Kat Lilley Joins National Board

The name Kat Lilley sounds familiar, maybe it’s because you’ve read of her advocacy efforts on behalf of families in crisis through her work at Family Promise of Greater Denver.

Family Promise is pleased to welcome Ms. Lilley to the Board of Trustees. Her insight and expertise make hers a valuable voice as Family Promise moves into its 31st year fighting family homelessness.

Ms. Lilley values Family Promise’s holistic approach to battling homelessness. “Family Promise looks at what causes a homeless situation and what barriers must be overcome to make sure families have a solid foundation upon which to build their futures,” she says.

In this issue, you’ll read about Family Promise’s new Next Generation Committee, a group of millennials (young adults born between 1981 and 1996) who are advising us and sharing insights into an increasingly influential generation. We’re excited about the diverse perspectives and potential this group brings.

Intentionally engaging future generations in our growth may be a new approach, but Family Promise has always focused on “the next generation” — children and the adults born between 1981 and 1996 who will be the last generation to experience homelessness. We have a home? "the next generation" — children and the adults born between 1981 and 1996 who will be the last generation to experience homelessness.

Two troops recently established in New Jersey are run by Family Promise Affiliates in Essex and Union Counties. Girls in the troops, led by staffers, scout moms, and community volunteers, are currently served by or have graduated from Family Promise’s emergency shelter program.

Girls Battling Homelessness Find a Home in Family Promise Girl Scout Troops

Not long ago, eight-year-old Emma was worried about where she and her family would sleep at night. After losing their home, they spent weeks living out of a motel.

But since finding Family Promise, Emma and her family are in their own home, and Emma’s learning valuable skills, making friends, and anticipating sleeping under the stars at summer camp — all because of Family Promise’s new Girl Scout troops.

Family Promise empowers low-income families to sustainable independence with services and supports that include access to community programs like Girl Scouts. But Girl Scout troops are formed based on where members reside. What if a girl doesn’t have a home? Two years ago, a Girl Scouts employee living in a New York City shelter decided to create a troop for girls there. Troop 6000 was created to serve girls in the NYC shelter system.

News From Family Promise

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Family Promise continues to look ahead. The face of homelessness has changed over the past three decades — a steadily rising cost of living and wages that don’t keep pace make affordable housing beyond reach for a growing percentage of the population — and we’re working harder than ever to change the future for families in need.

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We continue to partner, innovate, and invest to level the playing field for children in our programs. We recently worked

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They say “a picture’s worth a thousand words,” but stories have the power to create change. Stories are what Family Promise is built upon, and StoryCorps®, a public organization that shares and preserves the stories of people around the country, has partnered with Family Promise to give a voice to families’ experiences with homelessness.

Nicknamed “America’s oral history project,” Brooklyn-based StoryCorps has taped more than 60,000 interviews involving over 100,000 participants from all backgrounds and walks of life. Pairs of individuals — family, friends, colleagues — record interviews with one another that are archived at the American Folk Life Center at the Library of Congress.

As the StoryCorps Mobile Tour makes its way across the U.S. for the 14th consecutive year, Family Promise Affiliates in many regions are sharing their stories. The tour will stop in ten cities, recording up to 150 interviews per stop, including many from Family Promise.

“StoryCorps is intentional in our community partnerships,” says Fernanda Espinosa, StoryCorps’ Associate Manager of Mobile Tour Partnerships. “We learn what’s going on in communities and invite StoryCorps features some stories on their website and offers an online archive where tens of thousands of interviews can be accessed. Stay tuned — Family Promise stories will be hitting the airwaves in the months ahead! Go to https://storycorps.org/listen and discover the voices of America.

We’re incredibly active and vocal,” he says. Sun believes young people are aware of the affordable housing crisis and that Family Promise’s mission resonates with them, which could translate to an investment in the issue of family homelessness if approached the right way.

“I’m excited to serve on the NextGen Committee and help broaden Family Promise’s reach, volunteer base, and impact.”

It was through Boy Scouts that Sun first volunteered in his community, and he says that helped establish his philanthropic mindset. A past city councilman in Summit, NJ, he now volunteers with an urban research and advocacy organization in the New York Tri-state area.

Sun suspects today’s increasingly digital society impacts how younger people approach philanthropy, but he doesn’t doubt the social commitment of his generation.

“Family Promise’s reach, volunteer base, and impact,” Sun says.

Why I Give DONOR SPOTLIGHT: RICHARD SUN

Family Promise joins the 8 percent of charities that have received a 4-star rating by Charity Navigator for 6 or more consecutive years, signifying strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.

Family Promise of Grays Harbor, WA
Family Promise of Lehigh Valley, PA
Family Promise of Moore County, NJ

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST AFFILIATES!

Families need you
Use your smartphone to scan this code and help families in need, or go to: www.familypromise.org/donate

FAMILIES NEED YOU

Philanthropists of the Future

Millenials (born 1981–1996) have surpassed baby boomers as the largest adult generation. Often characterized as social and passionate about values, involving them in philanthropy is vital to the future of the nonprofit world. Recognizing the potential impact younger generations can have in the battle against family homelessness, Family Promise has formed the Next Generation Committee.

Seven accomplished young women and men representing diverse backgrounds and experiences will meet quarterly to brainstorm and devise strategies to engage younger audiences with Family Promise.

Committee member Nora Ali, a youth mentor and attorney, looks forward to the task. “Millenials want creative, enduring ways to give back,” she says, adding, “I think the committee’s efforts will help sustain Family Promise and make its work even more meaningful.”