

Note from the Director

1 John 3:17 (NRSV) How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? The outpouring of Christ's love amongst all our volunteers and staff is what I call true love. I know that your hearts are concerned and wondering why these past few weeks we have not had any families. With the stress of the holidays behind the relatives or friends that help them, families are able to reach out and be offered a place to stay. Another reason is that it is tax refund time and these families all file the simple form and will have monies to live on for the next several weeks.

Unfortunately when in the situation of homelessness, most families are living day by day. They are not thinking long term, so that means if they can afford a hotel today, that is great versus. Let's stay in a program that can assist us and save our funds for a future deposit or pay off some bills that are hindering us from having a place to stay.

This past week I had the experience of going out and taking part in the street count of our unsheltered homeless. It was truly an eye opener for me and makes me thankful to be a part of an organization that is here to help those who have no place to go.

I hope that the article on the second page of this newsletter on compassion fatigue by Pastor Don Davis of Kernersville Seventh-Day Adventist Church will offer you some insight on how helping others can be so tiring. Family Promise is blessed to have so many wonderful volunteers who are willing to stand by, be ready if there is a need, and then welcome our families with open arms. Each of you is a Valentine to every family member your life touches!

Blessings,



Highlights for Family Promise

Our director was named Modern Automotive's January Citizen of the Month, which came with a donation to Debbi's favorite charity of \$1,000. Yep, you guessed it, Family Promise received the funds! <http://www.moderntoyota.com/monthly-newsletter.aspx>.

Thanks to Hands on Northwest North Carolina, Forsyth County Women's Journal's recognizes Debbi's heart and passion for Family Promise in their February issue themed "A woman's heart". The issue is to be in the stands February 7 or you can read it online at http://www.facebook.com/pages/Forsyth-County-Womens-Journal/122755454455004?v=app_392248091048.

Debbi has been asked to be the presenter for Life Journey Ministries' workshop, called Understanding the Dynamics of Poverty. This is a free virtual workshop being held on-line February 24 and March 3. If you would like to learn more about this workshop please go to <http://www.lifejourneyministries.org/offerings.php?ID=16>.

Need to Contact Us?

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Tired of Doing Good? From the Kernersville Seventh-Day Adventist Newsletter by Pastor Don Davis.

Have you ever gotten tired of helping others? Don't feel bad, you're not alone. *Compassion fatigue* is a term that is used to describe a gradual lessening of compassion over time. It was first noticed in nurses in the 1950's. People in the health care professions can feel overwhelmed, even depressed, at trying to help others, wondering if they are really doing any good.

Yet it's not just doctors and nurses that can be affected. Anyone in the caring professions that deals with people can reach a point where the needs seem so great and their effort seems so small. That certainly was the case following Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and again in the months after the devastating earthquake in Haiti in 2010. The longer the cleanup and recovery took the harder it was on those who were trying to assist as well as those who watched the reports on television. People tend to "tune out" or "shut down" when they feel powerless to make a difference.

Even Christians face compassion fatigue. It's hard to keep working in ministry for others when it seems like we're not seeing measurable results. The apostle Paul must have been familiar with such feelings since he offers these encouraging words,

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Galatians 6:9-10) (See also 2 Thessalonians 3:13)

After four years of Walk Through Bethlehem and all the hours of work it's easy to wonder if it is really worth the effort. After two years of serving as a host church to homeless families for Family Promise it's gotten harder to recruit volunteers. Even serving in other ministries in the church or talking to individuals that we don't know at church can seem like hard work. That's because it's easy to get burned out doing good for others.

Jesus understood this principle all too well. Notice what He did after a particularly busy Sabbath day.

"At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him. Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed." (Mark 1:32-35)

(next column)

Jesus knew His limits. He was both God and human. He knew that His purpose in life was to do the "will of Him who sent Me" (John 6:38) which involved seeking and saving lost people. Yet He also knew that He needed down time. Time to rest and pray and get spiritually recharged.

As we begin 2011 we need to be spiritually recharged. May we each take the time to be renewed and revived so that Jesus can continue to use us to do good to others!

Cardboard Box City 2011

The date is set and the excitement is growing. We hope that you are planning to come and be a part of Cardboard Box City on Friday, April 29th. Tell your friends, clubs and youth groups. Share the fun!

The committee is well under way with their planning and looking forward to seeing everyone. Soon you will be able to register online www.familypromiseforsyth.org.

Host & Day Center Volunteer Training

The next volunteer training is scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2011 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Every volunteer is required to attend a training. If you have not attended training please plan to attend. Please call the day center (245-1807) to register by April 4, 2011.

A New Way to Help

We have several people who have expressed that they would like to help Family Promise but are not able to volunteer at the congregations. We are looking for prayer partners who will keep Family Promise and our families held up in prayers. If you would like to be a part of the Family Promise Prayer Team please let us know by phone (245-1807) or email (director@familypromiseforsyth.org).