

Family Promise of Greater Phoenix

Background, facts and figures

Family Promise of Greater Phoenix is a non-profit organization whose volunteers open their houses of worship to provide emergency shelter, meals and support to homeless families. At its Family Center in Scottsdale, the organization provides a day center, employment assistance, counseling and other services for families in the emergency shelter program. The families are bused each day to a faith community, where they have dinner, visit with volunteers and spend the night. Each faith community hosts families for a week at a time. Volunteers form relationships with the families and provide compassionate support, one of the hallmarks of the program.

The Family Center also provides transitional apartments – for periods up to six months – for families working toward financial independence and permanent housing.

On average, about 70 percent of families in the program achieve self-sufficiency.

Key statistics from the 2010 Annual Report

(The Family Promise staff can provide updated statistics, as they are available.)

In 2010, Family Promise of Greater Phoenix:

- Served 34 families, a total of 130 people, in its emergency shelter program. 79 were children.
- Served 8 families, a total of 41 people, in its transitional shelter program. 27 were children.
- Helped 86 percent of those in the emergency shelter program and 100 percent in the transitional shelter program to secure sustainable housing.
- Relied on 17 congregations of various denominations to host families in the emergency program. 13 other supporting congregations did not have room to host families, but provided volunteers and financial support.
- Had an annual operating budget of about \$573,000. Individual and corporate contributions comprised the largest share of funding, about \$478,000.

Background and history

Family Promise of Greater Phoenix is one of 159 Family Promise programs throughout the country. The national organization has affiliates in 38 states and the District of Columbia. Since its founding in 1988, more than 120,000 volunteers have assisted 140,000 guests. The parent organization's website is found at FamilyPromise.org.

The local affiliate was founded in 2000 and was originally based in Phoenix. In 2009, the organization completed the renovation of an apartment complex and moved its Family Center to 7221 E. Belleview St., Scottsdale.

Family Promise focuses on keeping parents and children together while the family seeks permanent housing and financial stability. The organization works closely with other homeless shelters and social services agencies to refer families to the program and to find appropriate services for those whose needs are better met by other programs and agencies.

The program is cost-effective because it taps existing local resources – people, facilities, goods and services – rather than developing new programs.

For additional information, call Family Promise of Greater Phoenix at (480) 659-5227, send an e-mail to info@familypromiseaz.org or go to www.familypromiseaz.org.