



Building communities, strengthening lives.

Volume 3 Issue 1

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This newsletter is
created monthly by
FPGHC volunteers.



WISH LIST

Broom & Mop
Cough Drops
Laundry Detergent
Twin Size Sheets

Would you consider
providing an in-kind
gift of one of the
items listed above?
Thank you for your
consideration.

Director's Corner

By: Nicole Fogle, MPA

As I reflect on the 2014 year at Family Promise, I think of the many phone calls I received with families in Houston County requesting services due to homelessness. What specifically comes to mind and saddens me is the number of families that live in hotels. Although this is a temporary solution for parents to have a roof over their children's heads it limits, or most often prevents, parents from saving money for permanent housing.

However, after more reflection, I realize that despite the challenged times for many families, we had seven families to graduate from Family Promise last year. While that may not seem like a large number, it is seven families that have a stronger foundation, a stronger family, financial stability, and have become productive citizens in our community.

I am constantly reminded by the dedicated families that come into our program that homeless is not a condition, it is a temporary situation.

The President's Platform

By: Dave Razo

WOW—I've been elected the new FPGHC Board President! What an awesome honor and responsibility. I am honored that my fellow board members have this level of confidence in me and I will do my best to ensure that confidence does not wane. This sense of honor goes beyond this as I am humbled by the great quality of people I serve with. It has been an extraordinary experience to work with such loving, giving, patient, kind, joyful, and talented people that are found in our volunteers, pastors, coordinators and board members—you are truly the leaders of our Family Promise affiliate.

It is an awesome duty to be responsible for organizing, training, funding and equipping this organization to perform **Our Mission: to mobilize congregations and partner with social service agencies in order to help families obtain an independent self-sustainable livelihood—to end homelessness one family at a time!** I know with your help, we can accomplish extraordinary things. I deeply appreciate all the great work that has been done since May of 2013 when we opened our doors and by the working group that was active for almost two years before that. I also appreciate all that has been accomplished under Ronnie Shiver's leadership. He has led with humility, strength and a servant's heart! I know his guidance and counsel will continue to be of great benefit to me personally, to the board of directors, and the entire organization.

So now what? Where are we headed and what do we do? Much of what "we do" will be similar to what we have been doing. I believe we are heading in the right direction, and as I reviewed our priorities and talked with volunteers over the past few months, I came up with four areas that I believe will help us focus our efforts during the coming year.

1. Continue Creating Quality Care—our host congregations will continue to provide meals and shelter for a week at a time, allowing our guests to focus on the future in dignity and with love and compassion. Our volunteers are fully trained to offer just the right level of assistance; their support is crucial to the effectiveness of the program.

2. Creating Capabilities With Our Guests—while in the program our guests receive guidance and counseling on budgeting, job skills, parenting skills, resume writing, filling-out job applications and interview skills--all with the goal of helping them get back on their feet.

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Would you like to make a huge difference in the life of a Family Promise guest? If so, then the **Family Promise Mentoring Program** is the place for you. Low-income families face enormous stresses. The Family Promise Mentoring Program is designed to help families overcome these stresses as they work toward becoming a self-sustainable family once again. In the Family Promise Mentoring Program, economically vulnerable families are matched with trained volunteer mentors who work with them, one-on-one, over an extended period of time for approximately one hour each week.

Mentors help individual families define and meet goals to:

- Develop life skills
- Connect with community resources
- Improve their housing and employment situations
- Nurture and support their children

Mentors build committed, trusting relationships. They listen. They offer understanding and respect. They help families overcome challenges and disappointments and celebrate successes.

Contact Dave Razo, FPGHC President at Dave.Razo@gmail.com or 478-320-5967 to learn how you can be a part of this very worthwhile program.

YOU ARE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING!

In July, while on vacation, my family discussed doing something different for Christmas this year. We decided to forgo buying gifts for each other and to find a family in need to help. I contacted Nicole at Family Promise in September to ask for a family that was in the Family Promise Program. Several emails later we had a family consisting of a single mom with five children. We got their wish list and it was very small. We asked again and one more item from each person was added. We also decided to add monogrammed duffel bags to the list since the family moves each week and could use the bags for packing.



On Saturday, December 20th, I went to First Christian Church and picked up the family, using the Family Promise van, and took them to my home in Perry. The children were very excited and got along well with the other children in our family. Mom was very easy to talk to and we enjoyed learning about her story and how she came to Family Promise. We ate dinner together, read the Christmas story from the Bible, and then Santa arrived. He brought each child a gift and they sat on his knee to thank him. After that, we opened all the gifts. As one of my cousins says, "And a good time was had by all!" We had around 30 people attending and it was an experience we will remember for a long time!

From: Linda Mason, Perry United Methodist Church



This is only a representation of the car received; not the actual vehicle.

Speaking of Blessings, did you see the December article in the Macon Telegraph about the generosity of Mr. W. L. Kitchens, owner of Kitchens' Towing? Mr. Kitchen's gave a dark green 1991 Ford Explorer to Jessica and her children, one of our guest families. You will remember reading about Jessica in the November issue of our newsletter when she started her new job. We want to once again say, "THANK YOU, MR. KITCHENS for your kindness!" This family was greatly blessed during the Christmas season and we know they will continue to move forward with great success because of the loving care of so many friends and their determination.

The President's Platform, continued from page 1

Our Director even monitors their ability to save money and utilizes various resources to help them transition back to self-sustainable status. These programs are administered at the Family Promise Day Center and may include experts from professional organizations willing to assist.

3. Transitioning to Self-Sustainment—our goal is to help families re-establish themselves to a self-sustainable living situation and continue to provide “after program care.” Our extensive network of support agencies and volunteers throughout Houston County enables our guests to use a wide variety of resources to become thriving members of our community.

4. Fully Funded for the Future—we aim to provide streams of income for the Family Promise program that will enable the program to continue. Our goal is to establish and maintain a network of funding streams that remains confident in our ability to provide a needed service to the community at an incredible value.

I know we have a tremendous network of loving, generous volunteers in our community and I appreciate your continued support as we move forward to magnify our results. Together we can propel this important and worthwhile mission to the next level. I look forward to working and serving with you. Thank-you in advance, for your continued support.



Josh Smith with
Nicole Fogle

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD PROJECT HELPS FAMILIES

The Teen Advisory Board, composed of teens ages 13-17, meets the 2nd Friday of each month at the Nola Brantley Library. This group assists library administrators in choosing books to include in the young adult area, programs of interest to provide for teens, and ways to help the community. At the November meeting they decided to create a project to help the homeless families in Houston County and decided to call it "**Hope In A Box**". They provided a large box in the children's area of the library for items to be dropped off that could be used by the guest families of FPGHC. Signs were posted in the library and on their website to let patrons know about this effort. People were very generous; continually dropping off items for the project. At the December meeting the teens put together "shoe boxes" with items for the families to be delivered to Family Promise. This is a great group of teens that care about the families of this community! **THANK YOU FOR SHARING WITH OUR FAMILIES!!**



To date, all adults in the Family Promise Program seeking employment have been successful in obtaining jobs within 30 days of being in the program.



Pizza Fund Raiser through February 16th

My Father's Place wants to help us raise money! They are offering their **LARGE 16"** (larger than most others) pizza with one topping for **ONLY \$10.00**. Contact a Family Promise board member or call June at 478-396-5044 to purchase the \$10.00 coupon. Once you have your coupon you can **order your pizza any Monday–Thursday between now and February 16th**. The coupon is your payment when you pick up your pizza.



Surely you will want to order pizza for your family before February 16th, so why not order a **LARGE** one at a great price and support Family Promise? **My Father's Place** is located at 2507 Moody Road in Warner Robins. Phone orders will be accepted at 478-929-0504; just tell them you have the Family Promise Coupon!
Happy Eating and Thank You for Your Support!

**FAMILY PROMISE OF
GREATER HOUSTON COUNTY**

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**Family Promise of Greater
Houston County, Inc.**

Is a non-profit 501c3 non-denominational organization for families in transition and part of a national organization founded in 1986. The Family Promise Network Program provides shelter, meals and support services to families without homes through a network of local congregations.

**Contributions are tax deductible
to the extent allowed by law.**

**Combined Federal Campaign
Member # 90951**

Donate online:

<https://www.gagivesday.org>

Type "Family Promise of Greater
Houston County" in the search box

 @fphoco



**You are all
Angels to us!**

Recent Donations were received from:

Pauline & Wayne Abbott
Janet & Ron Foskey
Amy & Wayne Holbeck
Linda & Thomas Golden
Deborah Wight-Knight
Carolyn & Dave Schomer
Thomas Slade
Florence Williams

Rx for Homelessness
Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Kroger Community Rewards Program
Counselors & Office Staff of Warner Robins High School

**The following groups / organizations adopted Family Promise
Families (current and some graduates) during the Christmas Season:**

**Christ United Methodist Church
Christmas Wishes
The Godman Family
Linda Mason & Family
Mount Calvary Church, Warner Robins
Robins Air Force Base AFSC/FZC
Sears Retiree Club
Warner Robins Rotary Club**

The Girl Scout Troop from Lake Joy Elementary recently visited the Family Promise Day Center in preparation for their upcoming cookie sales. This group of young ladies has decided to divide the proceeds from their cookie sales between Family Promise of Greater Houston County and the Soup Kitchen of First United Methodist Church, WR. We are honored and sincerely thank them, and their leaders, for their efforts to reach out to others! We encourage our readers to order from these ladies if they knock on your door.



Family Promise Administrators would love the opportunity to share information about FPGHC to introduce more people to this program and to share about the wonderful things happening with our guest families. Would you consider inviting us to speak to your group (club, civic organization, church group)?

For more details and to schedule a speaking engagement please contact Carolyn Schomer at 478-922-2965 or schomerc@gmail.com.



<https://www.facebook.com/FamilyPromiseHoustonCounty>