



Family Promise®
of Greater Houston County

Building communities, strengthening lives.

Volume 3 Issue 11
November 2015

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



We share our Thankfulness with you...

Director's Corner
By: Nicole Fogle

Giving Thanks

November is the month for "Giving Thanks". I would like to take time to recognize a great group of people that are the backbone of Family Promise of Greater Houston County; Our Board of Directors.

What often comes to mind when we think of board members is monthly meetings, fundraising, and people that are well connected in the community. While we have a diverse group of well educated board members who serve their community well, their greatest asset is their strong desire for stewardship toward others.

I wholeheartedly believe that our board is so strong because of their hands on approach to working with our families. What better way to be connected than to connect with the people you serve.

From transporting beds, to staying overnight at the host churches, to organizing events, to helping guests move into their new homes, to hospital visits, to attending graduations, or just simply stopping by to welcome a new family into the program, our Board Members shine bright.

I appreciate each one of them and the support they give me to make my job easier. If you see a Family Promise Board Member this month give them a hug. If you don't see them, send them a note. Let them know they make a difference in Houston County.

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Here is what some of our former guests are saying:

“To All who sit on the Board of Family Promise, those seen and unseen, I would like to say Thank You for all that has been done for my family over the past year. Because of each one of you, my grandchildren and I have received so much love and the impact has been heartwarming. The care and compassion in your hearts exceeds what we could know. If all that was given was counted...let’s just say it would be like rain drops.”

God Bless you Richly! Sherry, Isabella, and Monte

“As a former guest, I quickly realized that the mission of Family Promise could not come into fruition without the hard work that goes on behind the scene. Thank you for making so many things possible for so many families. Your hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed.” Toni

“When coming into the program, I never expected that I would meet board members let-alone build relationships with them. They go above and beyond for families that are in the program and those who have graduated. Once you meet these great people your life has been changed for the good.”

Robie and Family

RazBytes: Bite-size Nuggets from the President By: Dave Razo

Blessings Abound—And We Give Thanks



As we enter the holiday season, starting with Thanksgiving and culminating with the celebration of the birthday of Christ, I can’t help but be appreciative of all that we have been given this year. Our Family Promise efforts have reaped some amazing fruit and we feel blessed to be a part of this vital mission and grateful to everyone that contributes. Most recently we completed a very successful **CAR CITY** event to “**Put the Brakes on Homelessness**” which was designed to raise awareness in our community and raise funds. We were blessed to have several articles in local newspapers, talk with all the local government bodies and reach out to multiple businesses for the first time. In addition, we received approximately 50% more in donations this year which encouraged us to start planning a 3rd annual event next year. Thanks so much for everyone’s help!



We have also been blessed by the **Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce Leaders** as they selected Family Promise as their non-profit of choice this year. This dynamic group has been working hard to provide us with a sizeable gift. I’ve heard through the grapevine that this gift is “on its way”; so more to follow in next month’s newsletter. Thanks in advance to

all the Robins Regional Leaders for their efforts in helping Family Promise.

Our very own Vivian Stilley has once again led us through another successful **Belk Charity Day** event and her consistent efforts, along with the many volunteers who sold and bought the charity day tickets twice each year provide a wonderful addition to the Family Promise mission.

Finally, we must express our heartfelt thanks to **Center Stage for Christ** from Perry United Methodist Church as they once again chose our local Family Promise affiliate as their charity of choice. This group, under the guidance of Michael and Diane Kinsley, staged a hilarious production of “Saddle Sore” which produced a donation of over \$9,000! This was the largest donation that Center Stage for Christ has provided to any not profit group in the ten years and twenty productions that they have been in production. We are very grateful to Center Stage for Christ and Perry United Methodist Church for their generous contribution.

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The Combined Federal Campaign
continues through December 15th

Please consider supporting Family Promise

Member # 90951

UPDATE from Vivian Stillely

THANKS TO EVERYONE for selling Belk Charity Day tickets. We made \$1,710, selling over 300 tickets. SPECIAL THANKS to Shawn and Mark Stevens (from Sacred Heart) for selling 14 tickets during the last hour of the sale on Friday before the Charity Day event. Everyone keep up the good work!



Giving Thanks for Our Network Churches

By: Carolyn Schomer, Network/Congregational Relations Committee

It's Thanksgiving....and what better time to give thanks for the twenty nine giving congregations and dedicated coordinators who make our Network function. Family Promise has experienced many wonderful milestones during the past year. Our churches and their volunteers are the reason we have been able to continue fulfilling our mission of Ending Homelessness in Houston County....One Family At a Time. When we share the Family Promise story in the community, people often question the challenge to families of moving every week. Our Director, Nicole Fogle, shares that initially families who consider entering the program are concerned as well. However, as they complete the program they are asked to share what has been helpful to them in achieving their goals. They all report that moving from church to church has been the best part. The love, support, networking, and connections are key to their success.

Some have asked, "How does it all come together?" I like to think of it as a large jigsaw puzzle – 1300+ puzzle pieces of varying sizes and shapes fitting together under the creativity of Nicole in scheduling hosting weeks for six months at a time. For planning 2016 we had 15 host congregations...some have signed on to do one week, some two, some four, and some "whatever is needed". Coordinating their schedules with the 10 support churches (matched with several of the churches) begins the challenge. Some support churches share equally with their host partners, others are able to provide a few meals or fill an overnight hosting slot. In addition four congregations provide financial and other resources to support the program. Flexibility and commitment of Coordinators help it all come together, and every contribution brings the puzzle picture into beautiful focus...a Cornucopia of support and care for our families.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you to all the congregations, coordinators, and volunteers who shower our guests with your blessings.



And the last shall be first.....we greatly appreciate everyone's **individual financial contributions**, and we hope you continue to keep Family Promise of Greater Houston County in mind when making your charitable donations. Individual contributions make-up the foundation of our donations; each dollar is cherished and we carefully watch how we spend each nickel to ensure it is not wasted.

We also greatly appreciate all our **church coordinators and volunteers** as they are the ones that make this organization really work. They are the ones that provide a dignified loving environment for our guests each and every week. Without our selfless coordinators and volunteers the hundreds of homeless children in our community would go unserved. As we approach Thanksgiving, our Family Promise Team wants to say **THANKS** to everyone who has blessed Family Promise this year—you are all greatly appreciated!

Keep your eyes peeled at the Warner Robins Christmas Parade, December 5th, for the first Family Promise of Greater Houston County Float. The theme for the parade this year is Christmas Movies and the FP theme chosen is "With Family Promise You're Never 'Home Alone'". Anyone wanting to help put the decorations on this float, please notify Annette Anderson at andersonannettes@gmail.com.



Speaking of Christmas

Several folks have been asking about how they can help our guests and graduates during this holiday season. We are so very grateful for your thoughtfulness and kind offers. We respectfully ask that you contact Nicole about your volunteer or donation ideas. She is aware of the needs and can guide you as to how you can serve our Network most efficiently.

ATTENTION: ALL VOLUNTEERS



Would you like to have a nice name tag to wear as you volunteer with Family Promise? Preferred Trophies, 1223 Russell Parkway- next door to DayLight Donuts and NuWay, has our FPGHC Logo on file and can make one for about \$7.00. They have three sizes/types of materials for the same price from which you are free to select. All you need to do is go in and place your order. There are no discounts or benefits for a group order, so everyone can order the style and size they prefer.

Our Next Volunteer Training
is scheduled for
Tuesday, December 8th, 10:00 AM
at
Perry United Methodist Church, 1002 Carroll St
Contact Nicole for further information, 478-328-8181



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- Daryl Sullivan
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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



**Recent Donations have
been received from:**

Individual Donations:

- Deanna Boan
- Brigitte Forbes
- Joe E. Miller

Thomas & Charlotte Slade
Roger & Shirley Boan...

in honor of Mary Boan's 100th Birthday

Church Donations:

- Perry United Methodist
- ECGA Lutheran Womens Missions League
- YAM First United Methodist
- First Christian Grace Group

Rx for Homelessness - \$40.00

**To date we have \$14,800.00 raised for a new van.
Thank you for your continued support of this great need!**



- Copy Paper
- Walmart Gift cards
- Adult Cold Medicine
- Children's Cold Medicine

You can bring items to the Day Center. If no one is home just leave them on the porch. Thank You!



Support Family Promise of Greater Houston County

Enroll Today Org# 76557

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