



Family Promise® of Greater Houston County

Building communities, strengthening lives.



Volume 3 Issue 12
December 2015

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**This newsletter is
created monthly by
FPGHC volunteers.
Please share it with
your friends.**



**Director's
Corner
By: Nicole Fogle**

We love seeing our Family Promise children happy during every season but especially during the holiday season. It is wonderful to hear laughter throughout the Day Center along with children singing Christmas carols and shaking presents under the tree. We have an amazing group of children ranging from 2 to 15 this year. Although times are a bit tough for our parents, they manage to keep a sense of normalcy with their children with homework, chores, and family fun. I recently saw this wonderful quote that made me think of our families.

Merry Christmas to our Family Promise families and our wonderful community that helps us serve!



Mossy Creek Middle School Students that serve with FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) and FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) met recently to make no-sew fleece tie pillows and blankets. They generously donated them to the guest families of Family Promise of Greater Houston County. Kadie Griger, Adviser for this project, shared, "We were all so excited and thoroughly enjoyed working together for this project." These smiling faces tell you how well they were received.



**THANK YOU
FCCLA
and FBLA
Members!**



CHRISTmas Parade

Our First Christmas Float

Much fun was had in creating and executing the ideas for our first entry into the world of Christmas parade floats. We elected to enter just one this year to see how it went, and we chose the Warner Robins Parade with its theme "Christmas in the Movies". After scouring through memories of many movies, we chose "With Family Promise You're Never HOME ALONE". Annette Anderson, FPGHC intern, headed the effort with the assistance of board members and volunteers. Our "home" was created on a trailer decorated with garlands, a large Santa, and other Christmas décor, it was a cozy setting for our "guests", former guest Sherry and her grandchildren Isabella and Monte, and Family Promise "hosts", Dave Razo and Annette with her granddaughter.



Children with their "Oh, No" faces

Pulled by Paul Shealy driving his truck, accompanied by Vivian Stilley, with Sharon Aman and Carolyn Schomer in the back, we all had fun waving our "Kevin" signs -- Kevin's familiar "oh, no" face and Family Promise saying "not with us". We received a lot of "thumbs up", "oh no" faces, and "yeah, Family Promise" from the crowd along the way.

In spite of challenges [cold weather and the logistics of getting everyone to Peavy Park on the far north side of Warner Robins by 7:30 and picked up at McConnell Talbert Stadium on the south side of town at noon...thank you Shirley Boan for being our taxi] we accomplished our goals...to spread the name of Family Promise and to have fun. A big "thank you" to all who participated, especially Lessia Razo who presented each of our children a bag of goodies at the end of the parade.



Annette securing Christmas tree to the trailer



Children snuggled up and warm



Dave, Nicole, and Annette making last minute inspection



Paul Shealy securing sign on this truck



Sharon holding "Kevin" Sign



Sherry and Isabella ready to go

Check out a short video and more pictures on our Facebook and website.

RazBytes: Bite-size Nuggets from the President

Tis the Season



Christmas came early to FPGHC as we received a wonderful gift from the **Robins Regional Chamber Leaders**. December 3rd these wonderful community leaders came together to give us a new enclosed trailer they purchased from Mobile Space (a big THANKS to Mobile Space for giving them/us a great deal!).

This trailer will be used on a weekly basis to transport our guest beds, supplies and personal belongings from one host church to the next. In addition, the trailer gives us much more flexibility when receiving donated furniture, or moving a guest family into their new home. In fact, we have already used it this past week! We are very grateful for this early Christmas present and hope these young leaders are blessed through this generous gift. **THANK YOU EVERY ONE!**



Looking Back



Karen Olsen
FP Founder

Just about two years ago the President and Founder of Family Promise, **Karen Olsen**, came to visit us in Houston County. We were immediately struck by her charm, her home spun logic, and her amazing grace. She walked the walk and talked the talk about charity and generosity and we were all inspired by what she had started by sharing her sandwich with Millie, a homeless woman, outside Grand Central Station 30 years ago. In a recent article she wrote "I never imagined that my efforts would grow into a national organization. I did not anticipate the depth of human compassion by so many people to allow Family Promise to grow into the organization it is today." Sadly, Karen has decided to step down as the President of Family Promise, although she will remain involved as *President Emeritus*; speaking at events and providing guidance along the way. Claas Ehlers, currently Director of Affiliate Services, will take the reins as our National President in January and comes to us as a 14 year veteran of the organization with a deep and unwavering commitment to our mission. We wish Karen and Claas all the best in their new roles and thank them for all they have provided!



Claas Ehlers

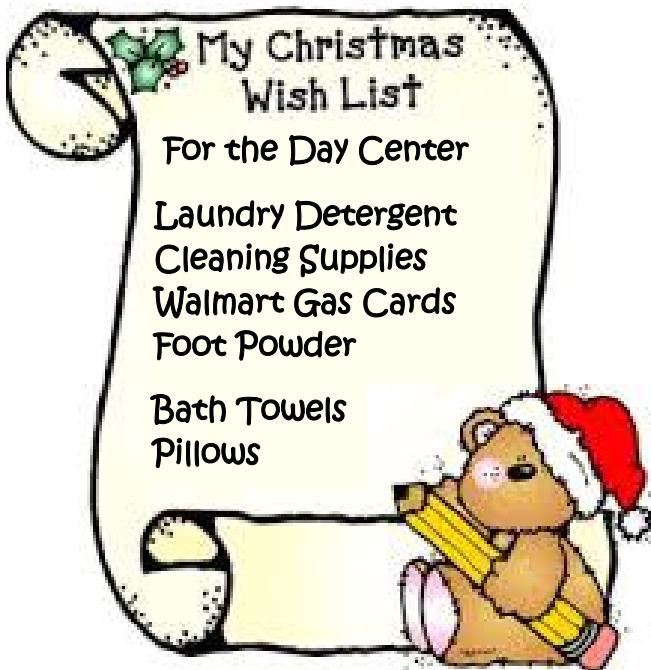
Looking Forward



I was excited to read about a new program, in fact it's called "**NEW BEGINNINGS**," our National Office has implemented. It is a financial services system that includes a comprehensive curriculum designed for low income families. I expect this will soon become a mandatory part of our local program as financial literacy is a critically important component to helping the families we serve. This is a modular program designed so one person *does not need* to teach the entire course. The course will help teach budgeting, and a host of important financial skills and can be taught by trainers of all backgrounds. We believe this is a vitally important aspect of maintaining a self-sustaining household and a skill that everyone should know. It is crucial to the longer term success of all families. We are looking for a few individuals to help us administer this program and would appreciate you volunteering. Volunteers should contact Dave Razo at 478-923-9391. Thanks for you help!



Ms. Michelle's and Ms. Amanda's classes at Tucker Head Start organized a canned food drive for our Family Promise Families during the Thanksgiving Season. Thank you teachers, parents, and students for your generous contributions!



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**Family Promise of Greater
Houston County, Inc.**

Is a non-profit 501c3 non-denominational organization for families in transition and part of a national organization founded in 1986. The Family Promise Network Program provides shelter, meals and support services to families without homes through a network of local congregations.

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Combined Federal Campaign
Member # 90951

Donate online:
<https://www.gagivesday.org>
Type "Family Promise of Greater Houston County" in the search box



#FP_hope



Recent Donations have been received from:

Rx for Homelessness

Melanie Berryhill

Richard & Helen Jackson

Matthew & Julia Stewart

Dell & Cynthia Godfrey—Club 247

Dave & Carolyn Schomer—Club 247

Sears Retirement Club

**Middle GA Republican Women—In Honor of
their President Brenda Shivers**

The Vine Church

First United Methodist Women

First Christian Church—Grace Group

**Warner Robins CME Church—proceeds
from Taste of WR CME and yard sale**

**Christ United Methodist Church—proceeds
from Pumpkin Patch**

Perry Drama Club—monetary & gift card donations

**Harvest Church Community Group—in-kind gifts of laundry
detergent, hand soap, and pillows for the Day Center**

**Robins Regional Chamber Leaders, Class of 2015—an
Enclosed Trailer, read information in the RazBytes article**



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