

Letter from the Director

It is the month where the focus is on love. Well our families surely have felt the love of the volunteers from the host and support congregations and the community who are coming together to provide them a safe place to be with their children. Each of the families we have served over the past month have let us know how blessed they feel. How each volunteer from van driver to overnight host to administrative help at the day center has made a difference in their lives.

We admitted family #4 this week. A mom with a 6 month old daughter. One of our families was transferred to an agency in Greensboro which provided more of the services that they needed. Another family moved into an apartment this past week. It was the mom's first place of her own and as you can imagine she was extremely excited. The mom of our third family is now taking part in the WorkFirst program. Our fourth mom will start the WorkFirst program later this month.

Further on in this newsletter you will find insight on what a day in the life of our guests is like. We have an update from the Point in Time Count that took place in January and information on a program Give A Day, Get A Disney Day. You may have seen the commercial for The Pepsi Refresh Project, which we are currently preparing a grant for. There is information on this program in the newsletter as well.

There is also an update on the next Community Meeting and Cardboard Box City. Be sure to mark your calendar for both events as I hope to see you there!

Blessings,



How many were counted?

As you may remember last month we had an article about the Point in Time Count held January 27, 2010 where groups go out and count the unsheltered homeless as well as shelters provide the number of homeless people they are serving on that evening.

During this count there were 547 homeless persons, compared to 485 persons who were homeless on January 28, 2009. There were 105 homeless children in 2010, compared to 75 children last year, a 40% increase. The number of chronically homeless persons rose from 119 in 2009 to 142 in 2010.

This information was provided by Tim West, Program Supervisor of the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department of the City of Winston-Salem.

Cardboard Box City

Are you a survivor? We sure hope so as that is our theme for Cardboard Box City.

All the games this year will be in "Survivor" fashion. So start practicing your knot untying, puzzle solving, knowledge of facts and word scrambles in order to be prepared to challenge the other teams to determine who is the true Survivor of Cardboard Box City 2010.

Please pass the word along to all your friends and encourage them to come as well. You can find out more information at our website www.familypromiseforsyth.org.

Need to Contact Us?

Debbi Butner
Executive Director, director@familypromiseforsyth.org

Stephanie Funderburk
Case Manager, casemgr@familypromiseforsyth.org

Community Meeting—March 9

We will be holding a community meeting on March 9 at Kernersville Wesleyan Church at 6:30. As we move forward we want to keep the community involved and updated on our progress.

At this meeting there will be a presentation on the framework of poverty within economic classes, how homelessness affects children and families, and your role in helping these families move forward.

We hope you will join us at Kernersville Wesleyan Church, 930 N. Main St. Kernersville. We will be in the pre-school wing in the **Fellowship Sunday School Classroom**. Best way to enter is to take N. Main St. to Chaucer Manor Drive and park in the parking lot that is off Chaucer Manor Drive.

Give a day, Get a Disney Day

Disney wants to inspire one million people to volunteer a day of service to a participating organization in their community. They are celebrating these volunteers' good works by giving each of them a 1-day, 1-theme park ticket to the Disneyland® Resort or Walt Disney World® Resort, free. Disney is partnering with the HandsOn Network to provide volunteer opportunities.

Family Promise has registered and listed several volunteer opportunities that qualify for this program. For those of you who are volunteering in your congregations we listed a Community Volunteer position that you can register to take part in. For those who are serving in other ways you should find the position in which you volunteer on the site as well.

All volunteers must pre-register and sign up through www.disneyparks.com to volunteer and complete your service at an eligible volunteer opportunity.

Refresh Everything—Pepsi

Pepsi is looking for people, businesses and non-profits who are making a positive impact in their community. They are awarding 10 grants each worth \$5,000, \$25,000, or \$50,000 and 2 grants of \$250,000. Then the world gets to vote! The top 10 ideas (determined by who receives the most votes) in each grant category are awarded the Refresh grants.

Each month Pepsi accepts 1000 grants. Family Promise is submitting our Interfaith Hospitality Network Program in March for the April vote. We will update you in March on how to vote. For more information feel free to visit www.refresheverything.com.

A Glimpse at a day in the life of a Family Promise Guest

6:30-6:45 am - Van leaves the congregation

7:00 am - Arrive at the day center.

7:15 am - Bus arrives to pick up children for day care.

7:30 am - School system bus arrives for elementary age children.

8:00 am - Moms, who don't have transportation, are taken to the PART bus stop to head into Winston-Salem for the WorkFirst program they are taking part in. Half a day is spent in the employment lab while the other half is spent job hunting. Depending which half of the day they are assigned to the employment lab (either 8:30-11:30am or 12:30-3:30pm) determines which half they spend job hunting. If they do not have a car then they maneuver about the city by WSTA.

4:10 pm - Moms are picked up from the PART bus stop. We then head to collect children from the day care.

4:45 pm - Arrive back at the day center.

5:30 pm - Van leaves day center to go to congregation.

6:00 pm - Arrive at congregation.

6:30 pm - Dinner.

FYI – Participants of WorkFirst receive day care vouchers for their children and bus passes if needed. Participants first must apply for the program, go through an intake process, and then attend orientation in order to take part in the 30 day program. They are required to have good attendance, no more than 2 unexcused absences and submit 5 job applications per week.

The hopes are that the participant will find a job before the 30 days pass. If they do not find a job and have met all the requirements they will receive a check at the end of the month. The most financial assistance they can receive based on a formula that takes any other income into consideration is \$272.

The WorkFirst program is a 30 day pre-certification for the Job Readiness program at Goodwill. If the participant did not find a job and successfully completed the WorkFirst program they will be eligible to apply at Goodwill for the Job Readiness program.

As you can see our guests do not have much time once they arrive at the day center. After the family arrives back in the afternoon the mom is catching up on her child's day and working on getting together what is needed to go with them to the congregation.

Each week the families meet with Stephanie, determine the chores they are going to be responsible for handling at the day center, and schedule their laundry days for the week.