

Family Promise Adds to National Board



Family Promise welcomes new member **Tim Gamory** to its national board of trustees. Gamory is CEO of BronxExchange, an organization that connects Bronx institutions and nonprofits with local businesses to promote a sustainable and equitable

local economy. Gamory's experience also includes leadership roles at Charity Navigator and Teach For America.

"As the youngest in a family of six kids who lived in New York City's public housing, I know firsthand how critical the basic right of stable affordable housing is to giving children the opportunity to reach their fullest potential," says Gamory. "I am both honored and excited to join the board of Family Promise because the organization is dedicated to addressing not only the immediate needs of vulnerable families across the country but also working to understand and address the root causes of homelessness."

FAMILY PROMISE

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FAMILY PROMISE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Family Promise is a national nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization addressing the crisis of family homelessness in the U.S. Through a comprehensive set of solutions involving prevention, shelter, and stabilization, Family Promise empowers families experiencing or at risk of homelessness to reclaim and maintain their independence.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

There are many ways to describe what we do at Family Promise: serve families experiencing homelessness, prevent evictions, address housing instability, mobilize volunteers, help families build skills and assets to maintain independence.

But homelessness is just a symptom; Family Promise is an anti-poverty organization. Our focus is getting children out of poverty.

In this country, 12 million children - or one in six - live below the poverty line, which was set in the 1960s and hasn't evolved to address the stresses on today's low-income families. Shockingly, one in 25 children lives at half the poverty line or lower, which means the annual income for a family of three is less than \$12,000.

This is why Family Promise has developed a strategic plan to change the future for one million children by the end of the decade. We're fighting to reduce and eventually end family homelessness, but ultimately, the battle is with poverty.

We're increasing awareness, developing new corporate and nonprofit partnerships, and strengthening our Affiliates on a local level. We *must* win this battle—our nation's future literally depends on it.

Very best regards,

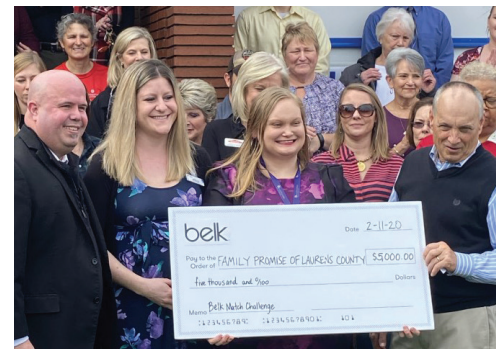
Claas Ehlers

Highlighting our achievements in the fight against family homelessness

Family Promise & Belk: Better Together

The battle against family homelessness can't be fought alone. That's why Family Promise values the partnerships it has developed with corporations and organizations around the country. One such collaboration that's making a tremendous impact for families in crisis is a partnership with Belk, the North Carolina-based department store chain.

A \$1 million partnership with Family Promise, developed as part of the retailer's community outreach program *Project Hometown*, supports existing Affiliates and



Support for Family Promise from Belk was matched by local donations.

Belk presented the Affiliate with a check for \$5,000, which was matched by local donations.

"Belk supports our local communities and organizations, just like Family Promise."

funds the development of ten more within its 16-state footprint in communities across the South.

The first such Affiliate, Family Promise of Laurens County (SC) opened in February.

"We're very excited to partner with Family Promise," says Michael Matheny, Belk store manager. "This donation was done through *Project Hometown*. It's an initiative through

Belk that supports our local communities and organizations, just like Family Promise."

The partnership supports more than 50 Affiliates in the Southeast, which serve tens of thousands of children and families.



Representatives from Family Promise's newest Affiliate and Belk celebrated the opportunity to serve local families in Laurens County, SC.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST AFFILIATES!

Laurens County, SC
Monroe County, WI
Roane County, TN

Family Promise Giving Day Spring 2020

Family Promise's first **Giving Day** was so successful (we raised more than half a million dollars for families in need), we're planning a second event later this spring!

Stay tuned for emails or check our website www.familypromise.org for updates about our second Giving Day.

WE'RE HOME!

Family Promise is pleased to announce that our national headquarters will remain at 71 Summit Avenue, Summit, NJ, thanks to the generosity of the Hugin Family Foundation. Feel free to stop in and say hello!

Shaping the Future with Storytelling

Stories have power: the power to spread knowledge, evoke empathy, create change. One Family Promise family managed to do all that and more when they shared their journey from homelessness to independence in an interview aired on National Public Radio and made possible by Family Promise's partnership with StoryCorps™, a public service organization that shares and preserves the stories of Americans.



Having faced homelessness, mother and daughter agree that when everything's taken away from you, what's left is what really matters.

Family Promise graduate Ashley was barely 16 when she and her mom, Sandy, lost their home and moved into a motel. For two years they struggled with homelessness, spending nights in motels, with friends, even "camping" in a state park. With a weekly grocery budget of \$10, the pair often went hungry and became regulars at wholesale warehouses where they turned free food samples into meals.

When they entered the shelter program at Family Promise of Collin County, TX, Sandy began to save money and Ashley finished high school.

"School was rough," Ashley recalls. "My parents were divorced. I was homeless. Everything just came crashing down. I wanted to die."

That was more than a decade ago. Ashley has graduated from college, and Sandy now serves on the board of the Collin County Affiliate. Mother and daughter agree the experience was challenging but also illuminating.

"When everything's taken away from you, what you're left with is what really matters," Sandy says.

"The people that love us the most," adds Ashley.

To hear Sandy and Ashley's story in their own words, follow this link to NPR's website: <https://familypromise.org/ashley-story-corps>.

StoryCorps features stories from around the country on their website and offers an online archive where tens of thousands of interviews can be accessed. You can discover StoryCorps' Voices of America at <https://storycorps.org/listen>.

Why I Give OUTGOING BOARD OF TRUSTEE CHAIR ACKNOWLEDGED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

Angela Schroeder was first drawn to Family Promise nearly ten years ago because the organization placed great value on family, just as she did. When the Summit, NJ, mother of six met Family Promise founder Karen Olson and learned the scope of the organization's work in the fight against family homelessness, she had to help.



"Charitable work is important to us. It's nice to see our children carry on in that capacity," says Schroeder, who, with husband Jeff, have instilled in their children the value of serving others.

Schroeder joined the board and was later elected secretary, then vice chair, and finally chair. She's especially proud of the board's transformation into a truly national group that includes global business leaders, entrepreneurs, and nonprofit experts. Schroeder led the organization with bold vision and determination, initiating an

impactful strategic plan, overseeing unprecedented growth, facilitating new and meaningful conversations around the issue of family homelessness, and helping to develop innovative advancements to address the crisis. During her

tenure, the organization served more than 100,000 children and established major national partnerships with organizations like Belk department stores, Sesame Street in Communities, and Girl Scouts of the USA.

"The idea of helping a family in crisis resonates with me as a mother," says Schroeder, who just completed her three-year term as chair. "Family Promise welcomes families in their darkest hour, and it's incredibly powerful to offer ongoing support as they restart their lives."

Now a member of the emeritus board, Schroeder will continue to be an ambassador for the organization and its mission.

Incoming Chair Leah Griffith appreciates the progress made under Schroeder's leadership and plans to build on that momentum.

"The board is extremely grateful for Angela's leadership. Her legacy will impact the lives of the children Family Promise has yet to serve," says Griffith. "I look forward to working with the talented board and staff to identify solutions and partners to address this crisis."

Family Promise CEO Presents Keynote at New York Fed

In February, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, in partnership with Family Promise and the Instituto del Desarrollo de la Juventud (Youth Development Institute, or IDJ) of Puerto Rico, hosted a panel on youth poverty in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Family Promise CEO Claas Ehlers gave the keynote address, shining a light on the extent of youth poverty in the U.S. Ehlers noted that 12 million children live below today's federal poverty line of \$21,000 annually (for a parent and two children), adding that the number doesn't reflect the modern obstacles vulnerable families face. He gave examples of the insidious impact of poverty: a homeless student denied entry to SAT testing for lack of an address;

a mom forced to leave her job because she earned too much to receive subsidized childcare, with devastating outcomes; and the story of Deamonte Driver, a child who died from a toothache because of red tape and no access to healthcare.

The panel discussion addressed the economic consequences of the high child poverty rate in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and examined the intersection between child poverty and other policy areas like tax incentives, economic and workforce programs, and human capital development. It also included the national impact of child poverty on health and long-term consequences.

The event brought together leaders from across the nonprofit, community

development, and health sectors, including Family Promise; IDJ; Health Policy and Management and Pediatrics, Columbia University; and the Department of Human Services, U.S. Virgin Islands.



"There are profound consequences for children who live in poverty, but we have the tools to reduce child poverty. The fact that the NY Fed has made this a priority is an important step," says Ehlers.

For updates on Family Promise, family homelessness, and COVID-19 or to learn how you can help families affected by this public health crisis, please visit our website:

www.familypromise.org