



MONTHLY SNAP SHOT



Updates for family, friends, and partners!

Family Promise of Roane County

Family Promise of Roane County strives to reach out to our community members and serve at-risk, low-income, and families experiencing homelessness .

This Spring we began our prevention and diversion program . The goal of this program to help families avoid losing housing and prevent homelessness.

We connect families to other services and offer case management to parents willing to learn how to better their situation and avoid falling into the vicious cycle of generational poverty.

#DidYouKnow

Volunteerism improves mood and lessens stress.

- Success
- Diversity
- Events
- A Challenge: Back to Business

This past month we launched our new prevention and diversion program and what a success it has been. We have begun to work with other services to provide food for those in need. We are always open to hear the needs of the community.

As the Nation adjust to a "new normal," Covid-19 is not the only hardship that has hit our country. racism and justice has become a spotlighted issue and Family Promise has a response.

Although our past events have been canceled or rescheduled we continue to adjust to new style of events

WHAT A SUCCESS!

Our new prevention and diversion has been a victory. In the past month since the announce of our new program, FPRC has help 4 families avoid losing their housing with assistance for rent or utilities.

Nearly 40% of Americans can't cover a surprise \$400 expense.

We have also helped an additional five families who were unable to purchase diapers, wipes, hygiene items, and food after paying their bills. We are working with Rockwood Ministerial Association and Kingston Church of Christ to help provide food to families in need.

Diversity and Homelessness

Homelessness is a justice issue. Institutional racism is inextricably intertwined with the crisis of family homelessness. We cannot solve homelessness without solving our issues with racism.

Why is this? Because black Americans are more susceptible to housing instability caused by redlining and housing segregation.

This is the result of centuries of discrimination in housing, criminal justice, child welfare, and education

Black high school students are nearly 3x more likely to experience homelessness than their white peers.

Black families make up nearly half of the families we serve nationwide.

Board Members

Sunny Ridings
Christina Shuey
Donna Smith
Sherry Paris
Anne McGehee
Wendy Neff
Steve Sherman
Lisa Stooksbury
Andrew Holmbeck
Julia Lovins
Emily Gonzalez

Host Congregations

Bethel Presbyterian
First Christian Church Oak Ridge
First Christian Church Rockwood
Harriman Church of God
Kingston Church of Christ
Morrison Hill Christian Church
Northpoint Church

Support Congregations

First Presbyterian Church
Williams Chapel AMZ
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day
Saints
Riverside Baptist Church



EVENTS

Wish-list

Every Wednesday on our Facebook page (Family Promise of Roane County,) we share a Wednesday wish-list and a link to our Amazon wish-list.

Sometimes we need supplies for cleaning the day center, hygiene supplies for the families, toys, and entertainment for the children etc.

Below are items that are needed on a revolving basis.

- Disinfectant wipes and spray
- Toilet paper
- Dish soap
- Hand soap
- Hand Sanitizer
- Food City & Kroger gift cards
- Gas cards
- Sun Screen



A NIGHT WITHOUT A BED

On June 20th, Roane County citizens joined Family Promise to spread awareness about homelessness. Families across the county spent one night sleeping in a space other than their own bed. Participants collected pledges and flat donations from others in the community who wanted to support the cause. Altogether Roane County raised over \$1,000 over night. Thank you all for your amazing support.

Our next event will be held July 24th, a virtual silent auction. This is a Facebook event. We are still taking donations for new items and services.

You can check out our current items on the event page. Bidding will begin July 24th at 8 am and end 8 pm.

How to bid:

- On July 24th the comments will be turned on at 8am.
- Comment the amount you like to bid on the picture of the item.
 - Keep an eye out throughout the day to be sure you don't get outbid.
- Comments will be turned off at 8pm and bidding will be concluding.
 - Winners will be announced Saturday morning- Payment and item delivery/pick up will be arranged privately.

Family Promise of Roane County Challenges you!

Family Promise of Roane County challenges you and your congregation to expand your outreach to the children and families experiencing homelessness in Roane County.

A typical affiliate has a total of 13 host congregation to serve and provide families with meals and shelter year round. Family Promise of Roane County have seven host congregations. We are very appreciative and honored to be working with our current host congregations. However, this means we are only able to provide shelter for 28 weeks a year. This will not do!

Last year in our 28 weeks over shelter we served four Families. We successfully helped 3 of the 4 families we served secure housing. Imagine how many more children we could live in a more stable environment if we served year round.

-Met with faith leaders in a county without a Family Promise affiliate. One said "We preach the importance of keeping families together on Sunday morning yet we aren't making that a reality for the homeless families."
-Lisa Foster



How do you start?

First of all, almost any congregation can host. It takes planning, perseverance and passion—and the belief that this is an opportunity for a congregation to engage in a truly transformational outreach.

Talk about the program with people in your congregation. Are the specific individuals who are movers and shakers clergy aware of the program and its benefits? If not tell them! Invite the Director or Board member to visit the congregation and share about the services and outreach opportunity FPRC provides.

Congregations provide space for typically 3 or 4 families (5 maximum) and no more than 14 individuals, mostly children, to stay for a week at a time.

During the day, families are at the day center. There is transportation provided to and from the day center and the congregations.

Volunteers are the heart of the program and range from people cooking meals or moving beds to those sleeping overnight or playing games with children. A host congregation will host @4-5 weeks out of the year; approximately once a quarter (dependent on the number of host churches.)

If interested in learning more about how your congregation can become a host please email us at director@familypromiseroane.org or call 865-245-8255



Last week I volunteered at a local host congregation. I was so very touched by the many families that came up to me with hugs and thanking me for starting Family Promise.



KAREN OLSON
Founder, Family Promise

