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“Family Promise kept us together, even during the most difficult time of our life. The only way we were going to survive being homeless was by staying together as a family.”
-Family Promise graduate



Highlighting our work to end family homelessness



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

After more than 14 years at Family Promise, I am still amazed by the power of *community* in our work with families facing housing insecurity. The relationships we build and nurture among the families who come to us seeking support; the staff who are so dedicated to our mission; the volunteers who offer their time and talent to serve families in crisis; and the friends and partners whose generosity allows us to provide innovative solutions – these relationships are what make Family Promise so successful.

You can read about this philosophy in action in this issue’s cover story, which features a highly effective community-based program being piloted at Family Promise Union County in New Jersey called Open Table®. The program brings Family Promise families together with skilled volunteers to address specific goals that are determined by the families to ensure they remain stable and moving forward. It’s a process that entails meaningful relationships and a lot of trust.

And in honor of Father’s Day, in these pages you’ll also learn how a Utah father and son are working with a team at Family Promise of Salt Lake to overcome challenges and obstacles involving homelessness, transportation, education, and more. Their journey is an inspiration to families everywhere.

These stories are just a tiny glimpse of the many ways we harness the power of community across the country. As part of our Family Promise community, I thank you for your ongoing support.

With gratitude,

Cheryl Schuch
CEO

Opening Doors with Open Table®

Relationships are the glue that binds us together as families and as a society. At Family Promise Union County (FPUC) in Elizabeth, NJ, a pilot of the Open Table® program is taking this concept to a new level.

Open Table® mobilizes communities to identify solutions and provide support for individuals and families with complex needs and challenges. Its mission aligns with Family Promise’s model of a community-powered, volunteer-driven support network that has helped families move from poverty and homelessness to lasting independence for more than 30 years.

Pat and her family are the first to pilot the program at Family Promise. Among Pat’s goals is the dream of owning a home. Members of the Table are working with her based on their own areas of expertise. For example, a finance professional has helped her open a bank account, review her credit report, and consult a mortgage counselor. Experienced homeowners are helping her look for a property, and an attorney will help her through the legalities of homeownership once she finds a suitable home.

Pat and her Table of six volunteers meet at least twice a month.



The Open Table® team at FPUC, pictured here, is a game changer for volunteers and families alike.

“The Table concept works off the synergy of networking,” explains volunteer Vernon Williams. “We’re like Pat’s personal advisory board and support network.”

Pat says, “This is the first time I’ve ever had people support me this much. It means a great deal to me.”

Another volunteer, Jennifer Avers, says, “Everything we work on is based on what’s important to Pat. She’s ready for homeownership, so we’re

working on that. She wants to address her granddaughter’s academic needs, so we’ll help with that. She’s in control, driving things based on what she wants to achieve.”

A successful Table has a few criteria.

“We share a lot of personal stuff,” says Williams. “We develop a close relationship. That trust has to be there.”

Pat adds, “You have to come into this with open minds and hearts and be ready to put it all on the table. I trust every one of them. Family

Here’s how it works: A family who has received services from Family Promise expresses interest in the program. Volunteers from various sectors of the community – business, education, healthcare, and more - undergo extensive training to form a “Table” that accompanies the family as they navigate any number of challenges or life events. The Table meets regularly with the family (called the “Friend”) for at least a year. The Friend drives the Table’s work, identifying the goals and needs to be addressed, and Table members share expertise and offer support and guidance.

Pat adds, “You have to come into this with open minds and hearts and be ready to put it all on the table. I trust every one of them. Family

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FAMILY PROMISE

FOUNDED IN 1988

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Cheryl Schuch

FAMILY PROMISE

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Family Promise is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit addressing the crisis of family homelessness in the U.S.

Why I Give:

TERRY LINDEMANN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FAMILY PROMISE OF LAS VEGAS

You could say the Thanksgiving holiday is how Terry Lindemann became the executive director of Family Promise of Las Vegas, NV.



Family Promise is a part of Terry Lindemann's soul.

She first learned about Family Promise more than two decades ago when she was asked to volunteer at her church, which served as a temporary shelter site at the time.

"I didn't even know there was such a thing as families being homeless," she recalls. "But my pastor remembered me telling her my favorite holiday was Thanksgiving and how I'd open my home to people with nowhere else to go. She said to me, 'Terry, these families have nowhere else to go.'"

The rest, as they say, is history. Lindemann served as a volunteer coordinator for five years before becoming the Affiliate's executive director in 2004.

"When I started, we were helping four families at a time, mostly with shelter," she says. "But I saw we could do much more: employment, transition to stable housing, self-sufficiency."

With Lindemann at the helm, Family Promise of Las Vegas expanded operations and programming. Today, the Affiliate shelters up to 50 families at once. And, like most Affiliates, there's an increased focus on homelessness prevention.

"That's one of the biggest changes I've seen," she says of her time at Family Promise. "Of course, we're still a solution for families who are homeless, but think about how much better it is to prevent a child from living in a car or shelter in the first place. Now, we can be at the front door

when a crisis is looming and shut it in time to avoid the trauma of homelessness."

Family Promise's mission to keep families together during a crisis also resonated with her. She spent 13 years of her youth in foster care. "All I wanted was my mom and dad and a home," she says.

One of her most memorable experiences as executive director was about ten years ago when a judge mandated that a family whose children had been in the foster care system could be reunited if they worked with Family Promise. It opened Lindemann's eyes to the impact Family Promise had in the community. She's still in touch with the family today and is thrilled to see them thriving and giving back to Family Promise.

As Lindemann approaches retirement this August, Family Promise of Las Vegas is on the brink of a major expansion. They're building a Family Navigation Center modeled after a college campus, with ten apartments for families, shared kitchen areas, computer and resource rooms, and staff offices. The Center will be a place where families can come together, heal, and move forward.

Lindemann credits the entire Family Promise network with the progress she has seen. She gets teary-eyed when she says, "I'm grateful for everyone I've ever worked with – staff, volunteers, directors, the national office, the families. I've never had to worry or wonder about how to do something. At Family Promise, there's always someone there to help you learn."

Although she's retiring, Lindemann plans to remain involved with Family Promise as a volunteer.

"You can take the woman out of Family Promise, but you can't take Family Promise out of the woman!" she says. "It's embedded in my soul."

2022 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Scan the QR code below to read about our impact in 2022



OPENING DOORS

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Promise is my family for the rest of my life as far as I'm concerned."

A family's outcome from the program relies on these reciprocal relationships. Avers sums it up, "It works both ways. We're learning and growing from Pat, too."

Just a few months into the pilot, FPUC has already formed a Table for a second graduate family which will begin meeting this summer. FPUC Manager of Volunteer Engagement Amy Jones says, "The best part about Family Promise is that it brings communities together to share resources. Open Table® gives us the

opportunity to foster these relationships in a very intentional, effective, trauma-informed way."

Open Table® Founder and CEO Jon Katov adds, "The Family Promise movement is a shining model for how our society can transform homelessness and hopelessness into human potential, reaching beyond housing to address the whole person. We're thankful for the opportunity to partner in this transformational movement and integrate our models to create access to abundant community relational and social capital."

Three Additions to Family Promise Board of Trustees

Michael Moody is the Frey Foundation Chair for Family Philanthropy at the Johnson Center for Philanthropy and the author of the books *Understanding Philanthropy: Its Meaning and Mission* and *Generation Impact: How Next Gen Donors are Revolutionizing Giving*, as well as a variety of other publications on philanthropy and nonprofits.

Chris King, a partner within the Trust segment of PwC, has more than 20 years of public

accounting experience and has helped companies of all sizes solve complex business transactions.

Rev. Vernon Williams is assistant to the pastor at Foundation Baptist Church and president of the Summit Interfaith Council in Summit, NJ, as well as a founding member of the Summit Interfaith Council Anti-Racism Committee.



Michael Moody



Chris King



Rev. Vernon Williams

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES IN NEED THIS FATHER'S DAY

We recognize dads and father figures everywhere who give their all for their families.

This Father's Day, support families in crisis and the dads working to give their children hope for the future with a gift to Family Promise. Go to donate.familypromise.org/FPdads or scan the QR code to the right. Thank you!



A Father's Dream



Tim* and his son have known hard times.

Reduced work hours caused the Utah father to fall behind on rent. Subsequently, the family was evicted from their home with nowhere to turn.

But at Family Promise of Salt Lake, Tim found the peace of mind and stability he needed to begin building a brighter future.

"The way the program is set up, it helps people develop," he says. "It gets you away from the chaos, allows you to think and get your life together."

Once settled in the shelter program, Tim enrolled in Family Promise's New Beginnings curriculum, a financial capability training that equipped him with the knowledge and skills to take ownership of his finances. He also credits Family Promise for being a steppingstone to a new job that has significantly increased his income.

"It took a lot of stress off of my life," says Tim. "I have some pretty big bills, and it gave me a chance to start saving more money so I can get on my feet."

Another positive: Tim says Family Promise helped improve his relationship with his son. He explains, "Being a single dad, you don't always have time to talk to your kids—especially for how much I was working. Now, we're more open because we have more time together."

The security offered by Family Promise also enabled Tim's son to focus on school once again. Like many young people who experience homelessness, his attendance had dropped due to the family's precarious living situation.

The family has made such great progress that they soon hope to move into transitional housing and, eventually, a permanent home. Now, Tim, who worked on farms as a teen, has dreams of homeownership—preferably a house with a farm.

*Name changed to protect privacy



GO "BACK-TO-SCHOOL" THIS SUMMER!

Summer's here, but Family Promise Union County (FPUC) in Elizabeth, NJ - where Family Promise first got its start - is already thinking about fall.

Help children served by FPUC prepare for the next academic year with all the supplies they'll need to succeed in school. Purchase items from our list, then join us at the national office in Summit, NJ, on Thursday, July 27 to stuff backpacks.

Visit bit.ly/FPschool or scan the QR code for details!

