Since 1980, homeless New Hampshire families have found a safe and secure place to live with the Friends Emergency Housing Program.

The purpose of Friends Emergency Housing is to break the cycle of poverty for families with no place to live. In addition to giving families a safe and secure living environment, the program provides supportive counseling and educational services to help residents find and retain affordable housing. Friends Emergency Housing offers a consistent, predictable, and respectful environment that keeps families together as a unit and sets the stage for success at achieving individualized goals.

A few years ago, I received a phone call from a gentleman who explained to me that he’d been at an event and had a few left over breakfast pizzas was looking for a shelter or a program that would be willing to accept the donation. A few moments later Steve Gamlin walked through my office door with the donation. We chatted about the Friends Emergency Housing Program, who we serve, and what we do. Steve let me know a little about himself and after a great “getting to know you chat”, he departed.

Little did we know, this would be the beginning of a wonderful relationship. He called not long after this to ask about other things we might need at the shelter. I talked with him about things that are always a need such as towels, pillows, vacuums, clothes – among other things. Not long after this phone conversation Steve called to let us know he had a donation to drop off. He arrived at EH with almost everything I said we needed. Steve let me know that he had put word out to family and friends, who were more than happy to help.

Steve has always said that he surrounds himself with “amazing people”. This could not be truer! Over the years Steve has spread the word about the Friends Emergency Housing Program and the on-going needs of the shelter and our clients. He has showed up at the shelter with everything from tomatoes, off plants grown specifically for EH by folks he knows, vacuum cleaners, hygiene products, and everything in between. Through connections he’s made on our behalf, we have been lucky enough to be the recipients of a monetary donation. The children at the shelter even received a visit from Santa last year, thanks to Steve.

These acts of kindness have created a ripple effect. His thoughtfulness and generosity are contagious and Friends Emergency Housing is so appreciative. We would like to thank Steve Gamlin for his time, generosity, and continued support!