



2011 ARCHIVES

JANUARY

Point in Time Count (PIT)

On Wednesday evening, January 26, 2011 the Point in Time Count will take place. The United Way's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness is asking for our help to assist with this count. If you are interested in doing so please contact Teri Hairston at teri.hairston@uwforsyth.org or 721-9378.

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; and
- Measure community progress towards preventing and ending homelessness.

We'll update you on the results from this semi-annual survey as soon as they are available.

A Happy Holiday for Our Families

Our community came together to provide Christmas for nine of our past and current families.

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 her Section 8 voucher. She is now participating in the Work Experience program through the Department of Social Services. We have also connected Amber to a food assistance program.

Felicia also has received a Section 8 voucher. She was 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.



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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.

Cardboard Box City is Coming!

The date is set and plans are well underway for our third Cardboard Box City fundraising event, to be held at Kernersville Elementary school on Friday, April 29. Here are some ways you can help:

- Encourage others to participate, particularly groups.
- Encourage your company or organization to be a sponsor (for more information on sponsorships, contact the day center).
- Help with the planning and publicity. Contact the day center for the next meeting date.

Victorian Christmas

Family Promise participated in a Victorian Christmas performance at Korners Folly. 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.

Happy New Year!

During 2010 we served 17 families. We were blessed to know these families and to see the difference Family Promise made in their lives. We also welcomed many new volunteers as well as new host congregations. We are starting off the new year with 3 families in our program and a waiting list. With your help, 2011 will be a wonderful year for Family Promise.

Debbi Butner Named Citizen of the Month

Modern Automotive named Family Promise of Forsyth County Director Debbi Butner Citizen of the Month for January. Butner was nominated for the award by a Family Promise volunteer. The Kernersville News ran a front-page story on the honor the second week of January, so this well-deserved honor garnished our organization some excellent publicity. The winner receives a \$1000 cash donation for a designated charity, which of course will be Family Promise of Forsyth. Click [here](#) to read the article about Debbi on the Modern Automotive website.

Family Promise Founder Interviewed By Actress Marlo Thomas

Karen Olson, founder of Family Promise (our parent organization), is featured in current "The Hero Next Door" video segments at marlothomas.com.

Find out how it all began! Watch her inspiring video interview.

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Online Workshop: Understanding Poverty

Family Promise Director Debbi Butner is the presenter for Life Journey Ministries' workshop, Understanding the Dynamics of Poverty. This is a free online workshop 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>.

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.

Join Our New Prayer Team

Several people have said 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).

Debbi Butner Receives Two Special Recognitions

Hands on Northwest North Carolina, Forsyth County Women's Journal's recognizes Family Promise of Forsyth County Director Debbi Butner for her love for the mission of Family Promise in their February issue themed "A woman's heart". The issue is to be in the stands February 7.

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APRIL

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Cardboard Box City is Almost Here!

Our committee is working hard in planning this year's event, to be held Friday, April 29, 2011. All the information is now available on our Cardboard Box City page. You can register and also download your pledge form on-line.

We will have games and music through out the evening. Registration begins at 6 p.m., with events starting at 7 p.m. There will be a box decorating contest so begin thinking about how you will create your masterpiece!

The Beanstalk Sale

The Beanstalk Sale is the Triad's only consignment sale specifically for big kids, tweens and teens! This organization was founded by Amie Blanks, who realized that as her children were growing the selection of items at consignment sales was shrinking.

Amie approached us to see if we could use the clothes that are left after the sale for the children we



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serve. This was a perfect idea since we receive so many items for the smaller children and very few items for the older children. The next Beanstalk Sale is April 8-9, 2011. If you would like to participate by selling or shopping, please visit their website www.thebeanstalksale.com for more details.

Help with Project Homeless Connect

This one day, one stop, one shop event on Wednesday, April 20, 2011, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the LJVM Coliseum Annex, provides anyone experiencing a housing crisis an opportunity for immediate access to a wide range of agencies tailored to address their critical needs. By bringing the various agencies together under one roof, we provide immediate access to various providers, removing the logistical barriers that homeless people typically face such as transportation and scheduling appointments. It also engages volunteers from all socio-economic groups and enhances the community response to combating homelessness.

At least 200 volunteers are needed in order for the event to run smoothly. Volunteers are asked to serve for at least 2 hours any time during the event day from 6:00 a.m. setup to 6:00 p.m. break down.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Greeters
- Interviewers
- Set up/Clean-up
- Van Drivers
- Optometrists
- Massage Therapists
- Podiatrists
- Participant Escorts
- Entertainers, Story Tellers, Artists
- Lunch Servers
- Hand Out Goodie Bags
- Site Monitors
- Doctors
- Barbers/ Hair Stylists
- Dentists
- Photographer/Videographer
- Paperwork Assistants

Wish List (Can be brought to the Family Promise day center, 313 Hopkins Rd, Kernersville -after 1:30 p.m.)

- Toiletries for Taking Showers
- Snack Food Tote Bags
- Gifts for Clients
- Wallets
- First Aid Kits
- Art Supplies
- Copy Paper
- Pocket Calendars for Clients
- Reading Glasses
- Gallon Size Zip Lock Bags
- Small Toys for Children
- Underwear (men, women, children) • Socks (men, women, children)
- Coffee Supplies (800 persons)

Please contact Teri Hairston for more information or if you would like to volunteer at or 721-9378 or teri.hairston@uwforsyth.org.

Family Update

Many of you have had the opportunity to meet with our most recent families. We had two families in our Interfaith Hospitality Network who had never experienced homelessness before. The third week of March we had two families move into permanent housing.

Will, a single dad joined us with his two children Malik (13) and Brittany (11) mid February. This family is a true example of how none of us know what is around the corner and how it will affect us. Will left all he had in another state in order to come take care of his children after their mother died. Now he has handled all the legal formalities and because he was unable to find employment where he was, the family has come to North Carolina where he



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has a support system. He is making great strides in job hunting. Recently we were able to move Will, Malik & Brittany into an apartment. Family Promise was fortunate to have all the furniture needs for this family from your contributions. Thanks for your help and donations.

Brad and Carli entered our network the end of February with their 10 month old twins, Noah and Caleb. Their two older children Jacob (5) and Elizabeth (6) were staying with their uncle so they can get to school more easily. Once the family realized that they were in a loving environment and not a typical shelter they made different arrangements so that all of their family could be in Family Promise together. The family was homeless because both parents lost their jobs over the past year and a half. While with us Brad was able to find employment and due to your generosity this family also was able to move into housing and have their apartment set with all they needed. We can't thank you enough!

Taniel joined us the beginning of March with her three children (3, 1, and 4 weeks). We are working with her on getting connected to agencies that can provide the assistance needed to help her move forward. With two families moving out, we will be calling those families on our waiting list to see who still needs assistance and offer them our services.

60 Minutes Spotlights Homeless Families

A report from 60 Minutes on the plight of homeless families in Florida.

A New Way to Support Family Promise

There's a new way to support Family Promise that offers you membership benefits. Click here to find out more.

Salem Pregnancy Care Center

Last month the staff from the Salem Pregnancy Care Center met with us to discuss how we could partner together. They serve the community by offering practical support and godly counsel in the areas of crisis pregnancy, parenting, and sexual purity, according to the grace, mercy and love of Jesus Christ.

Together we will be able to provide assistance for any of our moms who are pregnant and we will be able to offer shelter for any of their families in need of shelter, who meet our guidelines.

JULY-AUGUST

Cardboard Box City Raises More Than \$18,000

This year's event was a huge success with over 180 participants spending the night. We expect, when the final tally is complete, to have raised over \$18,000.

Summit School held their own Cardboard Box City event and raised \$584 with 40 participants on April 29th. The funds they raised were donated to Family Promise.

WXII, Winston-Salem Journal and Kernersville News all covered the event. See the articles and pictures on our Facebook page.

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE COMMUNITY FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Congratulations to our Cardboard Box City committee led by Bill Alger for creating such a fun and successful event.

The funds raised will help with our operating expenses in meeting the needs of homeless



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families in Forsyth County. Through the committee's hard work we were able to help raise awareness in the community about the number of families facing homelessness and about our organization.

Having Mayor Dawn Morgan open the event is always a treat. Andy's Tune Express provided super music and Ed Skurka was a wonderful Emcee. We also had a two families who have taken part in our Interfaith Hospitality Network program speak.

The participants all seemed to love the games. The winner of the Box Decorating contest was Sarah Thompson. The individuals who raised the most funds were Parker Dotson, \$240; Charlie Bugg, \$225; and Veronica Waked, \$155. The top three groups were St. Paul UMC, \$1,369.80; Hickory Ridge UMC, \$750, and South Fork Baptist, \$550.

A special thank you to Kernersville Elementary School and the Kernersville Raiders for the use of the football field. We also would like to thank all sponsors listed on the side and also our community partners Costco, Countryside Cinema, Food Lion, Harris Teeter, and Walmart.

Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust - Grant Award

Family Promise is pleased to announce that it has received an \$88,000 grant for the operating funds for its Interfaith Hospitality Network. These funds will allow us to continue to serve homeless families with children and increase our staff over the next three years by increasing the case manager hours and adding an administrative position.

The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust was established in 1947 and is now one of the largest private trusts in North Carolina. The Health Care Division promotes wellness state-wide by investing in prevention and treatment. The Poor and Needy Division of the Trust responds to basic life needs and invests in solutions that improve the quality of life and health for financially needy residents of Forsyth County. Wachovia, a Wells Fargo Company, serves as sole trustee.

Annual Benefit Auction & Dinner

October 29, 2011 is the date for our Annual Benefit Auction & Dinner, "Drive Out Homelessness". The event will be held at First Christian Church starting at 6 p.m., with dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m.

We hope that you will mark your calendars now and save the date. There will be more information to come in future newsletters, including how to advertise in the auction booklet.

If you and/or your business would like to donate a basket, service, or item for the silent auction please contact us at auction@familypromiseforsyth.org or 245-1807

Help Us Operate the Van Safely

As many of you know we were able to purchase a 2007 15 passenger van in November 2010 with the funds we received from the Richard J. Reynolds and Marie M. Reynolds Foundation.

In order to keep this van in the best shape possible we need your help. We have posted the van guidelines in the van and would like to ask that these guidelines be adhered to by the volunteers and the families. Those who drive the van need to be the role models for the families.



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No open food or drinks are to be in the van. Parents are to keep control of all food in bags provided, so children will not open or spill in van.

We also with these guidelines address the safety of all who ride in the van. Please be sure to help us in keeping everyone safe.

All riders must wear a seat belt or if under 80 pounds must follow guidelines below.

Restraint Required:

* A properly used child restraint device (CRD) is required if the child is less than 8 years old AND weighs less than 80 pounds. Most parents and other care givers will be able to comply by using belt-positioning booster seats for children between 40 and 80 pounds. The child must be within the weight range for the child restraint/booster seat and it must meet Federal standards in effect at time of manufacture.

* Children may be secured in a properly fitted seat belt at age 8 (regardless of weight) OR at 80 pounds (regardless of age) - whichever comes first. Placing the shoulder belt under a child's (or adult's) arm or behind the back is both dangerous and illegal.

* If no seating position equipped with a lap and shoulder belt to properly secure a belt positioning booster seat is available, a child who weighs at least 40 pounds may be restrained by a properly fitted lap belt only. **WARNING:** Belt-positioning booster seats can only be used with lap and shoulder combination safety belts. Belt-positioning booster seats must **NEVER** be used with just a lap belt.

Keys are to be removed from the van while driver is not in the van. At no time should children be in the van without an adult present.

Volunteer Opportunities

Many have asked how they can help. Here are some opportunities for taking part with Family Promise outside of when a congregation is hosting at their site.

We use permanent volunteers to help with transportation of the families to and from the congregations. We also have volunteers who help on the weekends so that the day center is open for the families.

If you would like to help with one or many of the following opportunities please contact Debbi Butner, 245-1807.

Van Drivers -

5:30-6:30 a.m. - available mornings are Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.

5:15 - 6:15 p.m. - available evenings are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.

Day Center -

12:30-5:30 p.m. - First Saturday of the month

1-5:30 p.m. - Fourth Sunday of the month

12:30-5:30 p.m. - Fifth Sunday on the month

8 a.m.-1 p.m. - Fifth Sunday of the month

Project Homeless Connect

This event, sponsored by the United Way and attended by many local non-profit organizations, provides an opportunity for Family Promise to reach out to the homeless population. We had 39 visits at our booth, 10 visitors who we provided information or referrals, 4 who received direct services, and 2 with whom we made follow-up appointments.



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Beanstalk Sale

Family Promise was blessed with many pieces of clothing for the tweens and teens from the consignment sale. We are so thankful for this partnership!

OCTOBER

Interested in Volunteering or Already a Volunteer?

Family Promise does require our volunteers to go through a brief training as they prepare to serve our guests in the many ways.

As we head into our third year of operations we are asking all of our current volunteers who have not been through training in the last year to please take part in our renewal training.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer we invite you to also take part in the training. We are setting up training sessions to be held at each of our network congregations. If you are not able to attend the session at your congregation or missed your congregation's session, please attend one of the other sessions.

These sessions will give the new volunteer a chance to learn more about how the program works and roles of the volunteers and their duties while serving. For those who have been trained already this will be an opportunity to learn about new procedures that are in place, gain a better understanding of the families we serve, and to help answer any questions you may have.

Upcoming Training Sessions: Main Street United Methodist Church, September 19 @ 7-8:30 p.m., 306 South Main Street, Kernersville Fountain of Life Lutheran Church, October 6 @ 6:30-8 p.m., 323 Hopkins Road, Kernersville

Training Sessions Already Held: Kernersville Seventh-Day Adventist Church First Christian Church Ministries First Baptist Church

Thanks to Our Coordinators

Family Promise would like to THANK all the Volunteer Coordinators who oversee the scheduling and activities while our guests receive the hospitality of their congregation!

A "We will miss you thanks" is sent to those who are stepping down: Brad Anderson, Kay Bare, Marvin Bare, Nancy Barrans, Randi Bechtold, Karen Fulp, Carol Stafford and Vanda Viehman. We appreciate all you have done!

A "Welcoming thanks" to those joining the network as coordinators: Carla Collins, Bouvia Ferguson, Kevin Hedrick, Vickie Horner, Ed Lang, Doug Moody, Trish Moody, Julia Phipps, Angela Stewart and Donna Woolard. We are excited and look forward to working together!

A "Keep up the great work thanks" to all who continue to serve: Deb Ackerman, Louise Beidny-Wilson, Joyce Coburn, Linda Coker, Earnestine Day, Ed Fisher, Louise Fisher, Bonnie Ford, Sherry Ford, Jennifer Greco, Shannon Grubbs, Sudy Hale, Nancy Jewell, Mike Johnston, Susan Johnston, Peg Ludiwg, Harry Martin, Alice Miller, Pam Mitchell, Donna Porter, Gerald Proctor, Shirley Snow, Mike Smith, Jeff Sprague, J Van Willard, Ruth Willard, Courtney Youngblood.

A "Saddened Heart Thank You" to Roger Willis whom passed away last month. He will be greatly missed!



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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

“Drive Out Homelessness” A Great Success, Raises \$11,000!

A great night of fun was had by all at our Fall Fundraising Banquet on October 29.

The Reverse Raffle became very exciting as we got to the last 10 tickets and participants at the event tried to buy out each others' tickets. When it was down to two remaining tickets \$7500 was offered to buy out the competing ticket and the offer was declined. When all was said and done, Danny Hewett had the winning ticket for the 2012 Chevy Cruze.

There were over 140 baskets to be bid on. On Friday two art collector paintings were donated, “Maternal Instincts” by Pino Daeni and “Elegant Evening at the Biltmore” by Thomas Kinkaid which became live auction items.

The 50/50 raffle raised \$755, which Debra Fink had the winning ticket to receive \$378.

A huge THANK YOU to our Auction sub-committee: Fran Little and Chad Hansen (Co-Chairs), Bill Alger, Karena Chrisler, Susan Clark, Yokasta Diaz, Lynn Hartley, Kay Justice, Terri Norman, Ed & Mary Skurka, Sonya Turner-Sledge, and Teresa Wood.

We appreciate all who made donations from the community, Triad Community Kitchen for the marvelous food and First Christian Church Ministries for the use of their facility. We also want to thank Parks Chevrolet for providing the Chevy Cruze for the raffle.

Spotlighting Our Host Congregations

Main Street United Methodist Church

Main Street United Methodist has been involved

with Family Promise since 2009 and was one of the original hosting congregations for our families.

An estimated 100 people from Main Street have offered various talents and skills, as well as time and energy, during the weeklong hosting commitments scheduled among local churches.

Most volunteers have been adults ranging from 20 to 70 years of age; however, the church is hoping to encourage youth to get more involved in the future.

There are direct forms of involvement, such as spending an evening with the families, and indirect involvement like donating food for nightly meals.

Vicki Horner, the Family Promise coordinator at Main Street UMC, says that “Anyone can help, It’s just about finding your comfort level.” She says volunteers and the Families benefit from the program. Families have a comfortable place to stay with hot meals provided. Volunteers are given the opportunity to serve others and can also fulfill a sense of purpose, she said.

Volunteers like to help by visiting with, listening to, and nurturing the families, she said. Vicki has said that there have been so many people at Main Street willing to volunteer with enthusiasm in their hearts and has noticed their genuine concern of wanting to do the best they can to help.

She says that “Family Promise is a great way to care for families. They receive attention and support from loving Christians in the community.” Vicki hopes that the program continues to grow, and wants to raise awareness about it.

Fountain of Life Lutheran Church

Fountain Of Life Lutheran Church is being recognized this month for their involvement with Family Promise. Ever since Family Promise was



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established in Forsyth County, Fountain of Life has opened their doors and their hearts to the program.

For every week the church hosts families, an average of 28 people provide assistance. Seven families volunteer to cook a variety of meals and it is assured that each meal will be different. The church has a playground and ball field available for participants to use. Movies are occasionally shown and there are crafts and coloring opportunities for kids.

Peg Ludwig, the coordinator for the program at Fountain of Life, notes that it is important to be organized when planning to host. About a month before families come to stay, a chart with available volunteer positions is set up in the church's narthex. This system has proved to work well, and volunteers have been easy to find.

She says that it is very important to have the church's support and to inform the congregation of how beneficial Family Promise is to the community and how they can help. "We do the best we can and we roll with the punches," Ludwig says. "It surprised me how rewarded I felt when I became a part of it."

The families obviously aren't the only ones who get something out of the experience, and Ludwig mentions that volunteers enjoy interacting with the families and making them feel at home. "I think it's made them aware of what they have and how fortunate they are." She says it is such a great feeling to find out that participants have located a place to live and begun to reach their goals.

Family Updates

Brandon, Nikki and the girls – Have been blessed with Brandon Jr, born December 2. He weighed in at 8 pounds, 9 ounces. Mom and baby are doing great!

Ashley and the girls – Ashley was able to move her family into their new home a week before Thanksgiving. All were very excited.

Willie and children – Willie moved into permanent housing the beginning of November and now has all four of his children with him. He has called several times to thank us for what Family Promise provided for his family.

Renee and her two boys – Renee was able to secure a job in the medical field as she had hoped. She is currently in transitional housing while waiting for her apartment to become available.

Jwan, Marilyn, and Trysten – Jwan and Marilyn now are both working. With both adults finding employment the family was able to move forward and transition into Experience Self Reliance's program.

Lydia and her two children – Moved into transitional housing after being with us for about two weeks.

Lidia and the three boys – They left us for transitional housing and since then Lidia has secured a job and permanent housing.

Eric & Jamie and their daughters – They are still in transitional housing but making progress that should allow them to secure permanent housing in the near future. Eric was approved for disability and Jamie has found a full time job.

Kaneisha and Aniya - This family entered our program the week of Christmas. Kaneisha is working to find employment and housing. She has already had a couple of interviews since being with us.

Community Notes of Thanks

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH MINISTRIES, Kernersville – What a treat to have homemade



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Thanksgiving dinners delivered to our families who have gone into housing. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful meal!

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH, Kernersville – Enabled a couple of our families to enjoy a delicious Thanksgiving meal at C&H Cafeteria on Thanksgiving day.

GRACE HOUSE PRESCHOOL, Kernersville – Family Promise families will have a blessed Christmas through the angel tree that the children and their families from Grace House Preschool are providing.

LOVE OUT LOUD, Winston-Salem – Our day center had a special glow after a team of volunteers from Winston-Salem First came and did a terrific job cleaning.

PURA VIDA PROMOTIONS, INC., Kernersville – What a surprise to receive a donation of multiple tote bags that are a great size for our families to use as they carry their lunches and daily needs with them.

GREAT SCOTT! Computer Services, Winston-Salem – The computers have been cleaned up and are functioning so much better thanks to Scott.

ALLEN TATE REALTY & STARKEY MORTGAGE, Brooke Cashion and LuAnn Davis, for hosting a Holiday open house with Family Promise as the beneficiary.

FORSYTH COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL – This school in Lewisville made us the recipient of the funds and items donated to their Cardboard Box City event. Over 50 students and staff participated. It was great to take part and speak with the students and then to learn of the impact the event made.

GRACE HOUSE PRESCHOOL – The four year old classes from the preschool at Grace Presbyterian

Church held a bake sale and raised \$181, which they donated to Family Promise.

THE WINSTON-SALEM FOUNDATION – Family Promise was awarded a \$12,500 grant from the The Winston-Salem Foundation. These funds were provided by the Mary A. Payne Charitable Fund for Human Services and the William and Allan Hollan Charitable Fund.

WELLS FARGO, Main Street Winston-Salem – We were asked to be a part of their ribbon cutting and were selected as their Community Partner, which concluded with Wells Fargo donating \$1,000 to our organization.

HOLY CROSS CHURCH, Kernersville – For the hats, gloves, and socks donated to help keep our families warm as winter approaches.

SUMMIT CHURCH, Kernersville – Through their Big Serve we had our yard cleaned up and the families were relieved from doing their inside chores as the day center was cleaned as well.