



Families First Community Center

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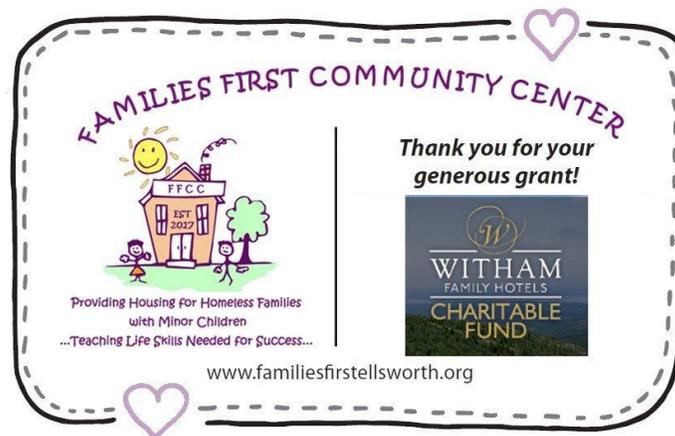
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“The true reflection of society can be seen in the way that it cares for the elderly, the poor and needy, and the homeless.”
~ Hubert Humphrey ~



CONTACT: Terri Ouellette, Board President
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WITHAM FAMILY HOTELS CHARITABLE FUND AWARDS \$5,000 GRANT TO FAMILIES FIRST COMMUNITY CENTER FOR LOCALLY FARM GROWN FOOD PROGRAM

ELLSWORTH - Families First Community Center has received a \$5,000 Grant from the Witham Family Charitable Fund to help finance the very first phase of the locally farm grown food program for the new Ellsworth family shelter.

“The Witham Family Hotels Charitable Fund is the first organization to help FFCC with our food program! We hope other funds will follow!” said Terri Ouellette, president of the board of directors. “Due to changing government regulations, we have had two food programs in a row de-funded. In addition, we are not only looking for funds for our food program, but are looking to make that food healthy for all. We could not be more thrilled!”

Families First Community Center will provide housing and supportive services for homeless parents with minor children, to help families become self-sufficient. “FFCC is especially happy to receive these funds for growing

food right on our own property. This financial support is a confirmation of our mission to break the cycle of generational poverty in Hancock County,” Ouellette 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 in the long-term. 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 County. FFCC is currently re-building the barn and adding an additional footprint to the home, to create more living space in family apartments, a classroom, and a Child Learning Center. The group has raised all but 2% of the renovation costs of the property at 41 North Street in Ellsworth and hope to raise the last of these funds soon.

“We also need volunteer contractors, electricians, plumbers, drywallers, painters, and anyone feels they can be handy with a hammer,” said Ouellette. Volunteers are needed to help with the renovations this winter.

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 or visit www.familiesfirstellsworth.org.

The Witham Family Hotels Charitable Fund was established in 2017 to carry on the philanthropic legacy of hotelier David J. Witham. The Fund is dedicated to supporting local and regional organizations who provide valuable charitable services to the community. The following areas are identified for support: housing and shelter, food and nourishment, community-based health, education and culture, and local causes. Witham Family Hotels, a Maine hospitality company, is based in the Acadia National Park area. For more information, visit <https://wfhcharitablefund.com/>

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