

Highlighting our achievements in the fight against family homelessness



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

This year's conference theme was "Mission Possible," a play on our host city of San Antonio. It also encapsulates our beliefs here at Family Promise.

We've seen incredible growth over the past decade. We've added Affiliates, but more significantly, we've increased capacity. Last year, we served more than 100,000 family members. *That's mission possible.*

But it's not mission *accomplished*. The Department of Education estimates one in 19 children will experience homelessness by age six – approximately one child in every kindergarten class.

Mission *possible* means taking bold new steps to increase our impact, guided by our strategic plan and aspiration to change the future for one million children by 2030. This includes new programs in areas like shelter diversion and workforce development; increased technical support and funding streams for Affiliates; tools like online training to engage the wider community; and strategic national nonprofit and corporate partnerships.

We're excited to turn mission *possible* into mission *accomplished* by 2030. Thank you for helping us get there.

Very best regards,

Claas Ehlers

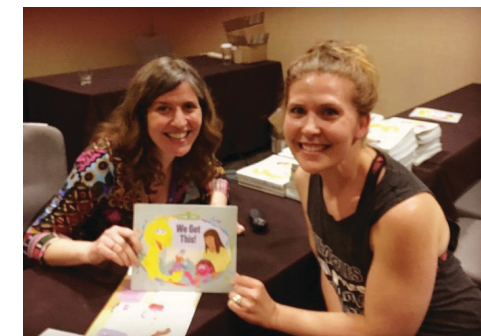
Family Promise Looks to the Future

Visitors to the Alamo may have seen stars in April, but not simply because Texas is the Lone Star State. For three days, Family Promise's star shined as 362 staff, board members, graduates, and volunteers gathered in San Antonio for the 16th national conference, appropriately themed "Mission Possible." Just steps from the renowned mission, attendees addressed the issues surrounding family homelessness that plague our nation nearly 200 years since the Alamo fell.

CEO Claas Ehlers introduced Family Promise's strategic vision and goal to change the future for one million children by 2030.

"Not only do we have to solve the problems of today, we have to solve the problems of tomorrow, too," he announced.

Ehlers discussed plans to *expand* programming, *ensure* excellence, *engage* stakeholders, and *elevate* impact. He introduced Family Promise's new logo, the familiar star whose points represent the organization's five fundamental principles—prevention, shelter, stabilization, community, and promise.



Author Kama Einhorn signs her new children's book about a young girl's experience with homelessness, written for Sesame Street and based on insights from an advisory committee that includes Family Promise.



Rev. Dr. Barber II says poverty is a "national emergency."

Family Promise staff and corporate and nonprofit partners like Woodforest National Bank, StoryCorps®, and Sesame Workshop™ ran workshops addressing the many sides of family homelessness, as well as professional development.

Events concluded with a rousing speech by minister and political activist The Reverend Dr. William Barber II who spoke of the need to raise awareness of poverty and homelessness and demand action to correct it.

"More people die from poverty than from heart attacks, strokes, or cancer every year," said Barber. "This issue needs to be at the center of our political debate."

The overarching theme of Family Promise's expanding role as the national leader addressing the issue of family homelessness resonated throughout the conference. As Ehlers noted, "What's the point of a national organization if we can't increase impact?"

OUR NEWEST AFFILIATES!

Barry County, MI Clark County, WA
Tualatin Valley, OR

Family Promise Adds to National Board

Joshua Barer is managing partner at Barer & Son Capital, a New York-based asset management firm. Barer holds degrees from Drew University and Rutgers University and serves on the boards at several other nonprofits whose work centers around education and economic development.

"I'm excited to join the Family Promise board and community," says Barer. "The mission of Family Promise is personally important to me, and I continue to be impressed by its scope and impact."

Andrew Pierce is president of Prophet, a brand and marketing consultancy, and sits on the boards of Prophet and Zylinc, a Danish software company. Of his involvement in Family Promise, Pierce says, "I was immediately inspired by the passion, commitment, and focus of the Family Promise leadership team and Affiliates."

In addition, Board member **Leah Griffith** has been elected Secretary.

FAMILY PROMISE

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FAMILY PROMISE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Kevin Barrett, *Vice Chair*
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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.

Upcoming Events

LINKEDIN TIPS & HEADSHOTS: A NETWORKING EVENT

June 12, 5–8 p.m. \$35–\$75 (tiered pricing)

The Co-Co, 115 Summit Avenue, Summit, NJ

Learn how to optimize your LinkedIn profile and update your head shot while networking with area professionals. Light food and beverages.

Register at www.familypromise.org and select “Events”

NEW JERSEY STATE TRIATHLON

July 20

Mercer County Park, West Windsor, NJ

Donate, race, or cheer on the Family Promise team as they run/bike/swim to raise money for families battling homelessness!

Support the team: www.familypromise.org and select “Events”

Race info: www.cgiracing.com and select “NEW JERSEY STATE TRI”

FAMILY FUN DAY

September 28, 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. FREE (rain date: 10/5)

Memorial Field, Summit, NJ

A fun-filled day for the whole family: food trucks, bounce houses, games, and more!

Details at www.familypromise.org and select “Events”

An Ounce of Prevention

The federal government shutdown of 2018 may be remembered for long airport security lines and national park closures, but government employees and their families had much greater worries. People like Kevin*, a furloughed truck driver, were concerned about keeping food on the table and a roof overhead and even risked eviction.

Fortunately, a local Family Promise Affiliate provided rental assistance to keep Kevin



Family Promise’s partnership with HUMI has helped thousands of children and their families avoid homelessness.

and his family in their apartment and case management services to ensure they survived the crisis.

Through a partnership with HUMI (Help Us Move In), a Washington State-based nonprofit that provides funding for homelessness prevention, Family Promise can keep struggling families in their homes. The HUMI two-year challenge grant offers Affiliates \$10,000 for homelessness prevention and rehousing services, which they must then double-match for a total of at least \$30,000 in prevention funds each year. It’s a simple concept with considerable outcomes: children and families stay in their homes and life remains

stable, averting widespread trauma, expense, and disruption.

Affiliates say the program also impacts how they interact with their communities. For instance, Family Promise of Colorado Springs is partnering with other service agencies and developing relationships with landlords that help families in crisis retain housing. Affiliates in Lawrence (KS) and Hawaii also note better landlord relations.

“The combination of funding and support appeals to landlords,” says Samantha Church, Executive Director at Family Promise of Hawaii.

Since 2016, 22 Affiliates have used HUMI funds to keep nearly 2,500 children in housing. HUMI grants have totaled \$350,000, with matching support from

communities surpassing \$1 million.

With government estimates that rehousing a family costs between \$11,000 and \$16,000, it’s more cost effective to prevent homelessness in the first place. (By comparison, the HUMI program spends about \$1,200 to keep a family housed.)

One Family Promise graduate whose family received support through HUMI funding says of her experience: “Even though it was a one-time deal, we’re so grateful for what Family Promise did. Without them, our lives would have taken a completely different turn.”

**Names have been changed to protect privacy*

Why I Give

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: SUMMIT H.S. FAMILY PROMISE CLUB

Any teenager will tell you high school is a busy time of life—school, homework, friends, jobs. But a group of students at Summit High School (SHS) in New Jersey regularly finds time to help families battling homelessness.

Now in its fifth year, the SHS Family Promise Club has found many ways to serve local families: a “Wall of Wishes” posted at the school this past winter listed items needed for Family Promise-Union County’s food pantry; bake sales raise money; and members volunteer with the emergency shelter program.

Club President Juliana Fiore says the club has made students aware of the drastic contrasts in housing throughout Union County.

“People don’t realize there are struggling families here,” Fiore explains. “Being able to raise awareness of that—and help—puts everything in perspective.”



SHS Family Promise Club officers (pictured L-R): Evan Tulsy (social media), Emily Misiewicz (secretary), Juliana Fiore (president), Daniel Chieffo (vice president), and Will Stern (treasurer)

Evan Tulsy, who manages the club’s social media, agrees, adding, “It feels good to volunteer with the kids and make a difference that way.”

Treasurer Will Stern sums up the club’s work and the satisfaction members receive

in helping to bring families a sense of normalcy during a time of crisis: “I’m glad we can make a difference for the kids. It’s amazing that they don’t lose themselves given their situations—they’re still able to just be kids.”

FAMILY PROMISE MAKES NETWORK NEWS

NBC’s *The Today Show* recently featured Family Promise’s work serving families experiencing homelessness. News anchor Craig Melvin interviewed Karen Newsome, Executive Director of Family Promise of the Midlands (SC), as well as two mothers whose families were served by the Affiliate.

You can view the segment on our YouTube channel at: familypromise.org/todayshow



The Today Show noted why Family Promise families are so successful at regaining independence: “They’re not just given a place to stay. They’re given the support to get back on their feet.”

FAMILY PROMISE'S FIRST GIVING DAY

FAMILY PROMISE GIVING DAY
October 25
www.fpgives.org

Our first 24-hour online giving campaign to raise awareness and funds for Family Promise. Stay tuned for more details!

GIVING DAY GALA
October 25, 6 – 10 p.m.
Summit House, 395 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ

A child’s future begins at home. Family Promise will change the future for one million children by 2030 through community-based programs. Join us to celebrate the culmination of our first Giving Day!