

# Family Promise of Waukesha County November 2017 Newsletter



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***November 2017***

## Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Even though it's the Thanksgiving season, it's also time once again to sing Happy Birthday to Family Promise of Waukesha County! Can you believe it's been three years this month since our host congregations opened their doors to homeless families with children? Can you believe that during those three years our volunteers have provided almost 8,000 overnight stays to 56 homeless families? Can you believe that 30 of those families were eventually placed in fully furnished apartments? These are some amazing accomplishments both to give thanks and sing Happy Birthday all at once!



As we close in on the holiday season, it's good to take a moment and reflect on all the hard work, the fantastic results and all the amazing people who have brought us so far – volunteers, donors, volunteer coordinators, staff, supporters, board members, other service providers and, most importantly, our guests. These families come to us in dire straits, but they give us an opportunity to partake in one of life's noblest endeavors – serving others. They also provide us with regular reminders of how blessed we are and how good we have it.



So thanks to all of you who have given your time, talents and treasure in support of this ministry. And Happy third Birthday to Family Promise of Waukesha County!

*David R. Tennyck, J.D., Executive Director*



## Family Promise Update from our Board Chair



As Thanksgiving is approaching, I reflect with thankfulness and awe on the work and support of so many committed to the Family Promise mission of addressing family homelessness in such unique and impactful ways. Recently, 3 of us (2 Board members and the case manager) had the opportunity to attend the National Family Promise conference titled, "United We Stand" in Washington D.C. We were able to attend sessions that dealt with programming ideas, Board challenges, creative partnerships, unique fund raising activities, resources available and how to advocate for changes related to homelessness within our own communities, state and Nation as well as hear a panel discussion between Ben Carson, US Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and some members of the National guest advisory panel.

It was great to be inspired and remember that even though we are Family Promise Waukesha County, we are also part of a larger "family" nationally. As you look at the impact all of us collectively have made, it is truly significant. We are so fortunate to have the partnership with this larger organization as we grow and serve together.

I wanted you all to know that each and every one of you is part of our "Team", whether you volunteer at your congregations by serving and sharing meals, setting up or taking down beds, provide activities for our guests and their children, teach a class or skill, have conversations of compassion and encouragement, drive a bus or to appointments, give a guest a job, donate household goods, move furniture, volunteer at the day center, get your businesses, community groups or corporations involved, do special tasks, serve on committees or the Board, facilitate and participate in fundraisers or donate money, time and other talents and just love our families in need .... We are truly thankful for all you're your contributions and are truly blessed this Thanksgiving as an organization. We have much yet to do as we plan for the future in an effort to reach out to more families in need but we need to take this moment to remember all for which we are thankful.

*Marjore Thompson, M.A., Board Chair*



## A Note of Gratitude from our Case Manager



I have been working as Case Manager here only for a brief time, and in that short stint, I have come to realize many things. But I would like to focus on one major, noticeable, and magnificent observation: ***the incredible passion of all of our volunteers***...their passion for our families, their passion for the mission of Family Promise, as well as their passion to make this a successful organization.

Without a doubt, this is the most committed group of people I have ever come across in this line of work. I walked into the doors of Family Promise not really knowing what to expect, and I'll just say that the first few months have been quite the learning experience. I have had the chance to meet some amazing people who not only welcomed me into their churches for a meal, but also have been willing to go above and beyond to ensure I had the necessary help to achieve a task or overcome an obstacle. I feel blessed to know that behind this Case Manager lies a company of volunteers who will offer their support in any capacity. I feel comfort in knowing, that while I may sit by myself in the Day Center (on days David is not here), I am not alone because I have the volunteers waiting in the wings, ready to offer guidance and encouragement to me if I need it.

I wish I was the wordsmith Shakespeare was so that I may express the amount of gratitude I have for each and every volunteer, but I hope a simple "thank you" will suffice for the time being.

*Erin Pechacek*



## OUR MATCH CAMPAIGN IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

We have had some great year-end matching fund campaigns the past couple years and it's time to make it happen again!

We are currently in the process of putting together our initial match fund total. We'll have this figure finalized just after Thanksgiving, and we'll get the word out to everyone via letter, email, website and Facebook by December 1. Then it's time to **DOUBLE YOUR DONATION** and help us hit the New Year running strong!

## Make Family Promise Your AmazonSmile Charity

You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. They have given more than **\$62 million** in overall contributions so far this year. That's nothing to sneeze at!



**What can YOU do to help?** Please support Family Promise of Waukesha County by starting your shopping at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and 'selecting' us as your charity for the upcoming holiday season.

**Our goals are to have 200 supporters and to earn \$2,000** by year-end. Can we count on you to think of us?

**THANK YOU!**



### Terrell and Austin Tynefield

**"You can do this! I did it, so can you!"**...are the words of Terrell Tynefield who has been volunteering with Family Promise since before we officially opened our doors in 2014. She learned about FP during an open house at Summit School where her son, Austin, was attending. She knew she had to get involved in helping homeless families with children. Straight away she signed up for the day center open house where she learned more about the program's needs. She then volunteered both in the day center and as a van driver, which she did every Saturday and Sunday for a year. Now she is a back up driver and is one of two volunteer coordinators (VC) at Oakwood Church in Hartland.



Terrell did not want to be the ‘spotlight’ of this article. For her, it’s about the families, about giving them unconditional love to help lift them into a better place. “Family Promise changes your perspective on life,” she said. Working at Family Promise is not simply ‘volunteering’, it is literally a way of life that she feels blessed to be involved in. For Terrell and Austin, it has become an extended family.

**Life went full cycle for Terrell.** Fourteen years ago she found herself in the same position as our Family Promise guests – homeless –, which is background for her current passion and commitment to the organization. Fortunately she came across many people who helped and loved her unconditionally. “I wouldn’t be where I am today without them,” she said. “I was so grateful. And God told me to give back.” For Terrell it ‘takes nothing’ to help. “You can’t buy hope. I don’t have money, but I have time and something to give.” Austin, now 13, also babysits the children when we do Family Promise training. He is a Red Cross trained babysitter and loves to do it.

**One challenge** Terrell shared is accepting that families may repeat mistakes. We need to understand that living in dysfunction and poverty is not a quick fix. Being homeless is traumatic, and our guests can get lost in the trauma because it’s at so many levels. They may not even process it all during their stay at Family Promise because they are in survival mode. Some do go back to being homeless. For Terrell, it took several times to pull herself out. “At each place, people loved me unconditionally and that stayed with me. I live in gratitude.”

*“At each place, people loved me unconditionally and that stayed with me. I live in gratitude.”*

**Terrell reminds us** to avoid being judgmental – volunteers and guests are truly all equal. Everyone loves their children the same...wants them to be safe the same... Homelessness can literally happen to any one of us if, for instance, you have a catastrophe, no insurance, a husband who takes off, etc. She suggests finding common ground when interacting with our guests.

Over and over she hears about the positive impact our volunteers and churches have made in our guests’ lives. ***We thank Terrell, Austin, and all of our volunteers for this!***



## Wish List

Families and children often arrive at our shelters without even the basic life necessities. Your gift of some of these necessities can remove pressure while they are in shelter and also ease their transition back into housing. Simple items like diapers, soap or gas cards are much appreciated by our families and go a long way in helping them return to independence. All donations are greatly appreciated.



*We are currently in need of the following items*, which can be dropped off at our Day Center. Thank you!!

### **GIFT CARDS** (\$10 or \$25 value)

- Kwik Trip Gas
- WalMart
- Target
- Pick 'n Save
- OfficeMax

### **TOILETRIES**

- Hand soap
- Body wash (not bar soap)
- Kleenex
- Toilet paper

### **CLEANING SUPPLIES**

- Paper Towels
- Garbage bags – 13 & 30 gal
- Laundry detergent pods for HE machine
- Lysol spray/cleaning sprays
- Dryer sheets

### **CHILDREN'S NEEDS**

- Diapers – Size 1 and 6
- Baby wipes



## Contact Us

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