



FAMILY PROMISE
BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION

Hospitality

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

APRIL, 2009

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Family Promise has served 23 people since open (6 families)
- 4 families have exited the program, all 4 were employed at the time of exit
- Recent Eagle article highlighting FPBCS 4/5/2009
- FPBCS will be featured at the Jefferson Award ceremony for Debbie Eller's (FUMC Bryan) outstanding volunteer service!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From Aimee's Desk 2

Community Partnerships 2

Serving families together 3

Thank you 3

Partnerships continued 4

Family Promise "Angels"

"There are angels walking around in this program," said a guest as he sat in his exit interview, proclaiming that he was the beneficiary of good works and good hearts. His experience is one that he is proud to share with others.

He and his family became homeless after a series of unfortunate events that occurred too closely together—job loss, car breaking down, and then a broken arm when he was hit by a truck while riding a bike to his newly found job. All this happened in a period of less than two months. Plans falling through for staying with relatives led the family to visit Twin

City Mission's The Bridge, who quickly referred the family to our program. That day, they decided that they would see what they could accomplish in the Family Promise program.



And accomplish they did! He found a well-paying position after about two weeks of searching. He walked into an agency with his fresh interview clothes, impressive resume and demeanor, and asked if they were

hiring. He and his wife followed the guidelines and saved the required 50% of their income.

After only forty-five days, they are in their own two bedroom apartment comfortably furnished with donated furniture and supplies. Although he has a new home now, he is grateful that he was able to walk with the "angels" of Family Promise for a short time.

Several Volunteers and pastors have been deeply affected by their interactions with this young family, so what our guest may not realize is that WE were the lucky ones, grateful to have been touched by real angels...

Join Club 274 to make a difference in 2009!

Join us in our goal of reaching 182 members of Club 274 for Year 2009! We are a public charity and receive funds from churches, organizations, and community fundraisers, but the base of our support are contributions from people like you. Our estimated yearly budget is \$100,000. This gives an average cost per day of \$274. This money goes to support the operation of our net-

work and in support of our guests. Costs include rent, utilities and maintenance of our day facility; loan payments, gas and maintenance for our van; insurance; salary and payroll taxes for the director; drug tests and birth certificates; and direct support for our guests such as medicine, personal care items, child care and transportation.

So far in 2009 we have twelve Club 274 members. A realistic

goal for 2009 is 182 members, which would provide for half of our budget for the year. Please join Club 274 now by clicking the Club 274 button on our website or by mailing in a donation to our PO address. This is a cost to you of less than \$1 a day. This support from all of you will make our ministry to our community possible. Club 274 members are acknowledged on our website and in our newsletter.

From Aimee's Desk



Aimee Myers,
Network Director

Since we have been in operation for some time now, I thought it appropriate to review for our readers what we look like as an organization six months after we welcomed our first guests. In this issue, I've provided a snapshot of our most pressing concerns, accomplishments and blessings.

As each of our families has moved through our program we have shared in their joys and concerns and improved our programming and community partnerships to meet a variety of their needs.

One example is the need for parents to have funded child care while they are looking for work. Partnerships with Project Hope and Boys and Girls Club assists with this need for after-school care and enrichment. Another example is the need our families have to quickly find appropriate interview and work attire. We've partnered with one of our local churches to meet this need.

An ongoing concern we have in our first full year of operation is funding. Our Fundraising Committee co-chairs Hank Lawson

and Amanda Childress have big plans for our 2009 budget year and we are actively developing our fundraising projects.

I am proud to say that we are even more excited and passionate about our mission to help families without a home achieve self-sufficiency than our first day of operation! As our minds grow with knowledge and experience, so do our hearts. One of our guests told me we have "angels walking around in this program"! And I truly believe him—where there is a heart (will), there is a way...

"We are all created equal—it's what we do with that, that makes the difference!"

(Quote provided by Bob Palmore)



Matt Fernandez, Volunteer Coordinator—check out his comments on our website under the "How to help" tab.

Community Partnerships

It is widely known that our twin cities are full of generous and concerned citizens and agencies; however, the extent to which agencies are looking out for needy families may not be widely known. In an effort to show sincere appreciation to our partners who assist us in meeting the needs of our families, I chose to highlight a few of them in this issue.

Project Unity—organized in 1995, provides intake, assessment and independent case management to address family medical, educational, employment, housing and nutritional status. Services offered through Project Unity, at eight different locations

throughout the Brazos Valley region are: general case management for families, case management for HIV positive individuals, Safe Harbor supervised visitation center for court-ordered supervised visits of children, Food Pantry 1 X per month, For Kids' Sake Divorce Seminars, and medical and energy assistance case management.

Project Hope—a program out of Bryan ISD, that targets homeless children and their families. The case workers offer support to ensure education success. Support varies from tracking attendance, arranging transportation, providing information and referral, to funding enrichment activi-

ties, school supplies, and clothing needs. The case workers are our liaisons with BISD and ensure that our children get transportation set up to and from the day center. Thus far, three of our families have benefited from Project Hope funds for after-school programs and the Boys and Girls Club.

Boys and Girls Club—provides after school activities and tutoring for school-aged children. Staff have personally assisted one of our children by purchasing before game meals and arranging for transportation back to church after games.

Thank you Partners!

The Bridge and Family Promise, serving families together

Many of you may know that Twin City's shelter, The Bridge, will be moving to a bigger and better location in June 2009. In this new location, there will be seven private rooms for families. Twin City and I have both been asked in light of this change, what the differences between our services to families will be. What follows is a brief comparison of services offered to our families:

Shelter structure

FPBCS—overnight shelter at

local congregations, private rooms for sleeping, public gathering and eating room. Showering facilities, washers and dryers, phones, computers are available at the day center for use during day-time hours. Volunteers fellowship with and provide emotional support to guests, serve three meals per day, lead activities for children, and provide overnight supervision.

Bridge—in the new shelter, there will be private rooms in a wing separate from the men and

women's units. Three meals per day are offered at the Community cafe. Desk Monitors provide overnight supervision while case managers and staff provide support during day-time hours.

Program involvement

FPBCS—requires high program involvement. Director checks in with guests daily regarding goal achievement and overcoming barriers. Guests are required to make three daily employment contacts and save 50% of their income. Cont. Pg. 4

THANKS!

Businesses and

Organizations

Atmos Energy

New Club 274

Mr. and Mrs. Darren

Hromas

Doug and Linda Snyder

Rachel Ward

Hank and Liz Lawson

Ken and Diane Martin

Ann and Jerry Park

John and Naomi Fackler

Carlton Ruch

Reverend Sue Beall

Peggy Allum

Don and Becky Russell

(BV Community Service Center)

Family Promise 2009 Funding Update

Budget goals

Y 09 \$100,000

Q 1 \$25,000

Y 09 Club 274 **182 members**

Results as of 3/31/2009

Q1 Results

\$10,268 Cook-off

\$ 4,035 Org. Donations

\$ 3,161 Club 274

\$17,464 (deficit \$7,536)

Y 09 Club 274 **12 new members**

Clothing and Interview Skills Programs

Our volunteers become emotionally involved in the lives of our guests and often what comes out of that is creative thinking and out of the box programming. Anne Boyle, a member of Christ United Methodist Church, and an active day center volunteer and host site volunteer decided she wanted to help our families meet their need for interview and work attire. After initial discussions with

the Director of Family Promise and other volunteers and guests, she implemented an individually-focused, needs based program to assist families. Volunteers spend the day with a guest shopping for interview clothing that is appropriate for the type of position they are applying for. After the purchase of the clothing, the guest is able to participate in a mock interview. Knowledgeable volun-

teers ask the interview questions in a formal manner, just as an interview would occur and then provide the guest with feedback. The individual attention from this program provides the clothing, skills, and confidence guests need to ace their interviews and find employment quickly. Thank you, Anne, for giving of your time and treasure!



Family Promise Bryan-College Station

1806 Wilde Oak Circle
Bryan, Tx
P.O. Box 11232
College Station, Tx 77842-1232
Phone: 979-268-4309
E-mail: familypromisebcs@gmail.com

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 based in Summit, New Jersey.
www.familypromise.org

Board of Trustees

Marilyn Egger, President
Linda Snyder, Vice-President
Amanda Childress, Secretary
Lewis Ford, Treasurer
Hank Lawson
Ken Fogle
Judge Jim Locke
Rodney McGlothlin
Mari Ward

A Community Response for Homeless Families



Serving families together, continued from pg. 3

Financial assistance includes but is not limited to—child care funding, bus tickets, purchase of legal documents, gas for car. Personal needs are also taken care of—toiletries, over the counter medicines. FP guests receive donated furniture and household items to ensure their home is move-in ready.

Bridge—case managers help all clients develop service plans and monitor progress. There is no financial assistance for legal documents or gas, but at times funds for child care and bus tickets exist. Bridge clients may be eligible for the transitional housing program and/or funding of security deposits for housing. Clients are

also provided with hygiene items and have access to The Community Closet for furniture, clothing and household items.



Toys in play room help young FPBCS guests feel at home

Population

FPBCS— for families who do not have a home of their own, includes living in motels and with

other families. Due to the structure of the shelter program, FP cannot serve those with severe mental health, drug and alcohol issues, or felonies.

Bridge—for families who are “on the streets” or have no roof over their heads. The Bridge *can* serve people with mental health, drug and alcohol issues, and felonies.

Summary

In general, FPBCS is a good option for families with young children who require extra assistance to overcome employment and housing barriers. The Bridge is a good option for families who do not want intensive involvement from the program and prefer more anonymity.