



FAMILY PROMISE
BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION

Hospitality

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

APRIL, 2010

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Family Promise National Conference in Orlando, Florida! April 29th through May 3**
- **New Families Starting 4/25 !!!!!**

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From The Director's Chair



Hello, I would like to introduce myself to everyone in our network whom I may have not had the privilege of meeting. My name is Mark Taplette, and I have taken over as our network's director. I am so pleased to be on board with Family Promise and very excited about what we do here. I am also looking forward to meeting each and everyone of you. I will be coming by each congregation soon, so keep a look out for me!

Let me tell you a little about me. I was born and raised in Dallas, Texas. I grew up a few miles from the Cotton Bowl so I am a big Cowboy fan. I am a graduate of East Texas State University, the Criswell College, and Azusa Pacific University. I am married to a wonderful woman by the name of Linda. We met while we were both working on our master's degrees in seminary. We have six, yes six, active children. You would be correct in assuming that there is never a

dull moment in the Taplette household. I came to the area originally to work at Texas A&M. I pastor a small but growing congregation here in Bryan and we were looking for more opportunities to minister to the community when a friend told me about the position here at FP. So, Linda and I prayed about it and I applied. This has been a blessing because I enjoy being able to meet the needs of the population we serve.

My Vision

I believe that we have an excellent foundation that has been laid for the organization. The work that has been accomplished by the board, past director, and all of you is remarkable. There are some areas where I believe we can grow and thus have a greater impact on our community. The board and I are still working to get other congregations on board as host churches. We have had some come along as buddy churches, nevertheless, we are aware that we still need more host churches. My plan is to have 13 churches before the end of the year.

I have contracted with Sam Houston State University's Marriage and Family Counseling Program to come in and work with our

families on issues relating to their families. This will be done by counseling students who are supervised and have completed their practicum hours for either their LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor) or Marriage and Family track. I believe that this will assist our guests in dealing with family difficulties, conflict, or anger management problems that may be the root of some of their issues.

I would like us to have our own building. It is my hope that we can either build, buy or have donated our own building for the day center. I would like more space for our guests, volunteer training, seminar space, and hosting meetings with some of our network partners. This should include a space for outdoor activities for the children.

Finally, I hope to increase our donor base. If we can increase the number of people who support and share our vision, we can better meet the needs of our community and lessen the burden on those of you that have given so much to support this organization.

I see a great future for what we are doing here in the Brazos Valley in Family Promise. We will only get better because of those of you who share our vision to assist those in our community who are in need.

**Phebe Simmons
Caseworker**

I'm Dr. Phebe Simmons, a native of the Bryan/College Station community, graduate of A&M Consolidated High School, Texas A&M University (B.A.), Prairie View A&M University (M.Ed.), and University of Phoenix (Ed.D.). I have worked in both public and private educational institutions as well as juvenile and adult prison systems. My passion is helping those in need, and I bring that passion and energy with me in my role as case manager at Family Promise of Bryan/College Station.

As an educator in K-12 schools, I worked with at-risk students in the area of reading comprehension and writing. As a postsecondary educator, I worked

From Phebe's Desk

primarily with non-traditional college students over age 24, who were not quite college ready and in need of improved reading and study skills. In my role as Coordinator for a Job Readiness program, my staff and I were charged with helping the jobless deal with the anxiety and stress that comes with job loss, and the stress that is often associated with job search.

I understand the importance of a basic education and its connection to job stability, and see this as fundamental in helping guests of Family Promise become self sufficient, and able to once again provide a stable home environment for their children.

Family Promise—living one's faith

At Family Promise we believe that everyone has something to offer, and that each of us has a role to play in making the community better. As an organization, we see the importance of partnering with local government, other non-profits, churches, corporations, and individuals.

We also need a variety of financial partners. Whatever you give, \$1 or \$10,000, your gift is important to us and our guests. In fact, in 2009 over two-thirds of our individual donors gave gifts of \$200 or less, it all matters.

We have a good number of people on our mailing list who may not have given before. What if each just gave \$5 per month? What if many of you who have given before decide to give an extra \$1 or \$100 per month? Think what a difference we could make in the commu-

nity and with the guests that we work with! (Giving is as easy as clicking a donate button on our website at <http://www.familypromisebcs.org> or mailing a contribution to P.O. Box 11232, College Station, TX 77842-1232.)

Even if you do not have money to give, you have something that's even more valuable...your time. Please consider volunteering with the Day Center or even at your or another congregation if you are not doing so already. Some times the most beneficial gift we can give to others in need is ourselves.

I believe that everyone has a role they can play in this effort. What God has for you to contribute, only you can do. Thus, please pray for direction on what role that is that He would have you play in our network. No matter what it is, there is nothing too great and nothing too small.

Well-Being...by Mark Taplette

All of us want well-being, don't we? While our individual definitions may vary, each of us has some idea of what we would like to achieve when it comes to "well-being."

But, well-being turns out to be multi-dimensional, with its various components interlinked or fractured. It will be hard for me to enjoy emotional well-being if I don't know physical well-being. Spiritual well-being can be a tough road when social connections aren't working for me. If I feel powerless and without hope, it will be very hard for me to

maintain an authentic sense of well-being, at least for long. If I am homeless and totally marginalized, well-being will flee.

As I consider the community and human development work that we attempt here at Family Promise, it becomes very clear to me that our principal industry is the promotion of forces, resources and opportunities that combine to sustain experi-

"Unlocking well-being in individuals and in communities is our work."

ences of personal and community well-being.

When we stand with the homeless with true respect in order to discover new ways to satisfy and eliminate homelessness, we create well-being. When we introduce our neighbors to healing resources leveraged in to the community through our advocacy and resource brokering, we deliver well-being. As we organize and train and listen to our guests who battle poverty, we witness the birth of collective well-being and a new found sense of dignity and power.

Thank you!!!

To the A&M students and the Holy Cross Lutheran Youth for repainting the Day Center!!





**Thanks for all you do
and keep looking for
coming events and op-
portunities for ministry!!**

Family Promise of Bryan-College Station is an area-wide, volunteer-based nonprofit organization that supports families by providing shelter, meals, and support services to homeless families. The program is affiliated with the nation-wide Family Promise in Summit, New Jersey. www.familypromise.org

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**A community response for Homeless
Families**

Board of Trustees

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- Alton Walton**



Funding Update

2010 BUDGET

INCOME

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Club 274 | \$25,000 |
| Grants | 14,500 |
| Contributions | 36,000 |
| Fundraising | <u>35,000</u> |
| | \$110,500 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Personnel | \$55,160 |
| Program | 11,000 |
| Facility | 27,540 |
| Operations | 14,100 |
| Contingency | <u>2,700</u> |
| | \$110,500 |

2009 GRANTS RECEIVED

- \$10,000 Community Development
Block Grant for Case Management**
- \$4,000 Project Hope BISD
Technology Grant**
- \$3,000 College Station Rotary
Club**

FAMILY PROMISE GOALS

- *Provide a safe environment where families can stay together*
- *Provide the assistance they need to become self-sufficient*