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Faith & Charity

By [Linda Rubin](#) | [Email the author](#) | September 1, 2011

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## Family Promise Celebrates Its First Year of Helping the Homeless

Network of East Valley faith communities has helped 18 homeless families get back on their feet

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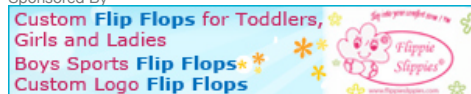
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“This is the sound of all of us,” sang Rev. Paul Clairville and the WestPres Garage Band (in the words of Ruth Moody of the Wailin’ Jennys) on stage in the David Familian Chapel of Adat Ari El in Valley Village.

In gratitude for its first full year year of helping homeless families in the east San Fernando Valley, Family Promise held an interfaith “Service of Celebration.” I’ve written in this column before about [Family Promise’s](#) hospitality network, which allows up to four “situationally” homeless families at a time sleep at participating churches and synagogues until they graduate from the program. A host congregation welcomes the families for one week until they move on to the next house of worship.

Clergy from half a dozen faith traditions as well as Family Promise’s board president and executive director extolled the honor and privilege it has been to serve together to lift up their neighbors who have fallen on hard times.

“Like privileged spectators we’re invited in to be witnesses of once in a lifetime events,” said Reverend Dave Mourn of Emmanuel Church in Burbank in his reflection.

Paul Clairville, Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian in Burbank told me, “You get to meet the families, to get to know them and be a part of their lives.”

In the last year, the network’s 24 partner faith communities (including Faith Presbyterian and Adat Ari El in our Patch) and their member volunteers have supported 18 families, comprising about 70 people, with lodging and meals, while those guests spend their days with Family Promise’s director and caseworker to find permanent housing and employment.

Director Jaci White read from a letter sent by the most recently graduated family, who have found work and home in south Lake Tahoe:

*Dreams are what was given back to us because of Family Promise's dedication and guidance. The program allowed us the time to focus on our careers while taking some of the worries away of whether or not we could feed and house our family. With the combination of financial advice, a job developer, case manager on site and Jaci the executive director providing support, how could anyone not be successful?*

Family Promise's third annual [Cardboard Box City](#) fundraiser is scheduled to take place from Saturday, Oct. 15 at 4 p.m. through Sunday, Oct. 16 until 7 a.m. in the parking lot at the Church of the Incarnation in Glendale. Prospective residents pay or raise pledges of \$100 or more (like a walk-a-thon) for the experience of sleeping overnight in a parking lot under meager shelter. Contact Family Promise for more information and see my [story](#) from last year about Box City.


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[Marsha Ramos](#) Flag as inappropriate  
11:20am on Thursday, September 1, 2011  
I hope this article and video raises awareness to the greater community about the chalenges families are facing during these difficult economic times. Working together we can do great things! Thank you Linda for capturing the essence and heart of the work of Family Promise ESFV through your writing and wonderful video production.  
[Reply](#)

 [Linda Rubin](#) Flag as inappropriate  
4:47pm on Thursday, September 1, 2011  
Marsha, it's always a pleasure to spend time with Family Promise volunteers.  
Linda  
[Reply](#)

[robert lee](#)

5:06pm on Thursday, September 1, 2011

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Perhaps SC can use it's Christmas parade/party money to partner with these folks. Jack McGrath, what are your thoughts?

Reply



**Jack McGrath**

6:56am on Friday, September 2, 2011

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The Studio City Resident's Association are planning a holiday public event on Sunday, December 4 somewhere in Studio City. I cannot think of a better group to benefit financially than Family Promises. I suggest you conact Alan Dymond, president of the Studio City Resident's Association.

My wife and I have sold our home in Valley Village, and are moving to the beach community of Port Hueneme in Ventura County. We are a six minute walk to the beach and Pacific Ocean. I plan to be active in this small city of 21,000. They don't have a Patch there, but maybe we can have a new one start soon. I will miss Studio City and Valley Village, but am excited to be living at the beach in my semi-retirement years..

Reply

**Jennifer Smith Greene**

10:39am on Tuesday, September 6, 2011

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Linda, thank you again for covering our service. You did a wonderful job of representing a wonderful evening where people of many faiths gathered together to celebrate and honor what we can do to help people in need as a larger community.

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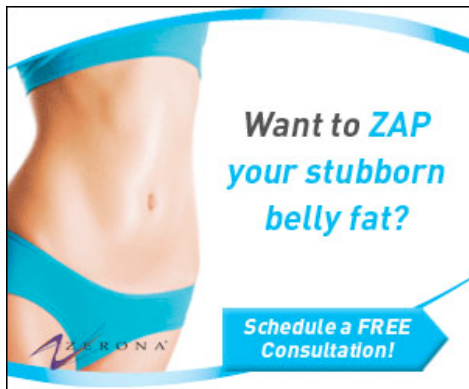
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