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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Nonprofit Launches Annual Fundraiser as COVID-19 Increases Demand for Assistance

NASHUA, NH, (November 18, 2020) – The Front Door Agency launched its annual fundraiser to help local families avoid homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Last year, the nonprofit helped more than 1,140 individuals in Greater Nashua through its core programs that offer financial assistance with housing-related costs, rapid re-housing for those experiencing homelessness, and a Transformational Housing Program for single mothers and their children. With many people across New Hampshire unemployed or working reduced hours due to pandemic, the demand for the Agency’s services is growing and your support is needed more than ever.

One of the families assisted this year was single mother Danielle and her daughter, Sasha, who were on the verge of homelessness when they entered the Agency’s Transformational Housing Program. “When I got pregnant and became a single mother in college, my life spiraled into chaos,” Danielle says. “I dropped out, got a full-time job and tried to provide for Sasha on my own. We moved into the least expensive apartment I could find but still struggled to pay rent, utilities, groceries, daycare and my car payment.”

In fact, a recent Marketplace-Edison Research Poll estimates that 46% of Americans would find it difficult to pay for an unexpected expense of just \$250 and one-third of Americans have less income now than before the pandemic hit. In Danielle’s case, she didn’t make enough to make ends meet, but made too much to qualify for assistance. Like other single mothers in the Transformational Housing Program, she wanted to change her life but lacked the resources to do it on her own.

Danielle and Sasha moved into one of the Front Door Agency’s affordable apartments in Nashua and began their journey toward self-sufficiency. Case managers helped Danielle put supportive services in place and develop a plan to improve her finances and earning potential. Since joining the program, Danielle has earned her Associate’s and Bachelor’s Degrees. This fall, she started taking classes toward her Master’s Degree and Sasha entered first grade. “This is not a place where things get handed to you,” says Danielle. “But, if you’re motivated and truly focused on doing better for yourself and your children, you can do it.”

Danielle is not the program’s only success. In fact, 85% of the single mothers in Transformational Housing participated in or graduated from an educational program. And 70% gained substantial increases in benefits and income while in the program, including promotions or wage increases.

“These positive outcomes help the families we serve become or remain self-sufficient, even during the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic,” says Front Door Agency CEO Maryse Wirbal. “But the critical programs and services we provide to Greater Nashua are only possible with support from the community. We hope Danielle’s story inspires individuals, businesses and other organizations to give back in a meaningful way.”

Here’s what your gift provides:

- \$50 provides school supplies to help a child in Transformational Housing participate in remote learning.
- \$100 gives new sheets, towels and other basic toiletries to a homeless family living in our Norwell Home.
- \$500 assists a family that has been economically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with back rent.
- \$1,000 helps cover utilities and make improvements to aid in social distancing at our housing facilities.
- \$2,500 provides housing and case management to help stabilize a family on the verge of homelessness.

To learn more about Danielle’s story and contribute to the fundraiser, visit www.frontdooragency.org/give.



About The Front Door Agency

Last year, the Front Door Agency assisted more than 1,140 people in Greater Nashua through its core programs including Transformational Housing for single mothers, Financial Literacy, a Holiday Program and a Housing Stability Program offering assistance with rent, utilities, security deposit loans and permanent affordable housing. To learn more, visit www.frontdooragency.org.

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