need to act fast! For information about the event and how to order tickets, see p. 3.

Churches Pitch in for School Supplies

Members of two Arlington Heights churches, St. John UCC and First United Methodist of Arlington Heights, combined to collect over \$2,000 in back-to-school gift cards to be given to the families of Faith Community Homes.

In past years, the two churches generously donated specific items on lists from the children's schools. This year, the 39 kids and their parents get the opportunity to shop for supplies and clothing that they need and want – folders with their favorite colors, backpacks that fit their personalities, those perfect blue jeans.

Special thanks once again to these congregations for their continued support of our FCH families!

Jane's Very Special Birthday Party



Jane, who lives with her parents in Arlington Heights, recently hosted her 11th birthday party and asked her friends not to bring any birthday gifts for her.



Instead, she requested that party attendees bring donations to the Faith Community Homes food pantry! Jane's friends, with their parents' help, showed up with snacks, facial tissues, hand soap - all things that busy working parents in the FCH program really need for their own children. Some of the donations (Goldfish® Baked Crackers, individually wrapped snack bags, single portion applesauce) are priced at a premium and a convenience luxury that FCH families often cannot afford.

All of us at FCH are thrilled and encouraged by the generous, giving spirit of young Jane and her friends.

Mission Statement

Strengthening northwest suburban families to achieve financial stability and independence through mentoring, rental assistance and support services.

Staff

Executive Director
Chuck Warner

Program Manager
Sarah Harte

Case Manager
Pam Van De Walle

Board of Directors

Chair
Jim Mayer

Vice-Chair
Greg Ford

Corresponding Secretary
Chris Farnsworth

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Jane Drezen
Steven Gaus

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Claudia Starck

Lou Walton

Tim Wayman

Faith Community Homes
302 N. Dunton Avenue
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004

(847) 342-0846

www.fchomes.org

E-mail: info@fchomes.org

Special thanks to Elk Grove Township, Palatine Township, Wheeling Township, and the Village of Arlington Heights for providing significant financial and other assistance to our client families.

Families in Need of Donated Cars

Several families in our program are in great need of reliable automobiles. As an example, one single mom has a car with over 200,000 miles that has numerous mechanical issues that would be too costly to fix. She has no money for a good used car, let alone a new one.

FCH has recently formed a partnership with Stephens Automotive in Palatine for car repairs for its families as well as for receiving and inspecting donated autos. Joe Stephens, the owner, is working closely with FCH to provide the most cost-effective help for program families and their cars.

If you have a car that you are considering donating, call FCH or contact Joe Stephens at 847-705-8770 and mention that you wish to donate an automobile for an FCH family. Joe will evaluate the car and make repairs as necessary.

Do You Have A Car You No Longer Need? Consider Donating It To A Low-Income, Working Family.



FCH Seeks New Board Members

Are you looking for an opportunity to get involved with a local organization that makes positive changes in the lives of low-income families? Here's your chance! FCH has multiple openings on its board of directors.

FCH is seeking individuals who can bring expertise and experience in outreach, networking within the community, management, and finance. It is an opportunity to help guide the organization's direction as it grows. Commitments include attending five board meetings per year, participation in one of three standing committees (Outreach, Fund Development, Communications/Marketing), and assistance with other projects as they arise.

If you believe in helping hard-working, struggling families within your own community, FCH may be the right opportunity for you. Find further information on the FCH website, www.fchomes.org. Interested? Call or email Chuck Warner, Executive Director, at 847-342-0846 or Charles.warner@fchomes.org.

FAITH COMMUNITY HOMES
PRESENTS

giving hope

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH • 3-6 PM

ROLLING GREEN COUNTRY CLUB

2525 E. RAND ROAD, ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL

join us for an afternoon featuring

HEARTY APPETIZERS • CASH BAR • SILENT AUCTION
RAFFLES • WINE PULL • ENTERTAINMENT AND MORE!

\$60 PER TICKET

RESERVE A TABLE: 8 TICKETS FOR \$450

TO PURCHASE VISIT: FCHOMES.ORG
OR CALL FCH OFFICE: 847-342-0846

Arlington Heights Ford Supports Faith Community Homes

On June 14, Arlington Heights Ford hosted a Ford Drive 4UR Community event to benefit FCH. This is an event promoted by the Ford Motor Company nationwide in order to give local dealerships a way to give back to the community. A total of 187 people turned out to test drive Ford vehicles, earning FCH a \$20 donation for each test drive. In all, FCH received \$3,740 from Ford to be used to help the families in its program!

We at FCH are grateful for the support from Arlington Heights Ford, its employees, and all those who came out for a test drive. Thank you!

**FORD
DRIVE
4UR COMMUNITY**

Ford

**TEST-DRIVE
A FORD AND
EARN \$20 FOR
YOUR CAUSE.***

The graphic features a dark blue background with a repeating pattern of small icons representing various community and environmental themes. On the right, there is a large, stylized graphic composed of overlapping shapes in green, blue, and white. This graphic includes a traffic light, a house, a tree, and a building, symbolizing community and environmental impact.

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Executive Director's Message



*Charles Warner
Executive Director*

As I learn about families coming to Faith Community Homes for help, I am often stunned and saddened by the immensity and depth of problems families face. And the numbers of families in crisis is large. The problems and challenges come about for many different reasons: bad decisions, poor relationships, low education levels, and having children before parents can comfortably support them are often cited. But for many families, the problems are generational; their families of origin often faced the same challenges and problems. Additionally, we have come to realize that low-income families sometimes live with a very different understanding and view of the world than those who have not experienced poverty. What one might see as a problem needing to be fixed, another may just shrug and say, "So what, that's just the way we have always lived."

The rising cost of living, especially increased rents, compounds these challenges. In my own lifetime, years back, minimum wage was enough to live on. Working full time, minimum wage was enough to cover my rent and all other living expenses including college tuition at UIC. That is certainly not true today.

At FCH, we work with as many families as possible to not only provide the support they need, but also try to change their outlook on life. We help them experience a different way of looking at and solving problems. With successes, we see families move forward and begin to achieve what they could only dream of two years earlier. Inspiring hope, changing lives.