



Thanks for the Memories...

On behalf of the Board, the volunteers, coordinators and the families we would like to give thanks to Gia and Bruce for all of their efforts over the past months and years. You both have done your very best to help Family Promise of Manatee grow and have shown compassion and love in all that you have done. It is with regret that we accept your resignations as case manager and executive director.

Here are highlights of the accomplishments that have occurred during your tenure:

- The continued success of the IHN program-** by providing hundreds of nights of shelter, thousands of home cooked meals, miles of transportation in the trusty van, millions of caring smiles and hugs from the hundreds of volunteers each week dozens of families, adults and children, have been able to remain together during a transitional time of homelessness.
- The monthly coordinators meetings-** status and goals of the IHN families as well as updates within the IHN program were shared with the church coordinators. Sharing this valuable information helps to build a strong foundation for the IHN program.
- The creation of Transitional Housing Program-** the renovation, furnishing, and placement of families in five homes including the successful transition of families to full independence.
- The creation of the Family Promise Mentoring program-** training and support of volunteer mentors who have assisted the transitional housing families.
- The Family Promise Scholarship program-** through the generosity of donor program participants have achieved certifications such as Certified Nursing Assistance and Registered Medical Assistance.
- The Recycled Rides program-** through the donation of a car a program participant was able to obtain and maintain a job, thus moving forward in the goal to support one's family.
- The Maintain the Car program-** local area auto part suppliers and repair shops, as well as Family Promise volunteers, have repaired and taught the program participants basic automotive maintenance.
- Expansion of the Day Center-** allows for improved communication and management of the families in private and confidential meeting areas..
- Securing of Grants-** enabling support of a continual program.
- Full time Case Management-** working directly with the families to help them resolve specific hurdles in their paths for independence.
- The creation of this Family Promise Newsletter-** enabling communication of this mission, and communicating its path to success.

Looking back this program, with your aid and guidance, has accomplished much. Family Promise is blessed to have had both of you work with the blessings and power of our Lord to accomplish His goal of Love Thy Neighbor.

May blessings and prayers be with you in your future endeavors.

Welcome

This is the first of many (we hope) e-newsletters from Family Promise of Manatee County. The intent is to inform, inspire, and invigorate the community to help families who face the crisis of homelessness. Family Promise certainly wants to grow this means of communication so that it can be shared with as wide an audience as possible. Your comments and thoughts are welcome. Please reach out to neighbors and friends with the encouragement to participate. If you know someone who would like to receive this and other communications please forward their email addresses to Family Promise. In this premiere issue, you will be introduced to one of the children who is in our program. See "Our Guest Story"

Have you ever witnessed a miracle?

For one, the answer depends on how that term is defined. If we're talking about turning water into wine or parting a sea, the answer may be no. If, however, miracle is defined as "an extremely outstanding event or accomplishment," I have, indeed, witnessed a miracle, with Family Promise.

One Guest's Story... "My name is Unique. I am eight years old. I have 3 sisters: Dionnie, Kailah, and Kalaylah. We came to Family Promise with 2 suite [sic] cases and no money. My mom went to college but she has trouble finding a job. I'm going to be a pediatrician when I grow up so I can help take care of my sisters.

My mom takes really good care of us, she's a great mom. She cries a lot but not so much since we came to Family Promise.

We had some good times in the program and we eat a lot of spaghetti. My Mom is a nurse now and soon we will have our own house and me and my sisters will have our own room. Then we can finally call somewhere home thanks to Family Promise.

Turn Turn Turn

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven...
Don't take my word for it read Ecclesiastes Chapter 3; Verses 2 through 10

As one season passes another one comes to life. This is true for Family Promise. We have seen board members Al TarHaar, Bill Hawthorne, director Bruce Webster and case manager Gia Levato season's come to an end with Family Promise, yet the mission of goes on. New directors, new managers, new coordinators, new churches and volunteers bring new life and energy. Revision of existing programs, new ideas, and growth will take Family Promise down new paths.

This month two new members have joined the board, Robert Seth-Ward and Julie West, both have extensive backgrounds and experience in areas that will spring this program forward .

Accomplishments have been great this last season, but there are new opportunities, new goals, and new challenges that must be faced in order to help those in need.

If you are interested in becoming more actively involved in any one of the programs or have an idea that you would like to pursue, please send an email to execdir@familypromiseofmanateecounty.org or call the office at 941-748-4740.

How we do it.

Family Promise exists through the generosity of approximately 1000 volunteers and dozens of churches who open their hearts and doors to help the homeless. In addition to the volunteers, many efforts are given to support the finances of Family Promise.

Below is a summary of the YTD finances.

Contributions	\$66,575.00
Grants	\$24,734.00
Fund Raising	\$59,566.00
Other	\$2,536.00
Net Assets	\$153,411.00

Personal	\$49,662.00
Administrative	\$13,148.00
Facilities	\$16,629.00
Programs	\$42,229.00
Fund Raising	\$6,305.00
Net Liabilities	\$127,973.00

What we do..

Family Promise of Manatee County is a program designed to help families with children who are suffering from homelessness to regain their independence and become self sustaining. We have a two part journey to accomplishing this. The first part, the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) is a shelter program providing meals, shelter, case management, soon to include financial counseling, and mentoring. Family Promise Staff, mentors, community organization professionals, and our most essential and valuable congregational volunteers work together to assist the families in achieving their goals.

Families are screened into the Family Promise program based on developed guidelines. Face to face evaluations and assessments are conducted to determine a family's eligibility into the program. Once a family enters the program, every effort is made to connect them with services already present in the community. They make a trip to the One Stop Center on 17th Ave. where many different resources are available. A visit to the Suncoast Workforce Office (Jobs Etc.) begins their search for a job as well as helping them to qualify for other services, especially child care.

Internally, a Case Plan is developed based on the individual family's needs. The progress of the Case Plan is monitored regularly, as well as compliance with program policies and procedures. At the end of a family's 90 day stay in the program, an assessment is completed which evaluates their time spent in the program. It is always our hope that a family, with hard work and determination can take the steps that, once again, lead them to being self-sufficient and independent.

Our second program is a Transitional Housing program. Look for information about this in our next newsletter.

Who Are We?

We are...

Staff and Board of Directors

Julie West

Interim Executive Director

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Robert Seth-Ward - Director

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Hosting churches

Bradenton Christian Reformed Church

Christian Retreat

First United Methodist Church of Palmetto

First Presbyterian Church

Harvest United Methodist Church

Palma Sola Presbyterian Church

Roser Memorial Community Church

Trinity Lutheran Church

Trinity United Methodist Church

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Supporting churches

Central Christian Church

Church of the Annunciation

Congregational United Church of Christ

Drive-In United Methodist Church, Palmetto

Faith United Methodist Church

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Manatee Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Manatee United Methodist Church

Peace Presbyterian Church

St. Mary Episcopal Church

St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

Our mailing address is:

Family Promise of Manatee County

P.O. Box 549

Bradenton, FL 34206

For more information about Family Promise:

www.familypromiseofmanateecounty.org

or call 941-748-4740

Introducing

Julie West

Family Promise interim Executive Director.

Although Julie is new to Family Promise and to Manatee County she comes to us with years of experience in working with the homeless.

Here is a brief synopsis of her background:

25 years experience as a senior administrator of residential, hospital, and community programs

Secured numerous grants and RFPs

Managed multi million dollar budgets

Established extensive membership and private funding streams

Directed up to 275 staff

Director of Family Services – Westhab Inc. Yonkers NY

Ran a shelter of 159 transitional apartments for families suffering homelessness and / or domestic violence.

Chief administrator for ROSS Municipal Housing contract for 900 units, the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing contract for th entire County and the HOME program, community services to low income families.

Executive Director – Chamber of Commerce with 400+ member businesses.

Director Residential Services – Ulster Green ARC Kingston NY

Administrator for 40 residential sites with 200+ employees, serving people with developmental disabilities and their families.

And the list goes on..

Welcome Julie

