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SPRING 2016, ISSUE 1

www.familypromisejuneau.org



THE STATE OF FAMILY HOMELESSNESS IN JUNEAU

Juneau School District reports over 200 students have been identified as homeless or home insecure. We are excited for the day when school counselors call and ask, “Can I refer a family that might benefit from your services?” and we can say, “Yes!”

We met with **St Vincent DePaul** to discuss how our organizations may be able to partner in the fight against family homelessness. St Vincent DePaul reported that they had 191 family units on their wait list in February! We are excited to see where partnerships with local organizations can lead.

“Today I received a call from a young couple with a newborn baby. They are living at the Breakwater and facing homelessness in days. With TANF income of \$1,444 and no employment, their options are limited. This vulnerable young couple would be perfect candidates for Family Promise. With just a little help, they could become independent.” - M.S., Property Manager

“This community is in need of an open arms resource that will assist and support the disadvantaged in times of homelessness. I see kids come to school every day struggling to learn and cope because of the homelessness they carry with them. Not only are these kids and families in need of shelter, but they are in need of a support system that will allow them to gain skills, and access resources to ease the trauma of homelessness. Family Promise offers hope of providing readily accessible housing and

Family Promise enables communities to work together to address the needs of homeless families. Providing shelter, meals, and comprehensive services, Family Promise helps families achieve lasting self-sufficiency.

Planning Committee: Rev. Tari Stage-Harvey, Jennifer Carson, Chuck VanKirk, Willie Anderson, Rev. Gordon Blue, Randy Coleman, Daniel Hall, Jean Ann Alter, Linda Landvik, Soapy & Jill Lingle, Rev. Caroline Malseed, Linda McCargar, Pat McLear, Melody Millard, Michelle Strickler, Bridget Weiss, Sherry Lanz



WHAT'S COMING UP?

April 5 (Tuesday)– 1:30 pm

Monthly planning meeting at Holy Trinity

May 3 (Tuesday) – 1:30 pm

Monthly planning meeting at Holy Trinity

January 2017 – Opening Date!

care to families in need when they are at their neediest.” - A.N., Glacier Valley Elementary, Counselor

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COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

DAY CENTER

Several options are under consideration with a goal to establish the site a few weeks before the official launch. Key features include space for children to play and make some noise, parking, showers and laundry facilities.

TRANSPORTATION

Seeking 15 passenger van in good condition; enclosed 6' trailer; new car seats to safely transport children to and from Day Center

FUNDRAISING

We had a great event at Chapel by the Lake on October 11. It was fun sharing our vision for serving our community with about 150 in attendance!

INCORPORATION

IRS filing completed on February 9; decision made within 90 days. We are permitted to proceed as a 501(c)3 as of February 9, 2016

CONGREGATIONAL RECRUITMENT

Goal: 13 Host Congregations/Sites

4 congregations are signed

10 are in conversation with strong potential

5 more targeted to present in May



We were so fortunate to host Jeanna in February. We hope many of you had a chance to meet her. We visited with local organizations, held an informational meet and greet, and a preliminary board training session. Wow did we learn a lot! We are very thankful to be part of a national organization with over 200 affiliates caring for families in the midst of homelessness.

Some key takeaways:

- ✓ Give it time – most affiliates take 18-24 months to get up and running.
- ✓ Day Centers need to be a warm and welcoming home away from home for families with children; choose carefully
- ✓ Training volunteers is a big responsibility for the new executive director once he/she is hired.
- ✓ Look for a broad base of

A VISIT WITH OUR INTERIM REGIONAL DIRECTOR, JEANNA BECK

community members to serve on this working board. Attorneys, medical professionals, pastors, real estate professionals, and those with accounting experience, are just some examples of great recruits

- ✓ Don't be afraid to ask for help! Affiliates around the nation have experience in dealing with just about any challenge we run into.

We look forward to working with Jeanna and other Family Promise national staff, as we get closer to our open date.

A WORD FROM THE FAMILY PROMISE NATIONAL OFFICE:

Poverty is a complex problem. It won't yield to a simple solution. It requires an integrated approach that reaches beyond immediate needs.

We initiate coordinated local efforts that bring communities together to help homeless families regain their housing, their independence, and their dignity.

TARGET OPENING: JANUARY 2017

To Do List:

- ✓ Recruit Board members
- ✓ Sign additional host and supporting congregations
- ✓ Recruit 20 more “Families of \$500”
- ✓ Complete grant proposals
- ✓ Secure a Day Center site
- ✓ Orient & train our congregational volunteers



WHAT IS A “FAMILY OF \$500”?

A Family of \$500 pledges \$500/year for the first 3 years of operations. This is a great way to give Family Promise of Juneau the jump-start needed to communicate the mission and demonstrate that Juneau families care about our friends and neighbors in need. We already have 13 families making the pledge of \$500/year to help guide a family to self-sufficiency. Please consider becoming a “Family of \$500” today!

Family Promise of Juneau operates as a 501(c)3 and your donations may be tax deductible. Please seek advice from your tax advisor.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Promote Family Promise to your congregation
- Volunteer your time
- Make Monetary Donations – Payable to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church with “Family Promise” in the Memo section and mail to:
SOV, PO Box 32775
Juneau, AK 99803
- Become a “Family of \$500”
- Consider serving on the board of Family Promise or a committee (see Committee Highlights, pg. 2)

We are a **local** response to a **national** crisis, helping homeless **families** build new lives.

HOW FAMILY PROMISE WORKS:

- Family Promise staff interviews and qualifies families to participate in the program
- Families spend their days at school or work or receiving supportive services at the Family Promise day center.
- The Family Promise van transports families to their church home each evening where they receive overnight accommodations, a hot meal, and hospitality and fellowship from volunteers.
- Families return to the Day Center the next morning, shower, take the bus to school, continue job searches, etc.
- Once a week, staff and volunteers move cots and belongings to the next home.
- An executive director, part-time or full-time caseworker, and van driver typically staff Family Promise. Volunteers serve many critical roles.



Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him; and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily. Your righteousness shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard." (Isaiah 58:6-8)

FAMILY PROMISE OF JUNEAU

PO Box 32275
Juneau, AK99803

[RECIPIENT]

Address Line 1
Address Line 2
Address Line 3
Address Line 4