



Family Promise STAR NEWS

WORDS OF PROMISE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Welcome to the first Family Promise ESFV newsletter!

About a year and a half ago, in March 2008, Family Promise had its first community meeting. At that meeting, over 80 people were in attendance to hear more about how we, as a community, can help homeless children and their families find sustainable independence. After that meeting, a group of faithful, committed people have formed to start the first Family Promise in Southern California.

And it has been an adventure! We started with not much more than hope and the intention to make a positive difference in our community and, since

then, have learned how to function as a nonprofit, have recruited many excited faith communities in the Burbank, Glendale, Valley Village and Eagle Rock areas, have located a Day Center for our program, and have hosted successful fundraisers. Our next fundraiser, Cardboard Box City, promises to be a community-building event that will raise awareness and money for homeless families, while giving the participants just a taste of what it is to be homeless for a night. We invite you to participate with us in this event!

Looking forward, our goal is to open by the beginning of 2010. In order to make this date possible,

and to be able to help families who are already contacting Family Promise for assistance, we need your help finding more congregations to join, helping to raise more money, and in getting the word out so that Family Promise becomes known within our communities.

Partner with us in this ministry of our time in order to make a profound difference in the lives of our neighbors.

Jenny Smith, President



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BUILDING THE PROMISE



SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2009

4:00 p.m.- 7:00 a.m.

In order to achieve our goal of opening our doors of operation by early next year we need to raise funds and awareness. With generous support by many people we can raise awareness about homeless children and families and raise funds to operate the Day Center. Please support Family Promise at our

first annual Cardboard Box City on Saturday September 26- 27th, from 4pm – 7:00am, at 521 E. Olive Ave., Burbank.

You can join us at the event by reserving and renting a space to sleep over night, using a cardboard box as shelter with your sleeping bag or...

Please see BUILDING page 2

BUILDING THE PROMISE- CARDBOARD BOX CITY



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If you are unable to stay the night or attend you can become a sponsor or “virtual resident” by making a contribution. Sign up as an individual, family or youth group. This will be a family friendly event that includes a soup supper, movies and entertainment and activities for all ages. If you would like registra-

tion information or you have questions, please call our event chair Linda Taylor at 818-389-7748, or you can visit our web site: www.familypromisessfv.org to download a brochure, print out the forms to participate. Please make your reservation today and be a part of the change to transform the lives of homeless families.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2007, just in the San Fernando Valley there were 1009 homeless children in our midst every night. It's no surprise that there was a 30% increase in homeless families from 2007-2008.² Family homelessness is typically caused by some unforeseen costly event such as medical emergency, an accident, increase in rent, or a loss of a job. For a family that is living pay check to pay check, this inability to manage even one financial hurdle can push a family into homelessness.

1. United Way LA Homeless report
2. Calworks filings

DAY CENTER UPDATE



We have been searching for a Day Center for over a year and we're pleased to report that we believe we've found a place. Last month the City of Burbank's Planning Board approved a change of use and granted a conditional use permit in a single unit space owned by Burbank Housing Corporation, which Family Promises ESFV can lease for our

Day Center. A Day Center is a key component to our opening in early 2010.

The site of the proposed Day Center is a place where families can come during the day to meet with staff, shower and store small personal belongings. The Day Center also provides a home base from which families can conduct a housing or employment search.

We still need to secure a final step with the City of Burbank. On September 22nd the regulatory agreements between the City of Burbank and Burbank Housing Corporation will go before the City Council for approval. We invite you to once again step forward in support of this project at the City Council meeting or by sending an email to the City Council members.

“Those that see the invisible can do the impossible!”

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

FAMILY PROMISE ACROSS THE NATION

While Family Promise of East San Fernando Valley is striving to become the first Family Promise network in Southern California, we rejoice with Family Promise of Ouachita Parish, Louisiana as the newest operating network in our country! Our affiliate in Ouachita Parish marks the 144th Family Promise network nationwide.

Family Promise of Ouachita Parish will bring much needed relief to northeast Louisiana. According to their website, they state that Louisiana has the largest number of homeless children per capita. First United Methodist Church welcomed families as the first host congregation. A family of five (a grandmother,

mother and three girls aged 16, 12 and 6) was the first family to enter the program. Relocating from Oklahoma to Louisiana, the family ran out of money while trying to finalize arrangements and was without a place to stay in a community where they had no connections, until they found Family Promise.

FAMILY PROMISE ALL STARS- OUR VOLUNTEERS

For more than a year there have been Family Promise believers that have volunteered their precious time and incredible talents and energy to move our mission forward. In addition to the volunteer board members there has been immeasurable support garnered by the faith communities without which we could not have come this far. The contin-

ued generosity of people in our local region is uplifting. We are especially grateful to the faithful leadership of Pastor Paul Clairville of Westminster Presbyterian, Pastor Ross Purdy of First Presbyterian and Rabbi Richard Flom of Temple Emanu El. These men of faith have been leading the prom-

ise of hope for families for a long time. Their voices of compassion and strength have resonated and inspired many of us in these challenging times. They have stood firmly in the belief that our communities should, could and would join together as one family in faith to serve the most vulnerable amongst us.



Family Promise's Interfaith Hospitality Network—a sustainable partnership for transforming lives!

COMMUNITY PARTNERS UPDATE

Family Promise ESFV works in partnership with the faith community to provide temporary overnight housing for homeless families. This partnership is a unique and powerful force for life transitions.

The good news this month is that we welcomed our eighth faith community partner and host congregation, Emmanuel Church at the last board meeting on August 6th. First Christian Church, Burbank made the decision to join Family Promise as a host congregation at their board meeting. They will present their letter of com-

mitment at the September 3rd general meeting. We already have nine support congregations that will provide volunteers to assist our host congregations.

At this time we have approximately ten congregations are going through the decision process. We ask for prayers and guidance as more congregations make their decisions in the next few months. Our support is growing and we are sure to meet our goal of 13 host congregations and at least that many support congregations when we open our doors in early 2010.

We are grateful for our committed community of faith partners that have signed on to host or support up to four families for a week at a time, four times a year.

These are our partners as of August 2009, h indicates a host congregation.

Burbank

- American Lutheran Church
- Burbank First United Methodist
- Burbank Seventh-Day Adventist h
- Burbank Temple Emanu El
- Calvary Chapel h
- Emmanuel Church h
- Fellowship Church
- First Christian Church of Burbank h

- First Presbyterian Church h
 - Magnolia Park United Methodist h
 - Temple Beth Emet/ St. Jude Episcopal Church h
 - Village Church
 - Westminster Presbyterian Church
- Glendale
- First Baptist Church
 - Glendale Church of the Brethren
 - Glendale First United Methodist Church h
 - St. Mark's Episcopal Church h
 - Temple Sinai
- Valley Village
- Adat Ari El Synagogue
 - Faith Presbyterian Church

FAMILY FUN NIGHT AT NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

This summer the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department of the City of Burbank hosted a Family Fun Night at Robert Lundigan Park. The event was an opportunity for residents in the neighborhood to enjoy a outdoor BBQ, games, music and family friendly activities. Many families with children

were in attendance and some volunteered alongside great city staff members in cooking up some tasty food and leading children in games and crafts.

Several of our Family Promise ESFV board members attended the event and had a great time meeting many residents in

this neighborhood, and most notably the children. The warm summer evening event was a warm reception to a neighborhood filled with hope and eager enthusiasm. The smiling faces of families together was a reinforcement of our call to build community and strengthen lives.



FPESFV Board Members at the Park

Family Promise STAR NEWS

OUR MISSION- OUR PROMISE

Family Promise ESFV is at it's core, people of faith working together to provide homeless families with help for today and hope for tomorrow.

We formed locally in March 2008 in response to a growing need to serve and transform the lives of vulnerable families in our communities. We are now one of 140 networks across the U.S. affiliated with Family Promise, a national nonprofit, committed to helping low-income families achieve lasting independence.

Throughout the nation, Family Promise helps mobilize communities to provide safe shelter, meals and support services for homeless children and their families. Our programs are designed to redress the underlying causes of homelessness for families.

BUILDING COMMUNITY, STRENGTHENING LIVES

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Visit our web site for more news!
www.FamilyPromiseESFV.org



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DREAMS & WISHES

We are grateful that we have many friends and supporter's that believe in our future and our work for homeless families and have contributed to the building of our network.

Before the opening of our Day Center and programs we are in need of specific items that are new or in very good condition:

WISH LIST:

Cargo Van for transporting beds to congregations

Clothes washer

Clothes Dryer

Refrigerator

5 Computers

5 Monitors

Small desktop Printers

Desk and Chair

Computer workstations

File Drawer Cabinet

Office Supplies

School Supplies

2 TV's

DVD player

Small Sofas

Arm Chair

End table(s)

Lamp(s)

Twin Beds

Storage Closets (lockable)

Bookshelf

Bath Towels/sets

Toiletry Sets

Inflatable beds all sizes

Blankets

Pillows (new)

Linens (New)

Volunteers and Services:

Internet Provider

Computer set up/maintenance

Volunteer coordinator

Youth Group Coordinator

Congregation Liaison

More volunteers are need to work with the board of directors on the various committees and special tasks at hand. If you have the time and ability to get involved please contact any Family Promise ESFV Board member.

