



The Family Promise of Manatee County e-newsletters intent is to inform inspire and invigorate the community.

To help families who face the crisis of homelessness, so together we can help them regain their independence.

For more information about Family Promise go to : [www.familypromiseofmanateecounty.org](http://www.familypromiseofmanateecounty.org) or call 941-748-4740.

### Director's corner

***“Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present.”*** Albert Camus.

During this Christmas season isn't it tempting to think that generosity lies in giving all FOR the presents? There are some who think that Christmas is about spending lavish amounts of time and treasure on material gifts for people they care about, or even themselves. We all know of parents who spend thousands for the last available “must have” toy, they will trample the competition to get it, only to find it is passé by Valentine's.

But there, right in the middle of it all, amid the bustle and hustle, festivals and fruitcakes; quietness and tenderness, memories and reflections; galas, gifts, greenery, we somehow know there is more. We know there are daily gifts more precious than even that coveted Porsche! They are the gifts of time, kindness, encouragement, hope, hospitality, (and of course \$) to help those who need.

Throughout this, my first month at Family Promise, I have had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people who strive to make every day Christmas for others. I see brothers and sisters who are determined that the mission of Family Promise will not only continue, but develop and grow for future generations.

I am so happy to be here with you all.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Julie West,  
Interim Executive Director.

### 101 Gift Ideas

The key to Family Promise is Family and during this holiday season we all struggle with the idea of what to give to family. Should it be that diamond or new car for that special one, or that latest game that everyone must have, or that tie or sweater that you have in the closet from last year. Well maybe there is a better idea to give a gift of pure love and sacrifice. In this issue of the newsletter we explore ways to expand the idea of gift giving that may just have a far reaching effect not only on those who will receive the gift but also to those who give it.

### There is always money

“Cash is king,” “Show me the money”... there are many catchy phrases that reiterate the fact that when in doubt giving cash always works. It is never the wrong color, it is never too big, and it is never returned. The programs of Family Promise will always accept this gift for without it we simply cannot support the families, buy the necessities, pay the bills that are needed to help the homeless families regain their independence. There are many ways to give the gift of money to Family Promise such as simply:

1. Write a check to Family Promise of Manatee County, PO Box 549 Bradenton, FL 34206.
2. Use your credit card and donate via pay pal on our web site: [www.familypromiseofmanateecounty.org](http://www.familypromiseofmanateecounty.org)

It is fast, easy, and it will allow Family Promise to do more to help the homeless families of Manatee County right now.

### The Market Edge

Do you have a product or service that you would like to use to generate a donation to Family Promise? How about putting a new twist on your marketing strategy by pledging that you will donate a percentage of your profits to Family Promise of Manatee County. All businesses are looking for that edge, and all consumers are looking for that extra value. What better value than adding the value on your product or service than one of philanthropy to a worthy cause. This could generate interest in your company, may help your sales, and increase your value in the eyes of your customers as well help your customers give to a worthy cause, Family Promise. Contact Rich Zang at [richzang@yahoo.com](mailto:richzang@yahoo.com) or 284-1823 for more ideas.

## **Wish List.**

Besides Volunteer time and money Family Promise needs things that you may have and want to donate. If you have any of these items please contact Julie West on 941-748-4740 at the Day Center which is located at 926 15<sup>th</sup> St W. Bradenton FL 34205.

Items needed:

1. Counter top microwave
2. Toaster
3. Small bank, 3-4, of metal lockers, like they have at a gym
4. 1 coffee machines
5. Cleaning supplies – bleach, detergent, paper towels, sponges, tea towels
6. Office supplies – pens, scotch tape, paper clips

## **Give a Party!!**

Rather than giving a party for your friends, invite your friends over to your house for a giving party. A giving party can be a pot luck, a gathering of friends for appetizers or desserts, or some games - all with the purpose of introducing Family Promise to them. Maybe, just maybe, they in turn will be inclined to get involved with one of the many individual volunteer opportunities, or get their friends involved in the Family Promise mission, to help the homeless families of Manatee County regain their independence or donate money, to Family Promise. In any event you will have done your job in leading them to the family table. It is now up to them to partake.

## **The Gift of Sponsorship**

We all belong to a larger group, such as a company, a place of worship, a club of some type. Why not approach your group with the idea of sponsoring Family Promise. It may be as simple as asking the group to host an event where you or someone else can introduce Family Promise to them to learn how they can become a sponsor, or if they already know of the Family Promise mission then ask them to simply give a sponsorship gift to Family Promise. The more sponsors that we have, the more families we can help. It is just that simple. If you would like help in presenting Family Promise to your organization, please contact Julie West at [execdir@familypromiseofmanateecounty.org](mailto:execdir@familypromiseofmanateecounty.org) or 748-4740.

## **Re-Gifts are still Gifts**

Family Promise of Manatee County is planning a HUGE garage sale in February. The plan is to collect as many gifts as we can over the next 2 months and either give it directly to our families in need, or sell it at the garage sale. This donation drive has been sponsored by Theresa Guest REALTOR of Michael Sanders & Co. so 100% of the proceeds will be used to support the programs of Family Promise. So please get involved by donating your un-needed items and turn them into a gift to Family Promise. All you have to do is to contact Robert Seth-Ward at 809-2388 and he will schedule a pick up of your items.

## **The Gift of Giving**

You know how you have given to Family Promise of Manatee County in the past. And so you know that your gift has generated not only great value for the homeless families but great value for yourself. Be it in the feeling that you did the right thing, or the joy that you received in return. But did you know that your gift of \$1 to Family Promise, together we generate over \$6 in services that go directly to support the homeless families of Manatee County. Did you know that you have provided tens of thousands of meals to homeless children and their parents. Did you know that you have provided thousands of nights of sleep in a secure setting, be it either in your church or a transitional home. Did you know that you helped to restore, furnished, and maintain 5 transitional houses, Rebuilt and repaired vans and cars to transport the children to school and the parents to work and the day center. Did you know that you mentored young families through the hardest times of their lives so that they can learn the life skills that you have learned in your life, not only to survive but to be prosperous. All this and more has been made possible by your gift, of money and items, your gift of time, energy, and hard work. As we bring 2010 to a close you can look back and give yourself the greatest gift of all, knowing that your gifts have helped so many and together as a family we will strive give more to the families that need our help now more than ever.

If you no longer want to receive the Family Promise Newsletter, please reply with “OPT-OUT” in the subject line.