Greetings Friends!

With Spring comes a renewed energy and with energy comes renewed focus. Faced with changing funding priorities from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) last year, Partners in Housing faced losing a significant funding source. With a year to prepare, Partners in Housing began planning to not only “stay the course” financially, but to poise itself to be able to expand in the upcoming years. The result? A wonderful up swell of support from our community partners, an opportunity to reevaluate our business potential, and, after 28 years of service, a deep contemplation about what our Mission is.

When you have a "Mission Statement" -

• You announce to the world why you exist
• You have a formal summary of your intention and values of your organization
• You define your focus, culture and passion

At Partners in Housing, our mission determines our future and the future of the families we serve. After much hard work and thought, the Board of Directors and Staff of PIH is pleased to announce our new mission statement:

**Partners in Housing guides families in housing crisis from insecurity to stability, self-reliance and prosperity.**

We believe it is important to review and refresh these very important words. For more on “why now” and to see how this new Mission translates to upcoming program enhancements and other planned growth for Partners in Housing, please go to our website at PartnersInHousing.org and watch our Facebook page to see our mission and brand come to life: https://www.facebook.com/PIHofCS/

As always, thank you for being a part of the journey in truly helping to transform lives as our Partners move from insecurity to stability, self-reliance and prosperity!

Sincerely,

Mary Stegner
Executive Director, Partners in Housing

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**New Year, New Mission Statement**

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Janes Story

A recent graduate, Jane came to Partners in Housing after losing her family business. Without an income, she moved her children back in with their father, a less desirable situation as she had been physically abusive to her in the past. Reflecting, Jane said, “I felt like I didn’t have a choice. We were homeless and I did not want my children out on the streets.” Desperate to save money, Jane moved into her car and began working several part-time jobs.

When she came to us, she did not have any household belongings, was saddled with debt from her failed business and did not have any education past the 5th grade. She was accepted into the program and offered a transitional housing unit large enough to accommodate her family. “I opened the door and just broke down in tears. I had new hope for my family and their future.” First thing, her case manager helped her select furniture and household goods from Partners in Housing’s free Thrift Store and Furniture Galleria. Then, they began tackling her goals.

Jane began working on her GED, met with our certified credit counseling and began career assessments and mentoring through the Work It! Program. Within one year, Jane earned her GED, learned she had an aptitude for caregiving and was able to pay off one of her largest debts.

Jane graduated from the program, moved into an apartment that fits her budget as a full time caregiver and both she and her family business. Without an income, she moved her children back to our community, and Partners in Housing was perfect for that.

Pat first got involved with Partners in Housing when her church, Healing Waters Christian Ministries, hosted a holiday clothing drive. She has been a volunteer for over a year, and typically gives of her time three days a week! Pat is the consummate professional and her warm, gentle and loving manner truly sets the stage for our Partners and their families to feel welcomed and valued.

Interested in volunteering? We host monthly volunteer orientations which are listed on our Facebook (facebook.com/PIHoFCS). Current needs include: Work It! Career Mentors, Kitchen assistants to help serve family meals on Tuesday & Wednesday evenings and afternoon donation room help. Information on all of our volunteer opportunities are listed at: https://partnersinhousing.org/give-time/

Volunteer Highlight

Volunteers are involved in every aspect of Partners in Housing! Meet Pat Smith, our lead volunteer for the activities that happen at the Myron Stratton Campus.

Pat’s Why? “I believe in helping others. I wanted to give back to our community, and Partners in Housing was perfect for that.”

Upcoming Dates:

- April 23: Lunch & Learn: Stop by for lunch and learn about who we are and what’s new for 2019!
- May 15: Families Feeding Families. Last day to drop off a “new” crockpot (or small gift cards).
- May 18: WCLI hosted Career Fair
- June 2 - 8: Springtastic “FUN”raiser: a week of doing GOOD!
- July 11: Patty Jewett Women’s Golf Club 2019 Benefit Tournament

For updates on all these events (and more), please check out our Facebook page at Facebook/PIHoFCS

Partners in Housing is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to provide homeless families with children the hope and opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency through supportive services and transitional housing.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Mike Waters, Board President
Barbara Harris, Board Vice President
Brenda Lammers, Board Treasurer
Keri Ellen White, Board Secretary
Dan Apricio
Bill Barnett
Judith Barthel
Andy Barton
Pam Bruni
DeAnna Griffith
Sharon Johnson
Stephanie Rodriguez
Bob White
Brendan Zahl

We are especially proud to have 3 former Partners serving on our board of directors, giving a client- centered perspective on agency decision-making.

All board members make financial contributions to PIH in FY17-18.

PIH STAFF
Mary Stenges, Executive Director
Lucy Apricio, Accounting Clerk
Bonnie Adrzejczak, Leasing Clerk
Hannah Blessing, Program Assistant
Heather Brewer, Caseworker
Megan Brown, CEC Coordinator
Ingrid Bruska, Intake Assistant/Caseworker
Rebecca Cordova, Credit Counseling Coordinator
Marianne Dunlap, Volunteer & In Kind Donations Coordinator
Eric Evans, Family Services Director
Dovey French, Program Manager
Ricky Fulton, Maintenance Services Manager
Mary Stegeman, Intake & Referral Administrator
Courtney Hoff, PR/HR Caseworker
Carolina Jackson, On-Call Support
Kimberly Jones, Intake & Referral Administrator
Karon Kantor, Development Director
Elia Macias, HR Manager/Intake
Donna Martinez, Volunteer & In Kind Donations Coordinator
Kendall Miller, Vista Intern
Cheryl Negaard, Special Projects Coordinator
Lora Schwalbe, Caseworker
Pam Smith, Housing Maintenance Coordinator
Abel Tovar, Housing Operations Manager

Visit Partners in Housing online at www.partnersinhousing.org

Facebook.com/PIHoFCS

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Partners in Housing Forward Through Food Insecurity

More than just housing...

“I never really knew how to cook, or plan or budget. Buying McDonald’s was cheaper and easier than wrestling with 3 kids at the grocery store.” For families living paycheck to paycheck, budgeting an entire week’s worth of meals is daunting. “Do I pay for utilities this week, medications, or put gas in the car?” I can scrape together $10 today to buy 10 dollar items off the Dollar Menu, but I wasn’t able to save up enough for a week’s worth of groceries to go to the store.”

Tackling the many facets of food insecurity we meet our Partner families emergency food needs to help them stretch their food stamp budget. Families are also offered a freshly cooked, family friendly dinners offered by Common Cause Catering on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Emergency food service is merely a Band-Aid, however, if families do not know how to budget, cook or plan. Cooking Matters classes, facilitated by Care & Share are a 6 week series designed to help parents struggling with limited budgets learn how to shop for and cook healthy, affordable meals. Empowering families with the skills to stretch their food budgets and cook healthy meals, partnering with Cooking Matters ensures that families moving forward out of Partners in Housing will have the lifelong tools needed so that their children get nutritious food at home. In addition to learning the skills, participants take home the groceries needed to prepare the meals at home for their family.

Want to get involved? We are in need of individuals, families or groups that can help to prepare, serve and clean up after our family meals on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. We are also seeking groups that can adopt our food pantry for emergency food needs. In addition to learning the skills, participants take home the groceries needed to prepare the meals at home for their family. Please email Marianne atMdnula@partnersinhousing.org to sign up.

To learn more about food insecurity and how it affects families right here in El Paso County, visit partnersinhousing.org/blog/ and read about how Partners in Housing meets emergency food needs and then moves families from food insecurity to stability and self-reliance.

For updates on all these events (and more), please check out our Facebook page at Facebook/PIHoFCS