

Families First Community Center



Providing Housing for Homeless Families

With Minor Children

...Teaching Life Skills Needed for Success...

501(c)(3) Organization: 47-4792801

P.O. Box 951, Ellsworth, ME 04605

(207) 460 – 3711

familiesfirstellsworth@gmail.com

www.familiesfirstellsworth.org

www.facebook.com/Families-First-Community-Center-1007010682682336/

www.ebay.com/usr/ffccellsworth

“The true reflection of society can be seen in the way that it cares for the elderly, the poor and needy, and the homeless.”

~ Hubert Humphrey

How We Began

Our Mission

We seek to break the cycle of homelessness by equipping families with minor children with the skills they need to gain self-sufficiency.

Our Vision

We believe that, together, we can build a community free from poverty, discrimination, and neglect. We envision a community where all members stand on solid ground with the skills and confidence they need to achieve their dreams.

Families First Community Center was brought to life on June 26, 2015, when four people working and volunteering at a local homeless shelter saw a young mother with two children lose most everything she had going for her upon getting a housing voucher.

Housing Vouchers are usually cause for celebration, as one leaves a homeless shelter for their own rental.

However, this young mother, Whitney, with the help of volunteers providing transportation and child-care, had begun volunteering in her chosen field, and taking college classes.

When she was placed in a rental 1 mile from the center of Ellsworth, with no volunteer help, all her dreams were dashed.

We realized there needed to be an in-between step to help people become independent.

Meet our Board



Dawn Carter Coffin, P.E.
President

Dawn is a professional engineer and project manager. She worked for MDOT for most of her career. She has volunteered for a number of nonprofit causes and learning experiences. She eventually became Volunteer Coordinator for the Emmaus Shelter and it was this experience that inspired her to address the problem of homelessness among families with children.

Victoria L. Jipson
Vice-President



Vicki has long been an active member of the Rural Letter Carriers Association (RLCA), including on the Legislative committee for six years. She is presently serving as Secretary/Treasurer of the Hancock County unit. She has worked many fundraisers for local causes.



Samantha T. E. Coffin
Treasurer, WebAdmin

Samantha began volunteering with nonprofits at age nine. She went off to college at age 13 and is now back home, where she owns and resides in the historic White Pillars. Samantha has served as the web systems administrator for FFCC since its inception.

Jaime Willis Hunt
Member



Jaime lives in Surry, and has volunteered at a variety of non-profits in his youth, earning Teen Volunteer of the Year, and as an adult. Jaime attended college at Eastern Maine Community College in the field of Culinary Arts and Restaurant and Food Service Management.

Meet our Board



Andrea Faurot, MBA
Member

Andie comes to the board with extensive experience with boards, board facilitation, leadership, including Change Leadership, entrepreneurship, Educational Leadership, Special Education, child development, and parent education.

Timothy Maney
Member



Tim comes to us with 30 years of banking experience; all with community banks. Tim served on the board of several nonprofits and held the titles of president, treasurer, and committee member.



Theresa Ouellette
Member

Terri lives in Ellsworth, she has a varied background including: nursing, teaching, business owner of Drywall by Design, and currently a professional organizing/space designer.

Paige Gott
Member



Paige is formerly homeless, a recovering alcoholic and addict, has a mental illness, and is a survivor of a domestic violence relationship. She will be clean and sober for three years in November 2017. She volunteers full time at a variety of nonprofits.

Current Community Advisory Panel Members (CAPs)

1. Alice M. Grindle, LSW/C, BHP, MHRT/C, Fedcap
2. Molly Warren, Educational Technologist III
3. Kristy Smith, Ellsworth School Department
4. Marjorie Peronto, Executive Director, Hancock County Cooperative Extension
5. Mark E. Webber, Volunteer, formerly homeless
6. Whitney A. Larrabee, Student, formerly homeless
7. Connie Jan Sears, Social Worker, Retired
8. Annie Sargent, Director, Ellsworth Adult Education
9. Alexandra S. Wlodkowski M. Ed., Director, Dirigo Montessori School
10. Nichole Gulowsen, CADC, LMSWcc, former Director Emmaus Shelter
11. Jen Winter, RN, Home Visiting Nurse with Pregnant and Parenting Families
12. Detective Dotty Small, Ellsworth Police Department
13. Heather Carter, MA, Senior Trainer-Suicide Prevention Program, NAMI
14. Lieve Brutsaert-Durant, Ed.D.
15. Nancy Glista, Downeast Humanists & Freethinkers
16. Dr. John Van Pelt
17. Nell H. Dalheim, R.D.H., Hancock County Oral Health Outreach Coordinator
18. KaTina Howes, GA Director, City of Ellsworth
19. Julian Kuffler, M.D., Director, Community Health Center, Southwest Harbor
20. Nancy J. Jaretz, RN, BSN, M.Ed.
21. Dick Whittaker, BS
22. Lynne Campbell Witham, M.Ed., Head of School, Deer Isle-Stonington
23. David Witham, Project Manager
24. Carol M. Mason, ARNP, Retired
25. Leona Gagnon
26. Mark Green, Director, WHCA
27. Joe Perkins, Grant Writer, WHCA
28. Katharine Wilkins, Teacher, Retired
29. Wendy Schweikert, Sales Manager, Retired
30. Anne Heisey, Teacher and Principal, Retired

WE WANT YOU!!

~ To be Board Members, CAPs, and
Volunteers

~ To serve on the following
committees:

Development, Policy, Housing Quality
Standards, Job Description, Personnel Search,
Life Skills & Mentoring, and Generous Donors

~ To help with fundraising

~ To help with renovations

~ To volunteer once the House is open

Whitney's Story



Whitney with her daughter Payson. Not pictured: her son Anekin.

Whitney grew up in generational poverty. Her mother passed away from cancer when she was young. She was in and out of DHHS. Often her family had no stable place to stay. She became the brunt of cruel jokes at school.

She was kicked out of her parents (dad's and his girlfriend's) home when she became pregnant, even though she could have graduated as the baby was not due until late June.

She moved in with her boyfriend and had two children, Payson, and one little boy who passed away from AIDS. When her boyfriend began to use drugs, she was allowed to move back in with her parents.

She was kicked out again, however, for insisting they not allow her underage sister to date a convicted pedophile

She had her third child, Anekin, with her father's girlfriend's son, who committed suicide, and moved into a local emergency shelter after a long waiting list.

The three of them had a bedroom 18' x 15'. In this shelter there is a dorm for single men, a dorm for single women and 4 rooms for families. All eat together and share the same living areas.

She wanted a better life for her children but could not drive, did not know how to open a checking account or budget, had no idea what it took to be a good tenant or how to apply for a job, and seemed to be a magnet for unhealthy relationships, with others including relatives, often taking advantage of her kind nature.

She knew nothing of how to get her dreams for her children back on track without help.

If only FFCC had been in existence for Whitney, but she is our inspiration! She and the many parents like her struggling to break out of a multi-generational cycle of poverty.

STATISTICS

Transitional Homes (TH) with similar philosophies to FFCC, that teach life-skills, offer referrals, education, medical, and safety planning, are highly recommended by the National Alliance to End Homelessness. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released a report on the effectiveness of transitional housing programs for families and it cites the following encouraging data as they pertain to transitional housing for families:

As a result of TH programs:

- Mothers' employment rose 43%.
- Post-secondary credentials increased 18%.
- 86% of families leaving TH moved directly to their own residences.
- **75% of mothers paid all rent.**

One year post-TH, homelessness was
too rare to be reliably measured.

- 42% of children previously separated rejoined their families.
- 69% of children got along better with peers.
- 48% got along better with siblings.
- 57% got along better with adults.
- 63% enjoyed school more.

Virtually all parents reported that services they received were helpful. The most-used services were case management, goalsetting, primary health care, life skills training, and employment.

Local Statistics:

January 1, 2016, to August 31, 2016, the Emmaus Homeless Shelter had to turn away 38 families consisting of 131 members (parents and children), due to lack of space.

This includes 80 children!

H.O.M.E. in Orland estimates it has to turn away approximately two families per month for the same reason.

Many in Hancock County are homeless but have some type of roof over their heads (couch surfing or a car, camper, or storage unit without water, electricity or heat), however when MaineHousing did its annual Point-in-Time survey on January 24, counting those actually living outside on arguably the coldest day of the year, there were still 41 in this county.

Generational Poverty is the #1 cause of Homelessness in Rural areas...

Not domestic violence, not substance abuse, not mental illness...

People should not have to spend their lives living on welfare, rental vouchers and food stamps.

They should be able to follow their dreams, support themselves and provide a better life for their children.

Supportive Services are available but when people are dispersed throughout the county, lacking transportation, child-care and the basic skills of life needed in society, the deck is stacked against them.

It is FFCC's goal that each parent leave the house able to meet their basic needs and those of their children. They will have employment, permanent housing, be working toward educational goals, have savings and a working vehicle.

They will have the life skills to be successful.

The Language of Poverty

People mired in generational poverty have

No Plan for the future.

They see no sense to save money or plan ahead as they cannot see their circumstances ever changing.

Generational Poverty also often comes with a Generational Disconnect.

It is much rarer today than 25 years ago to see grandparents able to help grandchildren.

They have the willingness, but just do not have the capacity.

How We Will Serve Families

Education & Job Skills

- HiSET and Adult Education classes
- Vocational/technical training
- Higher Education, including help applying for scholarships
- Tutoring for adults and children
- Constructive use of time. Each adult must be occupied 40+ hrs/week. It will be a combination of education, work, therapies, and volunteerism. Children will volunteer, according to their individual interests.
- Montessori approach to on site pre-school and daycare
- Access vouchers for summer camps and after school programs for children

Medical & Therapeutic

- Regular well check ups
- Optical and dental care
- Physical, occupational, and/or speech therapy
- Mental health treatment - diagnosis, therapy, and medication management
- Drug and alcohol treatment – Clients with substance abuse issues will be required to do a combination of the following: out-patient treatment, a 12-step program, and random drug testing
- Help obtaining healthcare coverage
- Advocate for adults and children with disabilities
- Creative therapies

Safety & Stability

- Case management to formulate and ensure success with the family's transition plan
- Volunteers in Family Service [VIFS] to help residents succeed in their goals
- Domestic violence, crisis, and co-dependency prevention
- Substance abuse prevention and smoking cessation
- Sexual responsibility education
- Assistance with procuring housing and transportation

Life Skills

- Instructions on how to maintain housing by being a respectful tenant, neighbor & community member.
- Job Coaching – interviewing, resume writing, job search skills, professional presentation and attire, job responsibility education
- Interpersonal skill building – communication, conflict resolution, healthy relationships, self-esteem and self-assertiveness training
- Housekeeping skills
- Grocery Shopping, Nutrition (including Gardening) and Cooking
- Personal Finance/Budgeting
- Parenting Classes (including how to find and keep reliable child care)
- Help obtaining a Maine Driver's License

VIFS

Wanted!

(“Volunteers in Family Service”,
i.e. Mentors)

Families First Community Center

We are looking for people who
have experience in one or more
of the following:

- ✓ Children (caring for, reading/games, acting as “grandparent”)
- ✓ Education (working with schools, tutoring, teaching)
 - ✓ Organization
- ✓ The Work Force (applications, dress/deportment)
- ✓ Health Care (scheduling appointments, been through treatment)
 - ✓ Running a household
 - ✓ Getting involved in the Community
 - ✓ Housekeeping, Gardening, Sewing
- ✓ Couponing, Shopping, Cooking, and Nutrition
 - ✓ Paying Bills, Balancing a Checkbook and Saving Money
 - ✓ Driving

And anything else you can think of!!

Please contact FFCC!

Strategic 3 Year Plan



Outreach Program

In addition to the housed residents of FFCC, we will have an Outreach Program where ANYONE (homeless or not – with children or not) can come to us for Case Management, VIFS, referrals to all our collaborative agencies, and for our classes!

One Stop Shop!



Goals:

1. Increase community awareness of poverty to spur active engagement and support.
2. Purchase, renovate the house, and build programming to support our families.
3. Build the capacity of the Families First Community Center Board, Community Advisory Panel, and volunteer network to accomplish the vision.
4. Grow and diversify the financial resources to reach sustainability.



THE HOUSE

The house at 41 North Street consists of a double-parlor, large family dining room, large family kitchen, laundry area, room for staff office, House Parent Quarters.

Other space (upstairs in the house, the mother-in-law apartment and upstairs in the barn) will be used for six apartments (two of which will be pet friendly).

The main floor of the barn will become a child-care center & classroom.

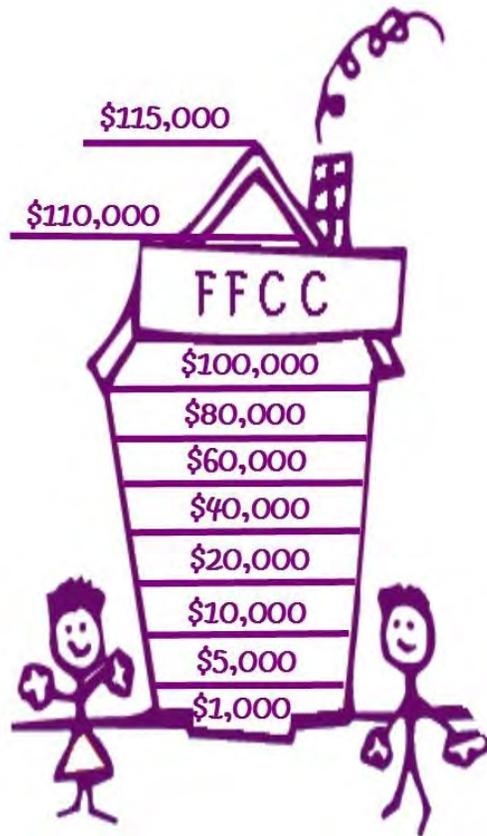
We are THRILLED to say that we now OWN the Home and now need renovation help & supplies!!



**Thank You!! Thank You!!
We have reached our GOAL!!
Please come help us renovate
our new Home!**

BUT...

...TO BEGIN



Help Us Make Our New Home
More Energy Efficient!
Please Donate Today!

Our next priority is to make the home more energy efficient by adding heat pumps in the main house & solar for the entire structure.

Renovations for House & Attached Barn

- Generator pad, generator, & radiant concrete floor in barn
- Repair brick foundation & repoint back chimney
- Reconfigure to four apartments in house (with bedroom, bathroom, and a room with living space and small kitchenette) & child-care (with bath & small kitchen), classroom & two apartments in barn
- Repair porch sill & jack building to replace sill on south side
- Install interior trim on mother-in-law apartment
- Repair shingles over front porch, new roof for barn
- Repair exterior trim, vinyl siding for barn
- Upgrade heating including heat pumps for the barn
- Reconfigure for ADA compliance: new outside door, widen inside doors, ramp
- Energy Star windows and appliances
- Paint exterior clapboard & trim
- Install sump pump
- Install fire suppression system, second water line, sprinkler system, smoke & CO detection systems
- Install alarms, emergency lights/exit signs
- Replace bulkhead to basement
- Remove wood-burning stove

Renovations we would still love to do

- Install heat pumps in the main house & solar for the entire structure
- Vinyl side main house (to mitigate lead paint)
- Place basement under barn (storage for community needs)

AND...Not Renovations, but...

We'd like to save the first few months of the Case Manager's salary, to help the community before we open.

Collaboration Agreements

1. Camp Beech Cliff
2. CFPB Financial Coaching Program
3. Child and Family Opportunities
4. City of Ellsworth
5. Community Closet
6. Courtland Rehabilitation and Living Center
7. Creative Energy
8. Darlings Auto Mall
9. Downeast AIDS Network
10. Downeast Family YMCA
11. Downeast Horizons
12. Downeast Humanists and Freethinkers
13. Downeast SCORE
14. Eastern Maine Development Corporation
15. Eastward Bowling Lanes
16. Ellsworth Adult Education
17. Ellsworth Community Music
18. Ellsworth Elks Lodge #2743
19. Ellsworth Family Planning
20. Ellsworth Police Department
21. Ellsworth Public Library
22. Emmaus Homeless Shelter
23. Fedcap
24. First National Bank
25. Friends in Action
26. GEAR Parent Network
27. GLSEN
28. Hancock County Adult Drug Treatment Court

Collaboration Agreements continued

29. Health Equity Alliance
30. Healthy Acadia
31. H.O.M.E.
32. Kidspace National Center
33. La Leche League
34. Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry
35. Maine Coast Memorial Hospital
36. Maine Educational Opportunity Center
37. Maine Families
38. MDI/Ellsworth Housing Authorities
39. Mount Desert Island Hospital/Community Health Center/
Community Dental Center
40. NAMI
41. Next Step Domestic Violence Project
42. Open Door Recovery Center/Hill House
43. Robert & Mary's Place
44. RSU 24 Adult Education
45. Seaboard Federal Credit Union
46. Seaport Village Healthcare
47. SPCA
48. Special Children's Friends
49. State of Maine CDBG Program
50. The Grand
51. University College at Ellsworth
52. University of Maine Cooperative Extension
53. WHCA
54. WIC
55. Your Place

Grants



\$5,000

Grants



2 @ \$5,000 Each



\$10,000



\$10,000

Grants



\$5,000

FFCC CHALLENGES all other BANKS in Hancock & Washington Counties to match this generous gift!

FFCC and the Community would LOVE to have your support in this great mission!

Contact us!

Grants



\$5,000

Anonymous Donations

Through Maine Community Foundation

\$5,000 & \$30,000

Through Up With Community

\$15,000

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Ms. Deborah Little

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Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Shapiro

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Willem & Lieve Brutsaert

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Susan Kales

Anonymous

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Gordon & Cynthia Donaldson

Anonymous

Lynne Campbell Witham

Maire Scanlon

Jen Johnson

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

Catherine McLoud

Terry Cole &

Sally Daniels

Kit LaRocco

Anonymous

Elaine Hokansson

www.familiesfirststellsworth.org

Wish List



FFCC is always accepting donations of household items. We have a Wish List that includes items for the House and for families that have moved on to their own homes. We can also arrange for pick-up if need be.

Contact us for info about items on the wish list or if you would like to donate!

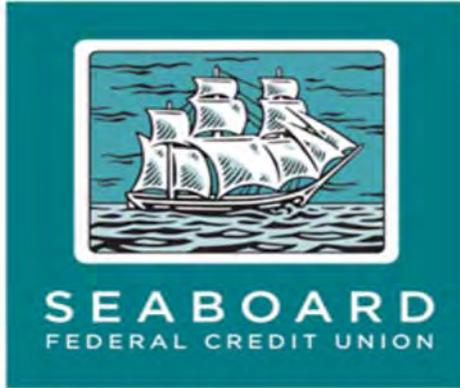


We are eternally grateful to Seaboard Federal Credit Union for financing our mortgage!



And to Darling's Auto Mall for supplying us with a \$25,000 passenger van!

FFCC CHALLENGES all other CAR DEALERSHIPS in Hancock & Washington Counties to match this generous gift!



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Tradewinds Variety Plus
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Mary Dow Cancer Center, Alford Center for Cancer Care



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CONGRATULATIONS!

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OWNER

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- Riordan Society \$100-\$499 Eaton Society \$500-\$999
- Royal Society \$1,000+
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I would like to sponsor a family for: a day (\$24),
 a week (\$169), a month (\$723), a year (\$8,676).
- All Society and Weekly + Donations will be displayed on our "Wall of Honor" in the Home, on our website & in the paper.
- I have made a provision for Families First Community Center in my estate plans.
 - Please send me information on making a planned gift.
- Gifts of Securities are welcome.
- Matching Gifts: If your company has a matching gift program, your gift could be doubled or tripled. Enclose the matching gift form from your personnel office or mail it to us.
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