**FamilyPASS Friends in Deed Fact Sheet**

**What is the FamilyPASS Friends In Deed Program?**

FamilyPASS is often approached by individuals in the community asking to help with specific needs that have been identified by our families. Even though they may already be making generous financial donations to the organization, or volunteering in many ways to support our mission, they also would like to provide additional help in the form of gift cards or new items that will assist our families, especially our children. The Friends In Deed program formally provides an opportunity for an individual to make a specific donation to address a specific family need.

**How does the Friends in Deed Program tie to the FamilyPASS mission?**

FamilyPASS helps families that are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Fairfax County. We provide rent subsidies and connect families with the support services needed to become self-sufficient. Our work is part of Fairfax County’s 10-year plan to prevent and end homelessness in our community. Our organization employs rapid rehousing with intensive case management. We believe that once a family is assured of a home for themselves and their children, then family breadwinners quickly start toward their goals to advance in the workforce. This ultimately means more money for the family and greater stability. However, until the family can reach this level of self-sufficiency, families are in need of special resources to meet their needs.

**What are the types of special items or activities that clients often cannot afford that Friends In Deed can provide to them?**

The needs will vary depending on the time of year and family situation. Housing in Fairfax County is very expensive. Most of our clients make just enough income to pay for their required bills and put meals on the table. FamilyPASS assists by assuring that housing needs are supplemented. But families have many additional requirements such as athletic activities, tutors, school fees, school supplies, books, clothing, shoes, etc. These are the types of services and items that a Friend In Deed can supply to families.

**Who can contribute to the program?**

Anyone can participate in the program. When needs are identified, a notification will be sent out to our Friends and you can volunteer to contribute or purchase the needed items or services identified by the Family.

**Does a contributor to the Friends In Deed meet with the client?**

It is not the intent of the program that the Friend will meet with the client that they have assisted. In fact, many clients prefer anonymity as will many contributors. However, some of the events sponsored by FamilyPASS are also open to volunteers and you are provided the opportunity to meet.

**Will I always be helping the same family?**

Not necessarily. But, after a while, if you desire to meet a recurring specific need for a specific family (ie, adopt a family) that can be arranged through the Friends in Deed coordinators.

**Who are the Friends in Deed Coordinators?**

FamillyPASS has many devoted volunteers. The Friends in Deed program uses two volunteers who coordinate with the FamilyPASS office and the contributors to assure that needs are identified and met. A special email inbox has been established for contact with the Program Coordinators. Special notices will be posted to the website and forwarded to the Friends in Deed mailing list to notify contributors of the needs that have been identified by the clients. You may also need to work with the Case Manager for the family to clarify any specific requests. You can always call the FamilyPASS office on 703-242-6474 for assistance and to inquire about the program.

**How do I get my name on the list to be involved in the Friends In Deed Program?**

At this time, please submit your contact information including name, email, home address and telephone number to friendsindeed@familypassfairfax.org. A contact information form will be available in the future on the website.

**How do I find out what the client needs are?**

Your personal contact information will be entered into a database and you will be contacted periodically through email communications to let you know if there are special needs that must be met. Once our new website is up and running, you will also be able to see if there are any special needs through the website.

**How do I get my donations to FamilyPASS?**

If the contribution is a gift card or money donation, you can mail that donation to:

FamilyPASS

2740 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 123

Vienna, Virginia 22181

Attention: Friends In Deed Program Coordinator

Items can also be dropped off at the FamilyPASS office at the address listed above.

The best way to assure that your contribution gets to FamilyPASS is to work with the Program Coordinator via email. The Coordinator will send reminders once you have volunteered to make a Friends In Deed contribution.

**Can and should a participant in the Friends In Deed program continue to make contributions to FamilyPASS that are not client specific?**

Absolutely! FamilyPASS would not be able to continue to support the families that we do by assuring that their rents, medical costs and other essential living expenses are covered. This is just an additional program that addresses meeting special and specific needs which many of our donors and volunteers have identified as a desire to do instead of just a general donation that addresses overall support the to the FamilyPASS mission.

**Is a Friends In Deed donation tax-deductible?**

Yes. The donation is tax-deductible as are all donations to FamilyPASS.