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RAY & KAY ECKSTEIN CHARITABLE TRUST AWARDS \$10,000 GRANT TO FAMILIES FIRST  
COMMUNITY CENTER

ELLSWORTH - Families First Community Center has received a \$10,000 Grant from the Ray & Kay Eckstein Charitable Trust to help finance the Renovation Fund for the new Ellsworth family shelter.

“This generous grant from the Ray & Kay Eckstein Charitable Trust will help underwrite the necessary remodeling to the large home we recently purchased in Ellsworth. Families First Community Center will provide housing and educational classes for homeless parents with minor children,” said Dawn Carter Coffin, president of the board of directors. “FFCC is especially honored to receive this funding from an organization, based in Paducah, Kentucky, who receives hundreds of grant requests from all over the country. Their financial support is a confirmation of our mission to break the cycle of generational poverty,” she added.

The nonprofit FFCC was founded in 2015 when volunteers at a local homeless shelter realized the unique needs of families with minor children were not being met – and some families were turned away due to lack of space. The group raised \$130,000 to buy the property at 41 North Street last month. In addition to housing and teaching life skills to six families, the home will provide case managers, mentors, referrals and on-site classes to the community. FFCC plans to renovate the barn to create more living space, a classroom, and a day care center.

“We hope to make the house more energy efficient by adding heat pumps and solar so we are still looking for money. This \$10,000 is the first to go towards that fund. We also need volunteer contractors, electricians, plumbers, drywallers, painters, anyone who is handy with a hammer,” said Coffin. Volunteers are needed to help with the renovations this winter.

The opening is planned for the spring of 2018. For more information, to donate funds or materials for the renovations, or to volunteer, you may call 460-3711, mail PO Box 951, Ellsworth, email [familiesfirstellsworth@gmail.com](mailto:familiesfirstellsworth@gmail.com) or visit [www.familiesfirstellsworth.org](http://www.familiesfirstellsworth.org).

The Eckstein Charitable Trust's grant-making interests are derived from the areas that Ray & Kay Eckstein concentrated their personal giving for the majority of their married life. The couple enjoyed giving to organizations that focused on faith, family, education, and human needs in the communities in which they resided. Today the Eckstein Trust provides grants in support of five core values: faith, human needs, family, education and vibrant communities. More information is available at <http://ecksteincharity.org>.

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