

Note from the Director

Happy New Year! I would like to start my note with an apology to Faith Assembly of God church for omitting them from our Shining Stars tree!! As one of our first host congregations they are very important to us!!

It is an absolute joy to know that we are making a difference in families' lives. During 2010 we served 17 families. We are starting off the new year with 3 families in our program and a waiting list.

During December it was very exciting to see how the community came together to provide Christmas for 9 of our past and current families. It was like homecoming week here at the day center as we visited with families and caught up on their latest news. You will find an update further on in the newsletter.

For those of you who could not make the Victorian Christmas performance at Korners Folly, you missed an evening of fun. We had an opportunity to tour the Folly and then enjoy an entertaining show. Our thanks to Pastor Randy Edwards of Grace Presbyterian for recognizing Family Promise and Bruce Frankel, Director of Korners Folly for including us in the evening.

As I look back on 2010 and see the many accomplishments of Family Promise, I am excited to think about the great possibilities for 2011. With winter upon us, I am sure there will be some weather challenges. Come spring we will be hosting Cardboard Box City on Friday, April 29. With a new year comes new challenges and opportunities. I look forward to both as challenges are also an opportunity to learn and grow.

Blessings,



Point-in-Time Count How you can help and why.

On Wednesday evening, January 26, 2011, United Way of Forsyth County is asking for your help to assist with the Point-in-Time Count. The count is a one day, duplicated count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families in the county.

Groups of 4 will count throughout the city for two shifts, 9pm – 12am and 12am – 4am. Volunteers who are working out on the streets must be 18 years or older. **Volunteer Training will be held January 12, 2011 from 6pm – 7:30 pm at the Bethesda Center for the Homeless, 930 N. Patterson Avenue, WS NC 27101.** If you are interested in helping, please contact Teri Hairston at 721-9378.

Why is the PIT Count Important?

Collecting good data on the number, characteristics, and service needs of individuals, families, and unaccompanied children experiencing homelessness is a critical component of local homeless planning and program development.

Accurate data helps communities to:

- Understand changes in trends among homeless populations
- Adjust the types of programs and services available according to need and use resources as efficiently as possible
- Justify requests for additional resources and/or programming modifications
- Comply with reporting requirements from HUD, other funders, and local stakeholders
- Raise public awareness about the issue of homelessness
- Measure community progress towards preventing and ending homelessness

Need to Contact Us?

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Cardboard Box City 2011

The next planning meeting is January 11, 2011 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the day center, 313 Hopkins Road, Kernersville. We welcome any one who would like to join us! If you would like to serve on the planning committee for this event, please call us at 245-1807.

Volunteer Training

Volunteer Training will take place Saturday, January 22, 2011 from 10am -12pm at the day center, 313 Hopkins Road, Kernersville. We will hold a training once per quarter for any volunteers who have not already had training. **Every volunteer is required to go through this training.** Please contact us at 245-1807 if you plan to attend. This will allow us to provide the correct number of training materials.

Family Updates

It was a special joy to be able to see so many of our families during Christmas week. They are doing a wonderful job of moving forward in their goal of independence.

Amber's family is now in an apartment since receiving the Work Experience program through the Department of Social Services. Here is Justice



her Section 8 voucher. She is now participating in the Work Experience program through the Department of Social Services. We have also connected with her new coat.

Felicia also has received a Section 8 voucher. She has also been hired for a full time job recently. Until she received the job offer she was taking part in the Work Experience program as well. Felicia also receives assistance from the food program. The two boys are doing great!

Michael and Daphne left us to go into a transitional housing program through Experience Self Reliance (ESR). They are moving into their own place this month. Daphne has switched jobs and Michael starts a new job this month as well. The family is doing very well.



Michelle and her 4 children are now taking part in the transitional housing program at ESR as well. Michelle is now working and planning to start classes in the evening. It was great to see all of the kids. The two young boys were so excited to see bikes waiting for them! By the time all was packed, the van was full.



Isabella has obtained a job as caretaker for an apartment complex and one of the perks of the job is having an apartment provided on site. She is very excited about her new position.

Kelsey is now back in the area and has a place they are staying. Her daughter has grown so much and is now walking.

Lakissia and her children who are currently with us enjoyed a nice week at the motel. They were very excited to find a Christmas tree all decorated and gifts waiting for them in their room. The family also decorated our tree here at the day center. Doesn't it look great!

