



Families First Community Center
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www.gofundme.com/urgent-need-kids-without-homes

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THE HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION AWARDS \$5,000 GRANT TO FAMILIES FIRST COMMUNITY CENTER

ELLSWORTH - Families First Community Center has received a \$5,000 Community Impact Grant from the Home Depot Foundation to help finance the Renovation Fund for their Home.

“This generous grant from the Home Depot Foundation will go a long way to ensuring that the Families First Community Center can make the needed renovations to the Home they are preparing to purchase in Ellsworth. This Home will house and educate homeless parents with minor children,” said Dawn Carter Coffin, president of the board of directors. “The number one cause of homelessness in Hancock County is generational poverty, which affects multiple generations. Parents need help with life skills so

they can be self-sufficient. The National Council to End Homelessness highly recommends these homes that teach life skills and offer referrals, education, medical, and safety planning.” The center is currently raising the money for needed renovations.

The needed renovations include repairs to the brick foundation and repointing the back chimney; reconfiguring rooms into apartments for the residents; repairing the porch sill and replacing the sill on one side; repairing the shingles over the front porch; repairing the exterior trim; painting the exterior trim and clapboards and repairing a small amount of interior water damage; adding bathtubs for the children and replacing the appliances and windows with those that are energy-efficient; installing a new sump pump and installing some new plumbing; replacing the bulkhead to the basement and removing the wood-burning stove.

The majority of the renovation costs that are needed, however, are for alterations mandated for the Home: ADA compliance, including ramping and widening doors; sprinkler system, fire suppression system, smoke and carbon-monoxide detectors with lights and sound; a second water line from the road for the sprinkler system; emergency lights and exit signs.

The purchase of the Home will be funded with a loan from Seaboard Federal Credit Union and its partners and Families First Community Center has obtained an operational budget that begins as soon as the first resident walks in the door and a 3-year plan for operational financial stability made with a grant from the Maine Community Foundation, so raising the renovation budget is the only obstacle remaining at this point. The center’s #GoFundMe site administered by the Peace and Social Justice Committee at St. Joseph’s Parish has raised capital through the site itself (www.gofundme.com/urgent-need-kids-without-homes) and also from donations mailed to FFCC, PO Box 951, Ellsworth. Thus far, Families First Community Center now has \$30,000 of the \$130,000 needed for the renovations. The Home Depot Foundation Community Impact Grant helps a great deal.

The nonprofit Families First Community Center was founded in 2015 with a mission to break the cycle of homelessness before it is passed down to the next generation. It equips families with minor children the housing and skills they need to gain self-sufficiency. Residents will be required to work 40 hours per week towards this goal. Families First Community Center can drive residents to any classes and services not held in the Home through the donation of a passenger van from Darling’s Auto Mall. The Home opening is planned for late 2017. For more information, to donate funds or materials, or to volunteer, call 460- 3711.

The Home Depot Foundation offers grants to public service agencies that are using the power of volunteers to improve the physical health of their community. Grants are given for the purchase of tools, materials, or services. The primary goal of the Home Depot Foundation is to provide grants and volunteer opportunities to support the renovation, refurbishment, retrofitting, accessibility modifications, and/or weatherization of existing homes, centers, schools and other similar facilities. To learn more about the Home Depot Foundation, visit: <https://corporate.homedepot.com/grants/community-impact-grants>

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