



Building communities, strengthening lives.

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This newsletter is created monthly by FPGHC volunteers. Please share it with your friends.



Director's Corner By: Nicole Rosser



Expressing Thanks to Family Promise

While reflecting during the season of Thankfulness, I have the pleasure of sharing some thoughts from some of our current and former guests on why they are thankful for Family Promise.

Cherished Memories

From: Big Mike and Little Mike

When I came into the Family Promise Program I was struggling with being a single parent. I had only had custody of my son for 6 months. Family Promise played a major role in our lives by giving us shelter, food, clothes, parenting classes, and most importantly....love. I am thankful to all the wonderful volunteers...especially Ms. Diane and Ms. Pauline who always went an extra mile and a Very Big THANK YOU to Centerville United Methodist Church for giving my son his first birthday party. We will always cherish that memory.

From: The Peek Family



I am grateful and thankful to Family Promise for a number of reasons...So many that it is hard to sum up. I am thankful that this program allowed me and my family to stay together and did not split us up. There are six of us and that was one of our biggest worries. We are thankful for all the volunteers who take time to out of their schedules to drive us, host us, and prepare food for us. "Like OMG, we have gained so much weight since being in the program." We are thankful for each and every person we come in contact with; rather it is a service or a listening ear. The best part of all is the extended family. So many wonderful volunteers but we are especially thankful to Mr. Tony and Ms. Nicole at Union Grove who made us feel welcome our first week. Ms. Beth at First Baptist, Sacred Heart Church, Christ Chapel and Ms. Pauline who always makes my side hurt from laughing so hard. Ms. Sheree at Shirley Hills has such a loving spirit and Mr. Jeremy, Ms. Brandy, and all the volunteer's at Northside Baptist Church have become like family. Ms. Nicole really gets me; Mr. Dave and Mr. Ronnie are AWESOME; Armond keeps us laughing.

When God places so many great people in your life,
you can't help but to know God is Real!

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THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DREAM THAT YOU CAN'T ACHIEVE

HAVE THE COURAGE TO GO AFTER YOUR DREAMS AND BELIEVE

ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL AND UNIQUE

NEVER GIVE UP WHEN GOING AFTER WHAT YOU SEEK

KEEP REMINDERS AROUND TO REMIND YOU OF YOUR DREAMS

SAVOR THE PRESENT FOR IT GOES QUICKER THAN IT SEEMS

GIVE MORE TO OTHERS THAN YOU RECEIVE

INSPIRE OTHERS WITH ALL THAT YOU ACHIEVE

VALUE YOURSELF, YOU ARE PERFECT FOR YOU

INDIVIDUALITY IS IMPORTANT SO LET IT SHINE THROUGH

NOTICE THE SMALL MIRACLES ALL AROUND YOU

GREATNESS STARTS FROM WITHIN AND IS IN ALL THAT YOU DO



Expressing Thanks to Family Promise, continued:



From: Nia

Entering the Family Promise Program was a life changing event for my family. I remember when I had my initial intake and sitting there wondering if I was worthy to be in the program because of some of the bad choices I had made. No one ever judged me and I was given a chance. I now have housing and a van that was donated to our family. I am also thankful for patience...I learned how to be still and that everything would be okay. I am especially thankful for all the wonderful volunteers that in some way kept me motivated and they saw things in me that I did not see in myself. Family Promise is a homeless program...but I felt so rich being there because we never lacked for anything. Thank you Family Promise for everything you have done for me and the kids.

From: Michelle and Family

I am Thankful to Family Promise for giving me the opportunity to save money and not worry about food, shelter, or feeling unsafe. The Coordinators and Volunteers were amazing and my kids and I felt special. My kids were angry in the beginning that we had to come in the program and they left feeling part of an extended family. This experience changed my views on so many things from all the people I met. Most importantly it restored my Hope in God and in man. I have crossed paths with so many wonderful people like Ms. Carolyn, Ms. Pauline, Ms. Katie, Mr. Mike and many others. We are Thankful to be in our own home this Thanksgiving.



From: Amanda

I am more thankful for Family promise than words or actions can express. When I was told about the program I was a single parent working 2 jobs, 6 months pregnant with a 2 year old. My car was giving me trouble and I became too sick to work 2 jobs. I found myself working 25 hours a week at \$7.25 and I could no longer afford my apartment. The apartment complex where I was living gave me a Family Promise brochure and I waited a couple of days before I called. I was not living the way God had intended and felt like this was my punishment. My family supported me as much as possible but did not have room for us. Ms. Nicole and the Family Promise team welcomed me into the program and no one ever judged me. I must admit I was extremely angry and mean when I was in the program. Growing up in foster care, I was ready to give up being in this situation. I gave birth to my second child while in the program. The volunteers prayed for me daily and not one person poured judgement on me. Three years later I am still overwhelmed with the continuous support they provide for me and my 3 children. Family Promise has changed my perspective on life. I never met such a caring group of people. I am Thankful to all the Family Promise Volunteers and my family at First United Methodist Church. A Forever Grateful Mom





Thank you to the employees and customers of the Warner Robins branches of CB&T Bank for their generosity! CB&T held a clothing and coat drive to support our Family Promise Guests.

Pictured are FPGHC Director, Nicole Fogle, and CB&T Executive Assistant, Christine Watson.

Family Promise understands the importance of equipping our families with many different tools. Recently the ladies in the program were given some safety tools for the upcoming holidays and learned a couple of self-defense moves. Thanks to HODAC for letting us be a part of your class!



Thank you to Robins Financial Credit Union for recently selecting Family Promise of Greater Houston County to receive a 'Community Project Award'. Their gift of \$7,000 will be used to purchase furniture and computers for the Day Center office.

Pictured are FPGHC Director, Nicole Fogle, and RFCU Communications Specialist, Hillary Bobbitt.



What a Blessing to Hear the Blessings!

Over the past several weeks I have been blessed to be at the evening meal on four occasions. When it was time to eat, we asked if anyone would like to offer the prayer. Little hands flew up..."me, me." Each time the children offered a

lengthy prayer of things they were thankful for....the food, the people who prepared it, doing crafts, playing games, their bed, their room, the volunteers, a place to call home.... And one even said "for the home I know we WILL have because of this program".

Volunteers and Host/Support churches, you have made an incredible impression on these precious young lives. Thank you from a Grateful Board Member.



RazBytes

By: Dave Razo,
President of the Board

**“Do Something Beautiful For Christ ...”
Mother Teresa**

I’ve been reading some articles on Mother Teresa recently and this quote struck me. My thoughts were drawn to all our faithful and generous volunteers that provide the warmth, the good food, and the loving temporary homes (churches) for our Family Promise

guests. With all of this warm “mushy” type stuff I also thought that our love needed balance and I remembered another key component of our program is:

***“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day,
teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”***

As we recently moved another family into their new home and we saw the extraordinary generosity of our Family Promise volunteers pour out many gifts to help this family get a good start in our community, I pondered these two ideas and decided that there might be a higher level question that we can ask ourselves as we help our guests get back on their feet. And that question is,

**What have we done to help this family become
Self Sufficient?**

The gifts and the generosity are great. They provide these families with a beautiful start in a new home, but longer term they may need parenting skills, budgeting skills, home repair skills, car repair skills, family counseling, and even investment help in the future. To make a longer term impact I am encouraging all our volunteers to ask:

What have we done to help this family become Self Sufficient?



As we express our *gratitude*
we must never forget that the highest
appreciation is not to utter words, but
to *live* by them. John F. Kennedy

Give Thanks
to the Lord,
for He is
good; His
love
Endures
forever.

Psalm 107:1

We Appreciate Your Support!



Thank you to those that have designated a donation to go toward purchasing our much needed 4 roll away beds. We still need further contributions for this project. Your gifts are greatly appreciated!



Thank you for marking your form to support Family Promise during The Combined Federal Campaign!



We appreciate the fact that you have been shopping at Amazon.com and ask that you continue to do so.



Thanks to each of you that sold or purchased Belk Charity Day Tickets! Shirley Boan and Carolyn Schomer sold the most tickets, working together as a team at the store. Thanks to Rachida Page and Bill Dunmon who were first time ticket sellers at the store. We appreciate everyone that participated in the semi-annual fundraiser; we could not do it without you. Total amount raised in not yet available. We will report the total in the next newsletter.



November 17th was Georgia Gives Day, but you can give, using your credit card, through this organization anytime during the year. Thank you!

www.gagivesday.org



www.krogercommunityrewards.com; Designate #76557

The cost of insurance on our van is \$3,010 a year or \$8.25 per day. During the July quarter we received, \$161.85 through the Kroger Community Rewards program. Thank You Kroger

shoppers....your participation allowed us to provide 20 days of auto insurance coverage so our families are safely covered while being transported in our van.



Wishlist

Some of our current needs:

Paper Towels

Plastic Forks

Toilet Paper

Paper Plates

Laundry Detergent

Cleaning Supplies

Wal-Mart Gift Cards to purchase gasoline for the van

If you can provide any of these items, drop them off at the Day Center.

Thank you !

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GREATER HOUSTON COUNTY**

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

Is a 501(c)(3) non-denominational, non-profit, 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**

**Kroger Community Rewards
Organization #76557**

Thank You, Donors



In Memory of Robert Stewart:

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Keep in touch;
We love hearing from you!

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