

FAMILIES FORWARD

DIGNITY • EMPOWERMENT • HOPE

A Letter from Margie Wakeham Families Forward CEO



Dear friends,

I am writing to let you know that I will be retiring from my role as the CEO of Families Forward on October 1, 2019. It has been my privilege to be with this organization, first as a Board member, and then for more than 26 years as the CEO. I am incredibly grateful for the contributions each of you have generously given to the growth and success of our mission. With your support, we have been able to help hundreds of homeless families in Orange County for more than three decades.

As an active member of the Irvine community in the early 1980s, I was involved deeply with the school board and the early formation of the social fabric of our city. I was stunned to learn in our seemingly tranquil neighborhoods, there were families who struggled to stay housed. What broke my heart were the stories of children who missed school and regular meals. They experienced daily uncertainty and fear while sleeping in places like the family car. Determined to make a difference, I joined a visionary team including leaders from the faith community, the City of Irvine, Irvine Company and representatives from all parts of our city to help create Families Forward. Over the years, our agency has grown into a multi-service organization that has changed thousands of lives. I am humbled to have led Families Forward through such extraordinary growth.

So many of you have donated, volunteered, and guided the organization to generate resources and share your own vision for the work. We would not be the organization we are without your help. When I first took on the role of CEO, there were only two staff members, Evelyn Huebner and myself. I am forever grateful to my good friend and mentor, Evie, who set the founding philosophy of our work to treat our families and everyone involved with the organization with dignity, even in the most difficult circumstances.

As I look to the future, I know that with a dedicated board, wonderful staff and the generosity of our donors, Families Forward will continue to flourish. I cannot wait to see the amazing things that will happen. I look forward to continuing to support the organization as a donor and friend. Thank you all for your support over the years and for your genuine concern for our community.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Margie Wakeham
Families Forward CEO