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[HTTPS://FAMILYPROMISEROANE.ORG](https://familypromiseroane.org)

It Could Happen to Any of Us

At Family Promise of Roane County, we often meet families who never imagined they'd face homelessness. One recent story reminded us how suddenly life can change.

A man was referred to us by a partner organization. He arrived with a warm smile and gratitude in his heart. Just a few years earlier, he had a steady job, a home, a wife, and three children. Then a sudden illness left him unable to work. When his insurance ran out and the bills piled up, they lost their home. His wife, caring for him and their child with disabilities, could only manage part-time work.

They ended up living in their car. Their twins were placed in temporary foster care. For over a year, they stayed with friends and family, doing their best to hold on. Then a miracle happened, his health improved, and he was able to return to full-time work. The family lived simply, saved diligently, and eventually found a home to rent. That's when they came to us. We were able to help with their first month's rent and utility deposits, just enough to bring their family back together under one roof.

We've changed details to protect their privacy, but their story is real and a powerful reminder that this can happen to anyone. To all our generous donors: thank you. Your kindness helps neighbors like this family find stability, dignity, and a fresh start.

A Fresh Start: Welcoming Our New Board

Hurray! We recently elected a new board of directors at Family Promise of Roane County, bringing fresh energy and ideas to our mission. Board Chair Amy Keeling shared, *"We're strengthening ties with local churches, building key committees like fundraising and finance, and ensuring strong, transparent governance, keeping track of our mission, to help families stay housed."*

Meet the full board on our website: <https://familypromiseroane.org/family-promise-of-roane-board-of-trustees/>. We love to speak with congregations, organizations, companies, and community groups about the work of Family Promise and how we can partner to support families experiencing homelessness in Roane County.

A New Beginning

We're excited to share that one of our shelter families has been approved for permanent housing!

With the help of our case manager, Tabitha Lawson, and a trusted landlord partner, the family will soon sign a lease and begin moving in. After losing their previous home due to severe mold, they had to leave many belongings behind, but thanks to our Family Promise Thrift and generous donors, we already have furniture set aside and are planning a small housewarming with our church partners.

This move marks the start of the next phase in our program: one full year of personalized case management to support long-term stability, followed by continued support as needed.

Thank you to the donors and volunteers for helping make this new chapter possible. Your kindness keeps Roane County families moving forward.

Pictured: Tabitha Lawson, our case manager, who guided the family every step of the way.



Meet Shelby Stout: Breathing New Life into Our Thrift Store

We're excited to welcome Shelby Stout as the new manager of the Family Promise Thrift Store! Thanks to a kind donor, Shelby is with us for two months to refresh the store, improve displays, boost profits, and make sure every customer feels at home.

With Shelby on board, we've expanded our hours. We're now open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Stop in and say hello!

We're also looking for volunteers to help sort through donations, style displays, and assist shoppers. And don't forget to keep your donations coming! We need clothes, housewares, tools, furniture, and more!

Catch Shelby's fun and helpful videos on our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61562688942911>



Executive Director's Corner: Building a Roane County Where Every Child Has a Home

The past two months as Executive Director of Family Promise of Roane County have been full of energy and purpose. Our mission remains clear: no child should be homeless.

In the past two months, our case manager, Tabitha Lawson, has helped 20 neighbors, families, and individuals alike stay in or move into permanent housing. Each success story reminds us why this work matters. We've strengthened partnerships, expanded our thrift store with Shelby's leadership, and I've been focused on securing and managing grants to support our programs.

This role is more than a job; it's a chance to build a community where every child has a safe place to call home. Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

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