



Family Promise®

Building communities, strengthening lives.

...a publication highlighting our work to help low-income families achieve independence.

POWER OF THREE: FUND DEVELOPMENT STORIES

Donation From Dbacks



On April 13th Family Promise was honored with a grant award from the Arizona Diamondbacks at the St. Louis game. The whole crew went to support Family Promise. Thank you Dbacks for your continued support and

lets cheer the team to a great season!

Gracious Garden

Visit our facilities to see our brand new, fresh garden that was planted by volunteers at New Song United Methodist Church in Surprise. Our families now have a beautiful garden that will keep on giving. We have carrots, lettuce, yummy tomatoes, and beans....soon we will all be enjoying the fruits of this garden. We look forward

to a long relationship with these amazing volunteers.



Plaque of Thanks

One of our own family members tested his artistic talents on ceramic tiles. These aren't just any tiles, but combined they thank all of our major donors.

We will continue to add to this wall and are excited to watch it grow.



Please Follow Us...

By: Lish Hammer, Development Specialist

What is all the hype about social media? Do nonprofits and organizations helping the community need to connect with the media?

The answer is most definitely yes. Family Promise has learned this over the past few months. We have had a Facebook page for quite a while and now have 200 friends. We are also linked with Family Promise organizations around the country.

Facebook is a wonderful opportunity for us to connect with other people and with our families. In these current times, it is not surprising to have a family come in for a screening referred from Facebook. We can also connect with other organizations and people through Twitter and our blog on our new website.

We launched our new and colorful website on February 7th, 2011. As an organization, we realize that our website represents who we are. It not only shows volunteers, but families what we are

about and who we serve. We also want to keep our donors and volunteers up to date on what goes on at Family Promise.

Our program coordinator, Cheryl Chewning, always says, "There is never a dull moment and nothing is routine here at Family Promise. It makes this job exciting." We like to document this and give volunteers and families a peak into the everyday life here at Family Promise.

Our very own new video has just been posted on our website. Brett Noe Productions generously gave of their time and efforts to shoot and edit a Family Promise video of our own, starring our families and staff. This video displays our passion for the homeless community and the love we have for the families.

Please visit our website at www.FamilyPromiseAZ.org and our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/FamilyPromiseAZ>) to keep up with us. Watch for our monthly e-newsletter, and if you are not signed up, get on the bandwagon!




Snowey's Corner

Hi There,

Let me introduce myself; I am the THERAPY CAT here at Family Promise, and my official name is Snowball. I was homeless a little over a year ago until I adopted Family Promise. I love to watch all the children at Family Promise and love it when they pet and play with me. That's why I have made the Family Center my home. Now, I too have an address and am not homeless anymore!

Ted Taylor, the director, thought he was allergic, but come to find out he isn't (lucky for me). I have to say patrolling all night around the grounds is very tiring, so after my morning meal I curl up next to Cheryl on my chair and get a much needed cat nap...who am I kidding, I sleep all day!

Please check back to see what I have been up to in upcoming issues of our newsletter or catch me on Facebook.

Yours truly, 
Snowball

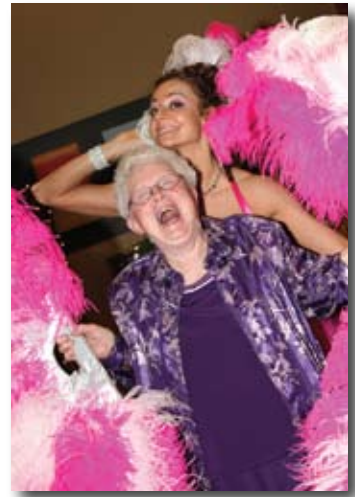
P.S. Meet Cole, he's my new best friend.



An Evening in Paris!

By: Pat Simpson, Board Member

On Saturday evening, March 19, about 280 people joined us for the Family Promise 2011 Stars and Angels Gala 'An Evening in Paris', which was held at the Homestead Center at DC Ranch in North Scottsdale. The evening was simply delightful, with guests enjoying spectacular decorations and delicious French cuisine along our Parisian Boulevard, fun French style entertainment, and our first-ever silent auction. The highlight of the evening was a celebration of this year's Angel, Judee Morrison, and this year's Star Family, Beth and Kevin Liden. We were also fortunate to have Scottsdale Mayor Jim Lane address the group and talk about the importance of our mission.



Generous donors at the event provided funding for a new laundry room on our campus and new linoleum for several of our apartments. In addition to these two special gifts, the event raised a significant amount of money to help fund Family Promise's ongoing operations.

This spectacular event required hard work and creativity from a dedicated group of about 25 volunteers. Interestingly, only a handful of these volunteers had ever even heard of Family Promise before! Yet, they worked tirelessly to create a memorable event. When asked why they did it, they all explained how impressed they are with the mission of the organization and what we are trying to accomplish. Working on this event gave them the opportunity to contribute to Family Promise's growth and development in a meaningful way.

We are already thinking ahead to 2012 when we plan to visit Italy! If you might consider being on the committee for next year's event please contact Pat Simpson, Board Member and Stars and Angels Event Chair, at pat.simpson@dcranchnet.com.



Words from our Volunteers

By: Cheri Brown, Volunteer

When I found out Family Promise was the first family homeless shelter in Scottsdale, Arizona I had to go visit. I have a passion for the homeless and the poor. My heart breaks for families that are homeless and I wanted to be able to help. The economy is so volatile that we all are one or two paychecks away from being homeless ourselves.

I have been a volunteer for 1 1/2 years helping families with resumes and encouraging them by being an active listener. Having a homeless ministry, (www.SocksFromJesus.com), with my husband Earl Brown, on the streets in Phoenix, naturally Family Promise is a

perfect fit for me. I love the fact that churches host the families, offer safe places to sleep, hot delicious meals and offer spiritual guidance. I have the honor and privilege of being part of a compassionate team that truly cares.

At Family Promise I am part of a family - a team that offers a hand up to those who have fallen down. My passion is to show families the love of God. Jesus said, "When you give a cup of cold water to these ones, you offer it to me". Through Family Promise I help Moms and Dads have a professional resume, which enables them to get a job. This eventually allows them to be stable, live independently, and have a good quality of life for themselves and their children. It has been such a

joy to my heart to see the fruits of my labors. Families becoming employed, living independently, with smiles on their faces.



Cardboard City – An ‘Out of the Box’ Experience

By: Phyllis Banucci, Board President

Have you ever wondered what it is like to sleep in a cardboard box? Probably not – but many homeless do this every night. Imagine you and your children bedding down in a box. No toilet, water, heat or other basic amenities.

At Family Promise we serve homeless families with children and help them become self-sustaining again. We also have a mission to raise awareness of the plight of the homeless. Living in a box, or a car...it’s pretty much the same thing.

This fall we will hold our first Cardboard City event. The goal is to raise money to support our family shelter, and to raise awareness about homelessness.

What’s a Cardboard City? It works like a walk-a-thon – sort of. Volunteers, including families, willing to spend a night sleeping in a box ask their friends and family to sponsor them with a cash donation. Then, on the appointed evening, the volunteers gather together and build their cardboard home for the night. They can decorate it, make it fancy, add bedding – whatever it takes to get comfortable and have fun.

A ‘soup kitchen’ supper will be supplied by volunteers, and there will be entertainment after dinner. Then everyone beds down. In the morning, a ‘soup kitchen’ breakfast buffet will welcome the new day. And folks will pack up and return to the comfort of their home, maybe with a bit more compassion for the plight of homeless families.

Watch for more announcements about our Cardboard City in the fall! It will be an ‘out of the box’ experience for sure.



Ted’s Thoughts by Ted Taylor, Executive Director

Dare I say, I have never been a part of an event as well planned and executed as

this year’s Stars and Angels Gala, held at DC Ranch. Pat Simpson took a very good event, developed a totally focused volunteer team, nearly 12 months of planning and development, and pulled off a truly GREAT EVENT. I believe this opinion would be shared by most, if not all of those who attended.

What many may not know is that when Pat was recruited to the Board, and was asked to Chair this committee, she agreed on the assumption that there was already a Gala team in place. There was not. She had to literally build a new volunteer army capable of delivering a top quality event. At the time, I didn’t really know Pat. Since then, I have grown to respect this incredibly passionate leader, who gave her heart and soul to making this an event many, including me, will never forget.

Proof of this is that the event delivered over double the net funding of the previous year. The Gala sold out, with over 280 people in attendance versus last year’s 170. Donations have continued to roll in specifically complimenting the organization and quality of this Event.

The Family Center will be getting a new laundry room, specifically because of this incredible team’s work, not to mention the hundreds of new family members who will no longer be homeless as a result of the additional funding secured through this event. I am so proud of our volunteers, and this team went way above and beyond their call. My prayer is that we can continue to grow this team of volunteers. It has changed Family Promise for the better, and you can’t ask any more than that. Thanks Pat, and the Gala Team for an unbelievable event, and for helping families who would have otherwise been homeless. You really have made a difference.

“Have you ever wondered what it is like to sleep in a cardboard box?”

A Vet’s New Start

By: Katie Zepeda, Gavin Dosil, and Karen Ihrig, Family Promise Interns

Brad and Mary entered our program with a plan for their family, but were unsure of how they were going to accomplish it without a roof over their head. Brad had bravely served our country in Iraq and was now looking for a new start to his life with Mary and their young baby, Cole. Upon entrance to our shelter, they were uncertain of what lay ahead for their small family, but soon became confident that they would be able to use our program to aid in their plan to self sufficiency. They were both appreciative of our shelter and looked forward to participating in their case management meetings.

Mary was highly motivated and efficient during her time at Family Promise. Within one week she secured a full time job. At the same time, Brad started evening and weekend classes at a nearby technical institute. They work together caring for Cole; Brad watches the baby while Mary is at work. Being a stay at home dad is not without complications. Brad is often found in our office working on homework while trying to keep Cole entertained in his walker. When Cole gets tired, he can be found sleeping in Brad’s lap as he finishes his school work.

Due to Brad’s veteran benefits and Mary’s employment, the family was able to move into a transitional apartment within a couple short weeks of entry. This family is an example of extreme hard work, focus and coordination. They prove that the combination of personal motivation and our shelter

program creates success. Brad, Mary and their son are a joy to work with and keep us inspired to continue the work that we do.





Family Promise
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FAMILY PROMISE - GREATER PHOENIX

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We Need You!!!

Volunteers are always needed at Family Promise in all areas: office work, landscaping, helping out at events, etc.

Whatever your skill,
we can use it!

If your church would like to become a part of the host congregations, we welcome your interest. Simply call the office at (480) 659-5227 and we can set up a time to meet with you. The experience is very rewarding for the host church and all the volunteers who participate.

Family Promise® is a national volunteer-based nonprofit organization founded on the belief that Americans are compassionate people who want to make a difference. We are committed to help low-income and homeless families reclaim and maintain independence
