Dear Friends,

I just want to say that we live in an amazing community that cares. This year we have all been significantly impacted by the pandemic. Our families and children are truly struggling to meet even their most basic needs. They wrestle with job loss, access to daycare, and illness. Finding the resources for rent, food, and basic supplies is an everyday fight and the need for our services has never been more important or in demand. While our offices have been closed to the public the HFF staff have creatively managed to deliver our essential services to the community by adjusting and remaining flexible.

Thank you to our generous funding partners, volunteers and Board of Directors. Your dedication and generous support of our mission fuels the daily work of our amazing team and truly helps to transform lives during these challenging times. Together, we will get through this. One day at a time. One family at a time.

With gratitude,
Beth Fetzer-Rice,
Executive Director

EVERY YEAR APPROXIMATELY 1,200 FAMILIES AND 3,000 CHILDREN ARE HOMELESS IN COLUMBUS. EVERY DAY THAT WE FAIL TO END HOMELESSNESS IS ANOTHER DAY REAL FAMILIES AND CHILDREN ARE LIVING WITHOUT A HOME. WE MUST ACT EVERY DAY WITH PURPOSE TO BREAK THIS CYCLE.

HFF was founded in 1986 by community volunteers who believed it was unacceptable for any child to be homeless and that belief continues to fuel HFF’s mission and programming. We believe all children in our community should have a home—and the key to ending homelessness is a stable family. We must work together with a sense of urgency to break the generational cycle of homelessness by fostering independence for families who are currently living in poverty and crisis.

The great equalizer in society is a good education. The great resilience builder in life is hope. At HFF we create a hopeful, nurturing environment for families and children where they are engaged in year-round education, housing assistance and supportive services. HFF has a variety of programs that empower struggling families and expectant mothers to achieve stable housing and self-sufficiency. The HFF’s education program educates and nurtures children, Pre-K through 8th grade, from the Franklinton community and beyond with afterschool and summer programs, and home visits that provide both education and intervention.

STABLE FAMILIES. THRIVING CHILDREN. HEALTHY COMMUNITY.
OUR MISSION

THE HOMELESS FAMILIES FOUNDATION (HFF) EDUCATES AND NURTURES CHILDREN WHILE EMPOWERING FAMILIES TO ACHIEVE STABLE HOUSING AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

Current HFF programming includes:

RAPID RE-HOUSING helps homeless families living in shelter move into stable housing. Families living in shelter are referred to HFF for this program.

HOMELESS PREVENTION FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS (HPEM) provides housing and supportive services to improve the health and well-being of mother and child.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH (ages 18-24) provides housing assistance and programming.

HFF provides housing assistance and supportive services for the SUCCESS BRIDGE PROGRAM FOR COLUMBUS STATE college students.

FAMILY STABILIZATION is a safety net for all within the HFF sphere of influence. It provides financial and material assistance along with supportive services to prevent families from becoming homeless again.

HFF DOWD EDUCATION CENTER afterschool and summer camp programs support STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) focused education, while providing support for Social Emotional Learning, Skill Building, and Education/Career Exploration.

SPARK (SUPPORTING PARTNERSHIPS TO ASSURE READY KIDS) provides in-home educational services to help parents teach their children the skills needed to begin kindergarten. SPARK is offered in both English and Spanish.

YOUTH LED, a program for youth ages 13-18, in partnership with ADAMH, offers leadership training and programs giving students technology and communications skills.
THE CENTRAL OHIO COMMUNITY GIVES BACK IN A BIG WAY AND MEETS THE COVID-19 CHALLENGE

It has truly been a challenging year, but there is so much that the Central Ohio community has done to make a positive impact. Indeed, the generosity of the human spirit motivates the desire in each of us to help and assist those in need. It is in times of peril when this generosity of spirit is especially challenged. But it is during these challenging times, it is especially incumbent upon us to stand up for our neighbors who are more negatively impacted by the pandemic.

HFF deeply appreciates the numerous examples of people investing their time, energy, and other resources to assist HFF families and youth. During these economically depressed conditions, many have been unsure how to help. Here are just a few examples of what our community members have done that are worthy of sharing.

Bailey, Meghan, and Grace Burniston held a Bake Sale and raised over $200 for whatever needs other children who are homeless may need.

UA Gives Back is a Facebook group from Upper Arlington who came together when COVID-19 hit. Every month they assist a different nonprofit. In August they were able to donate 100 backpacks filled with all the supplies a student will need whether working remotely or in person.

When we were in truly short supply of hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes to give to families in need, Columbia Gas came through with 500 of each.

In addition, HFF received over $200,000 from individuals, corporations, and foundations to help the children and families, served by HFF, remain in stable housing and have food on their tables. There’s no question the generosity of spirit is alive and well in Central Ohio.

Lisa Roberts and family donated numerous hand-sewn mask for our families. The LivingCloser Foundation funded the supplies they needed to make and donate the masks. ECS Botanicals has dropped off dozens of flower bouquets weekly this summer. The bouquets brightened many a family’s day during a difficult time.

St. Joan of Arc Church stepped up when their members could not hold their annual Easter food drive and found ways to give smaller amounts of food more often. They even helped to secure $6000 Rice Bowl grant from the Catholic Diocese of Columbus for HFF to purchase food for the pantry.

VOLUNTEERS MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN 2019:

607 VOLUNTEERS

6,991 HOURS OF VOLUNTEERING
The HFF Endowment Fund

Established in December of 2015, The HFF Endowment Fund allows HFF to achieve its greatest goals in the coming decades and have an impact in our community for generations to come.

You can help HFF’s Endowment Fund grow with an unrestricted bequest, planned, honorary or memorial gift. For more information, contact Cathy Stofac, Director of Development, at 614-715-8342 or cstofac@homelessfamiliesfoundation.org.

THE 2019 NUMBERS

As the coronavirus pandemic took thousands of Central Ohioans out of the workforce beginning in March, it became clear that new and creative financial assistance was necessary to keep families afloat. The Homeless Families Foundation (HFF) worked to identify and start to fill assistance gaps. Beginning immediately, we allocated dollars to support HFF households who are often ineligible for most types of public assistance. Their stories provide a glimpse at the great need created by the pandemic and show that even newly created public benefits still do not meet the needs of many households.

Charles, the father of Brenda and Lamiqua, was laid off due to COVID-19. Although he applied for unemployment, it was delayed, and he fell behind in his rent and utilities. Brenda and Lamiqua attend the HFF Dowd Education Center, and Charles shared his situation with a staff member. HFF was able to help cover his past due rent and utilities to allow them to stay housed. Charles is back to work and able to provide for his family once again.

Latish, and her two children, Skylar and Ah’nest were doing okay until Latish began having complications from her pregnancy and her hours at work were reduced. She welcomed baby Kaiden in June and began an unpaid maternity leave. HFF was able to arrange for rent support through September when Latish started back to work full-time. HFF continues to provide case management to help with referrals, transportation, baby items and diapers, food, and household items to help her out until she is firmly on her feet.

Many households assisted this year by our Family Stability Program experienced COVID-19-related loss of income, loss of childcare, or illness. Many families suffered reductions in hours or lost their jobs doing hourly work in hotels, restaurants, or as self-employed contractors. Some have been called back with a loss of hours, others have found new jobs, while many are still struggling. HFF will continue to work on strategies to support the many families still out of work and struggling due to the economic collapse. We will work together as a community to help all our neighbors maintain their housing.

SUCCESS STORIES

IN 2019, THE HFF ENDOWMENT FUND GREW BY 37% TO $157,886
IN 2019, HFF PROVIDED HOUSING ASSISTANCE TO OVER:

1,000 CHILDREN

&

700 FAMILIES