



FULLERTON INTERFAITH EMERGENCY SERVICE, INC.

... rebuilding lives of the hungry and homeless

April 22, 2011

Dear friend of families in need,

“I’d probably be living on the street now...”—were it not for you!

But thanks to you, she’s not!

Instead, Joanne¹ and her son are sharing a townhome with two other people, and through her hard work is set to graduate from Cal State–Fullerton next semester.

It’s you, and every friend of Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Service (FIES), who have turned Joanne’s life around. We are all very grateful. Let me explain what you have done.

Through FIES, you are providing just what homeless families need to get back on their feet—through the **New Vista Transitional Living Center** at FIES. As they live here, receiving training and encouragement, you are helping desperate families and individuals find safety, and then reenter society as productive citizens.

But, many of these families still need an extra measure, not just housing and training. They need a little extra to get them “past the hump,” to truly make it.

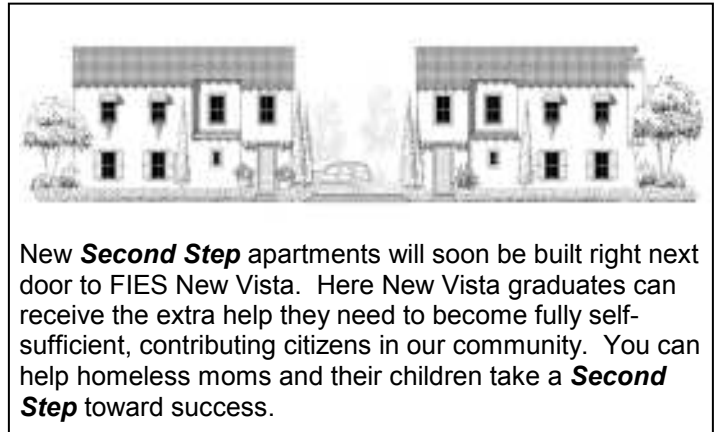
You see, the first job many find while living at FIES is minimum wage. Such low-paying work plus only six months at New Vista is not enough time for many, especially if they have children.

To help give them extra time, 41 people are receiving that extra assistance through FIES—beneficiaries of a special grant.

That’s why I’m writing. That grant runs out in several months and cannot be renewed. But there is a wonderful solution that I invite you to help become reality.

We call it *Second Step*: two buildings to be constructed in the lot adjacent to the FIES campus in downtown Fullerton. It will be a solution that will last for decades and affect the lives of thousands.

Architects and contractors are already at work to create eight apartments. Thanks to the generosity of Charles Eberhardt and his family, FIES obtained this property as a partial donation.



¹ I’ve changed Joanne’s name to protect her privacy. I’m sure you will understand.

Motivated New Vista graduates will live in the **Second Step** apartments, allowing them more time to “get their lives together.” As part of their program of responsibility, they will each be paying a reduced rent, so they participate in their own restoration—a “hand up,” not a “hand out.”

Second Step will provide a place for further career guidance to meet the demands of today’s job market, plus at times vocational training or college courses that can lead to job promotions or new positions with increased income.

Remember that **Second Step** is part of New Vista, providing that extra measure that people need. People like Joanne and her son are the very people we want to help, who will benefit greatly once the **Second Step** center is complete:

*“New Vista gave me the basics, so I was able to find employment right away. But I needed more skills, skills I hadn’t known before. **It’s really scary when you reach the six month mark at New Vista. You know you’ve come a long way. But you’re so aware you’re not ready to be on your own yet.**”* That’s where **Second Step** can really help.

Building eight apartments, with a training center requires significant funding: \$2.4 million. I am so happy to tell you that almost 90 percent has already been committed. Only \$278,000 more needs to be raised! I am so grateful to God for all the doors He has opened, and I thank everyone in this community who has already helped.

So if you haven’t made a donation to the **Second Step** program, there is still time to do so. We also need to cover furnishings, linens, and other items for the eight apartments. That’s how you can help.

For instance, your gift today of \$50 will supply sheets, blankets, and pillows for one bedroom. Your check for \$100 will put dishes and flatware in an apartment, or \$250 can buy a dinette set. Through your gift of \$500 you could provide a refrigerator. The entire living room of one apartment can be furnished with your \$1,000 gift.

Perhaps you have been blessed with substantial resources through your own business or investments that have done well, and you might want to help in a more generous way. Your gift of \$2,500 will purchase all of the appliances for one apartment, including a washer and dryer. You can completely furnish every room in one of the apartments through a gift of \$5,000. With your \$10,000 gift, you could become the benefactor who helps complete an entire apartment.

Now let me give you a most encouraging reason to give now.

The Phelps Family Foundation sponsors a FIES program called “Bed, Bag, and Beyond.” They will match what you can send for *Second Step*, up to a maximum received of \$20,000. This foundation has already matched over \$45,000 in giving to FIES over the last three years and has increased its matching funds to help make the *Second Step* dream possible. Thank you Phelps Family Foundation!

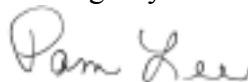
To double your gift, just check the box on the enclosed card.

Here's something else to consider. Would you like to use your gift to remember your mother or father for giving you the kind of emotional support that Joanne never received? Is there a friend who helped you at some difficult point in your life and you want to contribute in their honor? **Each gift of \$1,000 or more will be permanently memorialized with a plaque or personally-engraved stone in the patio next to the new *Second Step* apartments.**

Thank you for allowing me share about *Second Step*. We're almost there, just needing to raise the last \$278,000. I am praying that this generous FIES family, of which you are part, will go that second step to help meet this need.

Thank you so much for your partnership. You are much appreciated.

Serving as your hands of help,



Pam Lee, Executive Director
Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Service

P.S.: Thank you for your gift toward making *Second Step* a reality. Remember that your gift can be matched up to a maximum received of \$20,000. So be as generous as you can. However you can help will last for decades, affecting the lives of thousands in our community. If at all possible, could you send your gift by May 15? Again, thanks so much.

You can give securely online if you prefer, at www.fies.us. Just click on the "Donate" button. You can also give using your credit card by calling (714) 680-3691.