You are invited! July 25th at 6 PM at The Club at Flying Horse. Enjoy wonderful fellowship and food with sweeping mountain views, then be whisked away to a private viewing of “The Vanderbilt,” a Galiant Homes Parade of Homes custom house. Hear a moving story from one of our past Partners as she retells her journey out of homelessness. Celebrate our families’ successes, learn about our future goals and discover how you can be a part of Moving Families Forward. We are so thankful to Steve Miller and the team at Galiant Homes for opening up their home so Partners in Housing can help families that do not have a home. “Our partnership with Partners in Housing will not stop until every qualified applicant has a home and they support they need to get back on their feet.” Tickets are limited and can be purchased online at: Partnersinhousing.org/events.

ENTERPRISE ZONE
• WHAT IS IT? Partners in Housing is eligible for the El Paso County Enterprise Zone, a 25% state tax credit.
• HOW DO I QUALIFY? Donations for this tax credit must be made in the form of a check. Please donate a minimum of $250 made payable to “El Paso County Enterprise Zone” with Partners in Housing and the last four digits of your social security number in the memo line. Send your check in the enclosed, addressed envelope to Partners in Housing.
• WHAT IS THE IMPACT? Individual or corporate contributions help 120 families in need move forward out of homelessness AND has the additional benefit of reducing your state tax liability.
• WHY GIVE? With our current resources, we can only serve 120 families per year, but we receive almost 1000 applications every year. The need is great, but TOGETHER we can make a difference.
• TO GIVE? Visit partnersinhousing.org/givehelp today.

TWO TAX CREDIT BENEFITS

CHILD CARE CONTRIBUTION TAX CREDIT
• WHAT IS IT? A gift to Partners in Housing’s Child Enrichment Center offers the greatest return! Your gift of $500 or more is eligible for a Childcare Contribution Credit on your Colorado state taxes of up to 50% of your gift.
• HOW DO I QUALIFY? Please donate a minimum of $500, payable to “Partners in Housing” using the enclosed envelope. Write “Child Enrichment Center” on the memo line.
• WHAT IS THE IMPACT? Individual or corporate contributions help 120 families in need move forward out of homelessness AND it has the additional benefit of reducing your state tax liability.
• WHY GIVE? With our current resources, we can only serve 120 families per year, but we receive almost 1000 applications every year. The need is great, but TOGETHER we can make a difference.
• TO GIVE? Visit partnersinhousing.org/givehelp today.

TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A FAMILY EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, VISIT PARTNERSINHOUSING.ORG.
MARY’S CORNER: Growth & Opportunity

As Partners in Housing nears our 30th year in service to families in crisis in our community, our staff and Board of Directors are developing a strategic plan for growth. These plans are very exciting and include both providing more housing units to assist more families and providing more services to our Partners to promote stability earlier and to ease reliance on our services past the one year program. We intend to focus more support to the many children in the families in our program, always with the intent of breaking the cycle of poverty and homelessness. With the high cost of housing in our beautiful community, we know our families need to earn a livable wage and will continue to strengthen our career path program.

Unfortunately, the need for Partners in Housing’s assistance has continued to grow as we are still receiving far more qualified applications than we can help. More details on these plans will be provided in upcoming communications as each is fully developed. As an agency, we are so pleased to be poised to expand our reach and are so hopeful you will join in our efforts.

CREDIT COUNSELING FOR GOOD FINANCIAL HEALTH

Pulling your credit score can be very intimidating for anyone. Complicate that with having an eviction, having experienced homelessness and not having the resources to always pay your bills on time. Rebecca Cordova, a Certified Credit Counselor with Partners in Housing, guides families that are new to the program through the process of checking their score, mathematically figuring out what financial commitments they can make to their creditors and how to clean up their credit record. Forecasting what they will need to earn when they leave the program allows them to begin thinking about budgeting and increasing their wages. Rebecca explains that “the biggest goal at the end of the program is to secure sustainable housing. Credit scores and evictions are huge barriers.” Working with the families to clear up an eviction and to increase their credit score means that more options are available to them when they leave. Partners in Housing have an entire year to hone in on credit repair. Those first steps also set the foundation for the budget work that they will be doing with their Case Managers and Money Mentors throughout the year. “I love seeing the paradigm shift, that “AhHa” moment, when they realize I have power over this and that I truly know how much money I have and how much money I need.” Rebecca discusses more in depth about the impact of the Credit Counseling program on our blog at: Partnersinhousing.org/blog.

“OUR PARTNERS WANT TO BE EDUCATED ABOUT THEIR CREDIT RIGHTS AND TO BE ABLE TO ADVOCATE FOR THEMSELVES. THEY MUST HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT FINANCIAL HEALTH AS A FORM OF SELF-CARE, BUT FINANCIAL SELF-CARE IS LIKE GOING TO THE DOCTOR. YOUR CREDIT REPORT SHOWS YOUR SYMPTOMS AND YOUR CREDIT COUNSELOR CAN OFFER SOLUTIONS TO BECOME FINANCIALLY HEALTHIER.”

Making a Difference

After her second retirement, Freda sought out an opportunity to occupy her time in a meaningful way, that would also give back to the community. In 2008, she volunteered with her sorority, Alpha Iota, to help with mailings at Partners in Housing. For over 11 years now, Freda has been an extremely valued team member and serves as a Lead Volunteer. Additionally, Freda is an incredible ambassador for Partners in Housing in the community. She has coordinated countless drives, shows up almost every Monday with donations from the community and has motivated Calvary United Methodist Church to give of their time, talent and treasure. Why does she love and support Partners in Housing so much? “It’s important to see families thrive. Hearing some of the success stories, I feel like I am really making a difference.”

Volunteers are critical to the mission of Partners in Housing. Volunteer time means that funds can be used for direct services and to obtain more housing units. More information about volunteering can be found at: Partnersinhousing.org/give-time.

More Than Just Housing

Angela never thought she would be homeless. With a decent job, she was able to provide a stable home for her three children. When her landlord increased her rent dramatically, she was forced to look for another place to live. She found a dream home on Craig’s List: perfect size, affordable rent and still in the neighborhood where her kids went to school. She filled out the application and was approved, so she sent in her deposit and first month’s rent and waited for move in day. Unfortunately, the listing was a scam and her savings were now gone.

Unable to afford a new deposit, unable to find an apartment, she realized she had no place to call home. She called her Case Manager and worked with them to clear up an eviction and to increase her credit score with the help of the Credit Counseling program. After leaving our one year program, Angela contacted her creditors, made payment arrangements and began working with a Money Mentor to set up a workable budget. At the end of her year, her credit score increased 120 points and was higher than it ever had been, meaning she did not have to come up with an additional deposit when she moved. “I am so grateful to the Money Mentor volunteers for understanding my situation and walking with me in this process.” Let us know if you are interested in serving as a Mentor!