

What's the best gift you've ever given?

Prince's favorite gift is the 24 inches of his hair he donated in his sister's memory.

Prince began growing his hair nine years ago when his sister became ill. During the course of her illness, the family faced another crisis - homelessness. Family Promise helped them find stability and a home. Tragically, Prince's sister passed away. Prince decided to cut and donate his locks in her memory and turned the occasion into a fundraiser for Family Promise for helping his family when they had nowhere to turn.

Prince's story is one of thousands that begin at Family Promise every year.

Each story is a gift made possible by people like you. Your support gives families like Prince's the resources to achieve lasting independence.

Give the gift of hope and home at
www.familypromise.org/Bestgift2019



FAMILY PROMISE

EDITOR: Melissa Biggar
CONTRIBUTING WRITER: Claas Ehlers
LAYOUT: eminjay design

PHONE: 908-273-1100
FAX: 908-273-0030
EMAIL: info@familypromise.org
WEB: www.familypromise.org

FAMILY PROMISE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Stacey Slater Sacks, *Chair*
Claas Ehlers, *Chief Executive Officer*
Andrew Pierce, *Vice Chair*
Richard Vicens, *Treasurer*
Leah Griffith, *Secretary*

Nadim Ahmed
Josh Barer
Kevin Barrett
Sarah Bird
Carmine Di Sibio
Regina Feeney
David Fleck

Susan Hardwick
Robert J. Hugin
Kat Lilley
Eileen Serra
Dan Tinkoff
Martin Wise

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.

Highlighting our achievements in the fight against family homelessness



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

What's the greatest gift you've ever received? For me, it was a song. As a young child, my daughter Colette learned to play "Linus and Lucy"—a jazzy piece from the holiday classic *A Charlie Brown Christmas*—for me on the piano. Yes, I love that song, but it was the fact that she learned such a complex piece of music just to make me happy that made it so incredibly special.

I think all of us would answer this question similarly, citing gifts from the heart.

That's why the gifts I've seen at Family Promise this year are so meaningful. In this issue, you'll read about Clayton Homes, the nation's leading builder of manufactured housing. In addition to supporting Family Promise's homelessness prevention program, *A Future Begins at Home*, they're giving three very special gifts. Thanks to Clayton, formerly homeless graduate families in Colorado, Florida, and South Carolina will celebrate the holidays in their very own homes. For these families, the greatest gift is the ability to share their blessings together with the security of knowing they not only have a home, but a bright future for them and their children.

If that doesn't make your heart do the "Snoopy" dance, what will?

Very best regards,

Claas Ehlers

From Homeless to Homeowner

A home is the foundation of family life and where every child's future begins. Thanks to an innovative partnership with national home builder Clayton Homes and ROC USA®, developer of sustainable communities that promote home ownership, Family Promise families are literally finding their way home.

Family Promise's homelessness prevention and stabilization program, *A Future Begins at Home*, incorporates targeted intervention, comprehensive case management, and non-traditional, affordable housing solutions like manufactured or modular homes.

This fall, families in Colorado Springs, CO, Greenville, SC, and Gainesville, FL, moved into new homes donated by Clayton.

A Colorado family was the first to receive a home. Sara and her children found Family Promise when her son's health issues interfered with work and the family faced homelessness. They entered the shelter program, and Family Promise worked with Sara on employment and budgeting skills

and helped the family regain stability and find housing.

"This is something my kids deserve, but I couldn't do it by myself," says Sara, who is grateful for Family Promise's support and guidance.

"Communities take a step toward eradicating homelessness and giving families the chance for a better future."

Two more families in South Carolina and Florida will also celebrate the holidays in their own homes thanks to *A Future Begins at Home*.

"By addressing the root causes of homelessness and the affordable housing crisis simultaneously, communities take a step toward eradicating homelessness and giving families the chance for a better future," says Family Promise CEO Claas Ehlers.



"We walked alongside Sara and her children over the last two years and celebrate collaboration, teamwork, and community," says Family Promise of Colorado Springs Executive Director Kat Lilley at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the family's new house.

First Giving Day a Success!

A “Night of Giving” gala celebrated the culmination of Family Promise’s first national Giving Day on Friday, October 25.

Attendees learned about Family Promise’s new homelessness prevention program, *A Future Begins at Home*, and raised support for families in need. Family Promise Affiliates across the country participated in the one-day online event, raising over \$500,000.

“The goal of Giving Day wasn’t just to raise money for families in need, but to raise awareness of a crisis that affects one in 19 children in the U.S.,” says CIO Cara Bradshaw. “Every child deserves hope for the future.”



A Future Begins at Home, a program that helps families avoid the trauma of homelessness, was introduced at Family Promise’s Giving Day Gala.

This happens when families have support, stability, and the opportunity to develop the tools and skills necessary to achieve lasting independence.”

You can watch a short video about how Family Promise and the local community are working to end family homelessness at www.familypromise.org/givingdaygala

Family Promise Receives Top Charity Rating for 7th Year

For the seventh consecutive year, Family Promise has received Charity Navigator’s coveted **4-star rating**, signifying consistent high performance, financial health, and commitment to accountability and transparency. Only six percent of charities rated by America’s largest charity evaluator have received this honor for seven years.

“This rating puts Family Promise among a preeminent group of charities working to overcome our world’s most pressing challenges,” says CEO Claas Ehlers. “It demonstrates that when people decide to support Family Promise, they can trust their donations are going to a financially responsible and ethical charity.”



Family Promise CEO Joins Overlook Community Advisory Board

Family Promise has an increasingly valuable voice in advising how businesses and communities can best address the needs of low-income families. Already active on advisory committees for the Federal Reserve Bank of NY and Sesame Street in Communities, CEO Claas Ehlers was recently named to the Community Advisory Board of Atlantic Health System’s Overlook Medical Center in Summit, NJ.

Overlook is one of the region’s premier health care providers and home to some of the state’s top physicians. “We’re delighted to have someone of Claas’ stature in the community join this board and will benefit from his broad understanding of our community,” says Chairman Frank Macioce.

The board facilitates communication between hospital management and the community and helps identify local needs to optimize health care delivery.

Thank you to our Giving Day Gala sponsors:

Belk
Hardman Johnston Global Advisors
Barer Family Foundation
Susan Hardwick
Celgene
Seelaus
Kiddie Academy
Olympus Power, LLC
Point View Wealth Management, Inc.
Topcon
RelPro
Lois Schneider Realtor, Inc.
Glenmede
Eminjay Design
Michelle Lozina-Cohen and Dale Cohen

Why I Give VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: LINDA WALKER and STACY McINTYRE

Family Promise is a family affair for Linda Walker and her daughter, Stacy McIntyre.

Linda got involved with Family Promise’s flagship emergency shelter program in Union County, NJ, 30 years ago. From the beginning, she appreciated how each family’s unique needs were addressed.

“Family Promise is willing to listen to families,” she says. “There’s no one answer or solution that fits everyone.”



Family Promise is a family tradition that spans miles and generations for Linda Walker in New Jersey and her daughter Stacy McIntyre in Indiana.

A mother of two young children back then, Linda would bring her family to volunteer. She appreciated the opportunity for them to make a difference together.

“Family Promise helps people of all ages understand they can have a meaningful impact,” she notes.

In fact, Family Promise made such a strong impression on Linda’s daughter Stacy in her youth that she’s now a volunteer and part-time coordinator at Family Promise of

“Family Promise helps people of all ages understand they can have an impact.”

Greater Indianapolis and volunteers with her own family. Like her own mother did, Stacy wants to teach her children the value of community and giving back.

“Family Promise reinforces the importance



The Walker and McIntyre families are proof that people of all ages can make a difference for families in need.

of community, of checking in with people in need, helping those who are going through a down time,” Stacy says.

When Linda visits Stacy’s family in Indiana, all three generations find time to volunteer together.

In the end, it’s family that mother and daughter treasure most, and they’re grateful to reinforce that value through Family Promise.

“They say it takes a village to raise a child,” says Linda. “That village is full of families.”

Family Promise Announces New Board Members

Family Promise welcomes two new members to its national board of trustees.

Sarah is a former principal of Hewitt Associates (now AON), a provider of human



Sarah Bird

resources consulting and outsourcing solutions to the Fortune 500. She is the former chair of the board of trustees at the Tilton School in Tilton, NH, and currently serves on the board of directors of YMCA Camp Huckins in Ossipee, NH.

“I’m inspired by the families that Family Promise serves, and also by Family Promise’s work, vision, and innovative programs,” says Bird.

Susan Hardwick, CFO of American Water, serves on several community boards and has received multiple public service and leadership awards. In 2016, Harwick was named CFO of the Year by *Indianapolis Business Journal*.

Hardwick says, “I find organizations that work to prevent issues rather than correct them are most sustainable, and I’m thrilled to be part of an organization focused on long-term housing solutions.”



Susan Hardwick