



Building communities, strengthening lives.

*Volume 3 Issue 4
April 2015*

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



**BECAUSE OF YOU,
I HAVE A HOME**

FAMILY PROMISE VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER
WILL BE HELD AT SHIRLEY HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH
ON FRIDAY, MAY 8, STARTING AT 6:00 PM



GOOD FOOD,
GOOD MUSIC,
GOOD FELLOWSHIP,
ALL
FREE, FREE, FREE
TO OUR
FAITHFUL
VOLUNTEERS

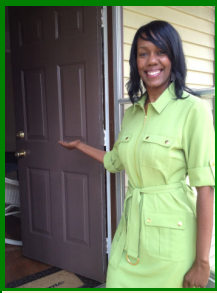
CALL REBECCA LASHLEY AT (478) 808-1325 OR
EMAIL WRACC@BELLSOUTH.NET BY 5 MAY FOR RESERVATIONS

BOUQUET OF
BLESSINGS

Volunteers, we are looking forward to honoring you at this Appreciation Dinner, Friday, May 8th at 6:00 PM. Please be sure to RSVP by May 5th to help us with our planning. Contact Rebecca Lashley at 478-808-1325 or wracc@bellsouth.net. See the RazBytes article for more information. We hope to see you there!

charity **belk**
sale

Belk Charity Day is May 2, 6-10 AM. If you have not previously participated in this event we encourage you to come. Your purchase of our \$5 tickets supports FPGHC and you take \$5 off your purchase at Belk, on top of already great sale prices. It's a WIN-WIN! Thanks to all who are helping sell tickets at the Belk store. There are still a few tickets to sell to reach our goal of selling 500. Contact Vivian at vivian.stilley@cox.net or 333-3357 to offer your help or to receive further information.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By: Nicole Fogle

As I did an intake in my office last week, it occurred to me that Family Promise will celebrate its two year anniversary next month. I started to reminisce about all the families that have come through our program. Since our doors opened in May of 2013 we have served 25 adults and 45 children. Each family has been so different; facing their own unique challenges on the road to stable housing. Everyone involved in the network has truly learned the importance of flexibility—Board Members, Coordinators, Volunteers, Staff, Family Promise Adults, and Children. We have all experienced so much in our Network—our guests have given birth, come into the program with newborns, we have seen children take their first steps, some guests had children pass away while in the program, and others have experienced other family tragedies. We have seen the strength of the human spirit in the face of difficulty.

During these two years we have served 22 families with wonderful results:

15 moved on to permanent housing

4 needed to move into transitional housing before securing permanent housing

3 are currently in the program

All of our families have been successful and accomplished huge goals within 90 days.

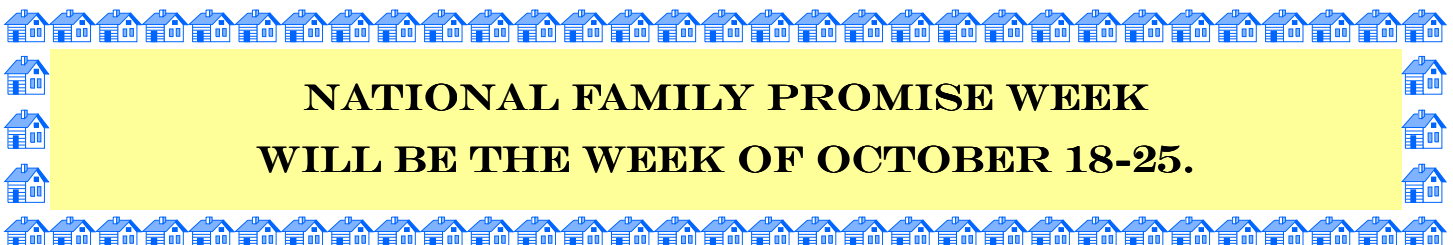


Congrats!!!

A Big congratulations is due to Claressa! She moved into her apartment this month. Claressa came to Family Promise just before Christmas with only a few outfits for herself and her 10 month old daughter; doubting that she would be able to accomplish her goals in such a short period of time. During her time in the program, Claressa became employed, obtained her driver's license, saved over \$1,000, and had a car donated to her. This 22 year old has certainly grown while in the program. We are all very proud of you Claressa! Keep striving!



Photos from Claressa's new home



NATIONAL FAMILY PROMISE WEEK
WILL BE THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 18-25.



**Written by Rev. Andy Cook
Senior Pastor, Shirley Hills Baptist Church**

It's surprising, really, how seldom we find ourselves doing something Jesus actually asked us to do.

Don't get me wrong ... church life is great! I've been in church from Day One. I've been the pastor of a great church in Warner Robins for nearly 18 years. But truthfully? It's not that

often that we get around to doing the simple things Jesus asked us to do.

Do you remember the list from Matthew 25? Jesus asked us to feed the hungry, satisfy those who were thirsty, give shelter to strangers, give clothes to the naked, to minister to the sick and to visit those in prison.

This is the blessing of Family Promise. For at least one week, once a quarter, some of our church members get some hands-on experience in doing some things Jesus asked us to do. This is good for our guests, of course, but it's also good for our churches, and the pastors who lead them.

We're proud to be a part of this great ministry. May God be glorified by it!



Rev. Andy Cook

Editor's note: Shirley Hills Baptist Volunteers just completed a host week, April 12-19, and they will host the upcoming Volunteer Appreciation Banquet. Thank you SHB for your example of service!

DID YOU KNOW?

This updated information was recently received from the Houston County Board of Education:



"The Houston County Board of Education identified 233 homeless students enrolled in the school system at the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year. Several of these children were living in vehicles, some were "camping out" and many were living in multiple family households. By the end of that academic year, the number had grown to 327. In November, 2014, the BOE reported 436 homeless children in the system this school year and predicted that number will grow to 450 by the end of the year."

Would you consider serving in one of these areas?



- ♦ Creating a Scrapbook—this would involve taking news articles, photos, and other information about FPGHC and documenting activities
- ♦ Grant Writer—Finding and obtaining grants is an important part of obtaining financial support

If you can serve contact Carolyn Schomer at 922-2965 or schomerc@gmail.com

Never underestimate the power of a kind word or deed.

RazBytes—Bite-size Nuggets from the President

By: Dave Razo



- The blessings continue! Over the past two weeks we have been told that more furniture and appliance donations are on their way. As many of you know, we expect our guests to transition into a “self-sustainable” living environment within 90 days of entering the program. Oftentimes they need some furniture and appliances to help them get started—over the past two weeks we have commitments for three dryers and a washer—**you are all so awesome!**
- We initiated a **VAN DRIVE** (fund drive) over the past few weeks and again I have had the privilege to witness **amazing generosity**. As you know, our van is suffering even after frequent visits to our “Van Doctor,” Jack at Emmett Head Auto. An updated VAN is our most important priority. If you would like to donate to the purchase of a van, write “VAN DRIVE” as a memo on your check—Thanks!
- Just a reminder about our upcoming events:
 - **2 May--Belk Charity Days**—contact Vivian Stilley if you need tickets or can help sell tickets.
 - **8 May—Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Shirley Hills Baptist Church at 6:00 pm.** This is our opportunity to THANK YOU to all our faithful volunteers—they are clearly a **Bouquet of Blessings!** We will have great music performed by Rowland Everett Fall and the LightWord Band, good fellowship, and great food by Rosetta. We will follow all this with a guest speaker and some well deserving awards. **If you are one of our many volunteers, contact Rebecca and reserve your seats. RSVP early for this one—you do not want to miss it and we had a full house at our first banquet!**
 - Our summers are precious to us, and we ask you to consider Family Promise as a fund raiser for Youth Car Washes, your church VBS, or getting involved with Family Promise as a mission.
 - **CAR CITY is coming in September** – we are aiming for a bit warmer time this year and we are looking forward to even more fun! Plan on joining us for an evening under the stars as we “experience homelessness” for one night and raise a few funds so that we can continue this needed mission.

**FAMILY PROMISE OF
GREATER HOUSTON COUNTY**

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

Is a non-profit 501c3 non-denominational 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***

Donate online:

<https://www.gagivesday.org>
Type "Family Promise of Greater
Houston County" in the search box



@fphoco

Thank You

**Recent Donations have
been received from:**

Sherin Hinnant
Dave & Lessia Razo
Cavan & Tina Woods
James & Vicki Shealy
Kroger Community Rewards
Pilot Club of Warner Robins
Westminster Presbyterian Church
BetrOptions Investment Group, LP
Krista Kortum - Rx for Homelessness
First Christian Church - Grace Group
Janet & Ronnie Foskey, Club 247 Members
Dave & Carolyn Schomer, Club 247 Members
Brian & Tonya Hipps - in memory of Ruth Kukshtel

THANK YOU GIRL SCOUT TROOP 60185!

In January we told you about these Girl Scouts from Lake Joy Elementary. They took the proceeds from their cookie sales and purchased gift cards for our guests as well as donating some yummy Girl Scout cookies for them to enjoy.

WISH LIST

DVD Player
Liquid Hand Soap
Hand held Hair Blow Dryer

Size 1 diapers
Size 4 diapers
Socks for boys ages 8-10
Size 2T/3T Pull-ups for boys

Would you consider providing
an in-kind gift of one of the
items listed above?
Thank you!

**Our Mission is to
mobilize congregations
and partner with social
service agencies in order
to help families obtain
independent, self-
sustainable living.**

**Ending Homelessness
One Family at a Time!**

<https://www.facebook.com/FamilyPromiseHoustonCounty>