Emergency Housing  
2017 Volunteer Award

Friends Emergency Housing has been providing safe shelter to homeless families since 1980. This past year, we have served 29 families, 80 individuals. In addition to giving families a safe and secure living environment, the program provides case management and supportive assistance to families in their efforts to obtain and maintain long term independence. Friends Emergency Housing offers families the opportunity to work as a family on their goals while in a consistent, encouraging, and respectful environment.

In February of 2014, Friends Emergency Housing randomly received an email from a woman who stated that she would like to provide a hot meal for the residents at EH, one day a month. After emailing back and forth and an enjoyable visit to EH, Marcy Charette began arriving once a month, with dinner.

Over time, this process evolved. She initially came each month with large trays of hot food and dessert. After some time, Marcy started requesting a specific family size, so that she could start packaging individual family meals. Each month, she would send an email, prior to the delivery weekend, to get the number of families and sizes of each one, in order to shop and cook for enough people. Each month Marcy became more and more detailed. The last several deliveries consisted of 8 separate meals, arriving in a taxi, complete with printed instructions on how to heat up, if families did not want to eat right away.

Marcy has supported our program and cooked for our families with a sincere passion to help. She has been so giving of her time and resources, from grocery shopping and preparing meals for 8 families to taxi fares each month to transport them. Her personality has always been uplifting and encouraging. She has always referred to the families at EH, as “our families”.

When not at work, Marcy has spent her free time writing cookbooks and volunteering in the community in any way that she can. She has recently officially retired, and has already spoken of additional avenues of community service she is filling her time with.

Friends Emergency Housing wants to thank you, Marcy Charette for reaching out with such a generous idea and for 2 years of your time, creativity, and delicious food. You have brought a smile and a kind word to every conversation and with every meal. You have been amazing and we are so happy to know you.