

January



Building communities, strengthening lives.

Volume 5 Issue 1
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Thank you, Donors

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



Director's Corner By: Nicole Rosser

To start off the new year with a bang we had another family transition into permanent housing. The Thorpe family (a family of 4) is excited to have their own home. Jaquetta says that coming into the program was the best decision she could have made because it helped her to get on her feet. She says, "It definitely was not easy, but it was worth it!"



not begin to express our gratitude to all the agencies, groups, and individuals that took the time to adopt our families. Whether it was a box of groceries, a warm Thanksgiving meal, or Christmas gifts, hearts were touched at a time that can be extremely difficult for families.



November and December was a huge success; "The Season of Giving"! There were a lot of happy children (and adults too). We can-



Director's Corner continued:**More pictures of your Christmas generosity!**

We now have a new television at the Day Center. Thank you Sear Retiree Club! "The gift that keeps on giving" and will be a blessing to many families in the future.

A Special Thank You goes out to the Warner Robins Church of the Nazarene for hosting our families during Christmas Week! We certainly understand that this takes some extra efforts and volunteers taking time away from their own families to serve others.

We would also like to say Thank You to Trinity United Methodist for hosting our families one extra day due to the holidays falling on a Sunday. This allowed our families to rest without having to move on the holiday.

God
BLESS
you



Merry Christmas, Vivian!

Vivian Stilley, Vice President of FPGHC, was asked by her son, "What do you want for Christmas, Mom?" As a founding board member and regular overnight host volunteer she quickly answered, "A rollaway bed for Family Promise." Her son generously gave not only one but two roll-away beds!



Guest Sierra, who helped with the unpacking process, said, "What a blessing to have new beds!" Another guest added, "It is a blessing to know people think of us and our needs."

Rollaway Bed Goal

GOAL: \$1,600

\$800.

Our excellent, sturdy rollaway beds receive a lot of wear and tear moving each week. We want to keep our guests and overnight hosts sleeping well. Our goal is to replace 4 bed frames and 6 mattresses. Our total need is \$1,600. We are almost half way to our goal with \$750 donated thus far.

If you would consider helping us meet our goal please mark your donation, "For Roll-away Bed Replacement Fund". We will keep our goal marker in the newsletter until we meet our goal. Thank you !



Have you ever visited the National Family Promise website? Visit it to read some great stories and to watch video of the amazing work done across our nation!

www.familypromise.org



Paying it Forward

Family Promise has been blessed with the donation of another vehicle to help our families make progress toward leaving homelessness to become self-sufficient. Mr. Spencer chose Family Promise in order to help another family. Having experienced several years living off and on in his car, he knows the challenges homelessness presents. After thirteen years in the military with multiple home and combat assignments, post deployment issues began

to emerge.....difficulty finding employment, family issues, adjustment challenges. Finding himself without a job and home and only sporadic income he began living in his car while seeking to establish himself.

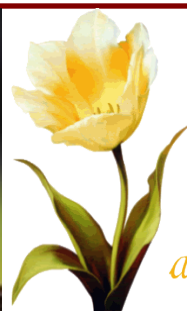
Mr. Spencer described several difficult choices – a sandwich vs gas for a job interview; to stay warm - an overnight stay to be able to bathe vs payment for his car license renewal. He was then blessed to meet a former employer who took him to a local church food pantry, arranged a short term place to stay, a job interview, and a connection with Veterans Of America which offers services for homeless veterans. He was taken to Goodwill for interview clothes and soon found himself on the return to stability. He says “it is expensive to be poor....you have no address to apply for services, you lose your credit score, so even after landing a good job, moving forward is a challenge”. “Something as simple as 10 cents to make a copy of my DD214 eluded me.....where do you look for 10 cents or a quarter when you are at the library and on foot because you have no gas?” He said he could not have survived without help...“it is shameful and you do not want people to pass judgment.”

A year into stability and ready for a newer car, Mr. Spencer began searching for a place to donate his “home” car where he could “pay it forward” for all the help he received in getting back on his feet. He values what the faith community offered him and he liked what he saw in the description of the Family Promise program on our website. He was impressed that a simple call brought everything together quickly to make the donation. He appreciates that the Family Promise program has volunteers who make the process easy as well as volunteers to make his car “family ready” for a new owner. Mr. Spencer shared his story in hopes others will want to “pay it forward” as well.



When the world says,
"Give up!",
Hope whispers,
"Try it one more time."

— Unknown



*You
are
a blessing !*

**"The greatest
accomplishment is
not in never falling,
but in rising again
after you fall. "**

— Vince Lombardi



An Interview with a Family Promise Host Couple

Meet Hugh and Becky Davis, overnight hosts for Family Promise for the past 3 ½ years. The Davis's moved to Warner Robins after retirement (2002 & 2009) to assist with caring for twin grandchildren, born prematurely with medical challenges. In their former community they had been part of a group attempting to establish Family Promise, so they were excited to see it developing in Houston County. They supported Houston's start up efforts here and, when hosting began, they were willing to sign on as overnight hosts. They enjoy being grandparents and think the young Family Promise



guests may see these "elders" as "grandparents", "easy to talk to" and fun to play with. At the same time, the children/youth have been respectful and not stressful; 'Grandpa Hugh' even says he has more stress when they keep their own grandchildren overnight as the parents aren't there to call on. Some of the things they like about overnight hosting: It is not too much work, things are well organize, they have good mattresses to sleep on, the dinner hosts have always provided enough for them to sample some good food and tasty dessert, they have experienced some meaningful conversations when guests [young and adult] drop back in after supper to just talk, they have never had an overnight problem and feel confident a phone call to the coordinator would handle whatever developed, and best of all.....it is a blessing to get to know the families and children.

Thank You Hugh and Becky for sharing the Love of Christ with our Families!

If you would like to serve in this capacity but your church is not yet part of our Network, Please contact us to be part of our "Congregations that are Not a Congregation" program. Nrosser.familypromisega@gmail.com



Wishlist

Some of our current needs:

Mop	Broom
Laundry Detergent	Dish Detergent
Fabric Softener	Large Laundry Baskets
Over the Door Ironing Board	

Thank you for your generous donations!



[Instagram.com/fpoghc](https://www.instagram.com/fpoghc)



nrosser.familypromisega@gmail.com



[Facebook.com/
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Familypromisehoustonco.org

*Keep in touch;
We love hearing from you!*

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**Family Promise of Greater
Houston County, Inc.**

Is a 501(c)(3) non-denominational,
non-profit, 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**

**Kroger Community Rewards
Organization #76557**



Individuals:

Donnie Bagley
Anthony Evans
Thomas Slade
Timothy Yeldon

Hugh and Becky Davis
Arlen Kirchoff
Cavan Woods

Club 247:

Marie and Carlton Driskell
Bud and Pauline Abbott
Dave and Carolyn Schomer

Churches:

Central Baptist
The Vine, Perry
New and Living Way
First Christian, Perry
First Christian, Grace Group
Christ United Methodist
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Dr. Curt & Carolyn Holmes
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