



Family Promise®

Building communities, strengthening lives.

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

You Can Help a Homeless Child Find Hope – And It Won't Cost You a Dime!

A Special Message from Phyllis Banucci, Board President



Did you know that you can give up to \$400 to Family Promise of Greater Phoenix without it costing you a dime?

Thanks to a unique program to help Arizona's working poor, donors to Family Promise who itemize on their state taxes can receive a dollar for dollar state tax credit equal to the amount of their gift up to \$400 for couples (\$200 for individuals).

If you're like me, you may be thinking, "What's the catch?" But this time, there isn't one.

I can personally vouch for this opportunity because my husband and I have taken advantage of this program for several years - and it works. We made a donation, claimed the tax credit and our taxes were reduced by the amount we donated. And, in addition, we were eligible for a federal income tax deduction. It's a no-brainer!

If you need more information, please visit our website www.FamilyPromiseAZ.org or call Lish Hammer, our Development Specialist, at (480) 659-5237.

This year we need your gift desperately to help rescue children and families from homelessness and put them on the path to self sufficiency. We've attached an envelope for your gift or you can donate online at our website. Please make your donation to today.

Thank you for helping!
Phyllis

P.S. The Working Poor Charitable Tax Credit may be claimed by taxpayers in addition to both school tax credits!

FROM HOME TO HOME

By Yvette Coteat, Graduate

My decision to move to Phoenix was based on having a fresh start in life for me and my children.

Not having anywhere to go once I arrived, I began to look for the best shelter that would accommodate my family's size. I called several shelters and I was very interested in Family Promise. The intake specialist, Cheryl Chewning, was very understanding and willing to help my family and I. We moved into Family Promise in April of 2011, not knowing anyone or how this experience living in a shelter would affect my ability to find housing and begin a new life. To my surprise, our stay at Family Promise was more than an experience, it was an adventure.

What better place to be when times are hard and you have nowhere to live other than a church, and not just one church but a new church each week. My children loved the many places we went and it also helped me get familiar with the area. While my children were so busy enjoying life at the day center, I was able to contact different resources and apply to several agencies with the help of my own personal case manager. He helped me make sure I was aware of all possible assistance I could receive during my transition.

Soon, I was introduced to a rapid rehousing program with The United Methodist Outreach Ministries (UMOM). They accepted me and prepared me to move into an affordable apartment in a convenient community. I was so excited to finally move into my new place, but I was very reluctant to leave my first home in Arizona, Family Promise. My children loved being at Family Promise and did not understand why they had to leave. This was their home as far as they were concerned. My son had first learned to ride a bike at the day center and it was difficult to say goodbye to the churches that were really special to us.



I moved into my new apartment in June of 2011, with everything a house could need thanks to the generous donations from Family Promise. They gave us everything from furniture to appliances and so much more. Ted, the Executive Director, helped us move everything into the house. I will never forget how much the staff at Family Promise helped improve my life. I am now a full-time student at Gateway Community College, and I have a job at the Corner Bakery downtown. Life is now finally on track and I thank God for pointing me in the right direction. My children, Tymaine and Joeveya, love their school and are involved in different programs at Camelback High. Jeremiah and Jermaine are going to Phoenix Christian Daycare, where they can play their favorite sport, basketball. Whenever we are in the area we always stop by Family Promise to see how everyone is doing and to say hi to the other families beginning the journey. I remind them that they could not be in a better place, because Family Promise is a home away from home.

ON BOARD WITH CARDBOARD CITY

By Michele Mellott, Volunteer

The minute our youth group, at Scottsdale Congregational, heard about Cardboard City they were "on board."

Over the years we have always encouraged youth involvement whenever Family Promise families were at our church. We would help make dinner or plan a game night. Many of the youth would come with their own families and be the hosts throughout the week. One Friday night, we made a life size scrabble board and had a blast as the teams worked out their strategies.

All of these were good evenings. I was never sure that the youth were grasping the depth of the homeless experience. That's why I was so excited to learn of the Cardboard City opportunity from Lish Hammer.

I asked Lish...

"How will the youth be safe?"

"What precautions will we have in place?"

"How much will this cost the youth?"

I need to say I was a little embarrassed to ask, but being a youth leader I had to.

Lish had already addressed all these questions and more. She was as professional as they come but I quickly realized she was more. She was an inspired visionary who saw the potential of this event and knew that the benefits and educational value were something that we all had to fight for. I knew that she was up to doing whatever it would take to pull this thing off.

I took her reassurances and her excitement back to the youth. She was right. The youth of SCUCC took off running. They wore cardboard signs at the mall. They wore cardboard signs at their own family gatherings. Three of them set



their box homes up on the altar at church and lived in them throughout the worship service. Their personal goal was to raise at least \$111 each. They all met and exceeded the goal.

The houses were made from donated cardboard from Victory Cardboard. Thirty wardrobe boxes made our cardboard dreams come true.

Our donation to the cardboard city town center was a cardboard photo booth. We purchased a new Fuji camera that is reminiscent of the old Polaroid. Some of the youth had never experienced this instantly gratifying photo. It was rather fun to watch the youth get in the box and present them with a "here you are" moment. One of our youth wrote "Smile, God loves you" inside the box.

After the moving closing ceremony, where stories were shared, songs were sung and a prayer was offered up, we retired to our respective homes.

The next morning I noticed a post on one our youth's face book page. She wrote, "Cardboard City was a blast! My eyes were really opened up to the reality of homelessness last night."

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Lish Hammer

Diane Mueller, Sue Cavis, and Kay Yost are regulars to the Family Promise campus. You can often see Dianne and Kay riding their bikes some 30 miles to our offices. We wanted to do a volunteer spotlight on these women because they do so much for Family Promise. Dianne, Sue and Kay do everything from planting flowers to organizing our donation closet.

The three of them came to volunteer at our Cardboard City event on October 21st. Diane Mueller's husband, Gordy Mueller, and Donna Gentry also attended. They helped with registration and anything our staff needed help with, while running around in all the chaos. Diane, Sue, and Kay are beyond generous. They give so much of their time, and of their hearts, to this organization. Our families even know their names and that they are special volunteers here.

As staff, we love nothing more than seeing familiar faces around the campus and so do our guests. It makes the children feel at home. There is something about our volunteers that is so special. We have many, and we appreciate each and every one. Dianne, Sue, and Kay, we appreciate you and everything you do. If we don't say thank you enough, from the bottom of all of our hearts, thank you. You make the difference in keeping an organization running and keeping smiles on everyone's faces.

Snowey's Corner

Hello Everyone,

Go ahead and say it...how darling am I?!

Oh, where has this year gone? I have seen so many people come into the shelter it's hard to keep track of them all. I have made many new friends, especially the kids. I shed tears along with the families when they leave.



The colder weather is upon us and it's getting busy at the center. There is so much going on with holiday preparations...maybe I'll get something special in my stocking this year. If anyone wants to know what's on my list, call and ask my mom, Cheryl, she can tell you.

I have been very fortunate to find Family Promise. I thank my lucky stars that they love me and welcomed me into the shelter. My job is endless. I look for the kids who need that special nuge or else just to sit with them and make them feel well loved.

That Beatles' tune keeps coming into my head, "All You Need Is Love" and I agree. Stay Safe.

Meow and Out,
Snowy



POWER OF THREE: DEVELOPMENT STORIES



3 New Faces

We have added three new congregations to our rotation! Please help us welcome Mountain Park Community Church, Crosswinds Presbyterian, and Ahwatukee Assembly of God. We hope to be adding more congregations in the coming months to complete our second rotation. With this second rotation, we will be able to serve DOUBLE the number of families!

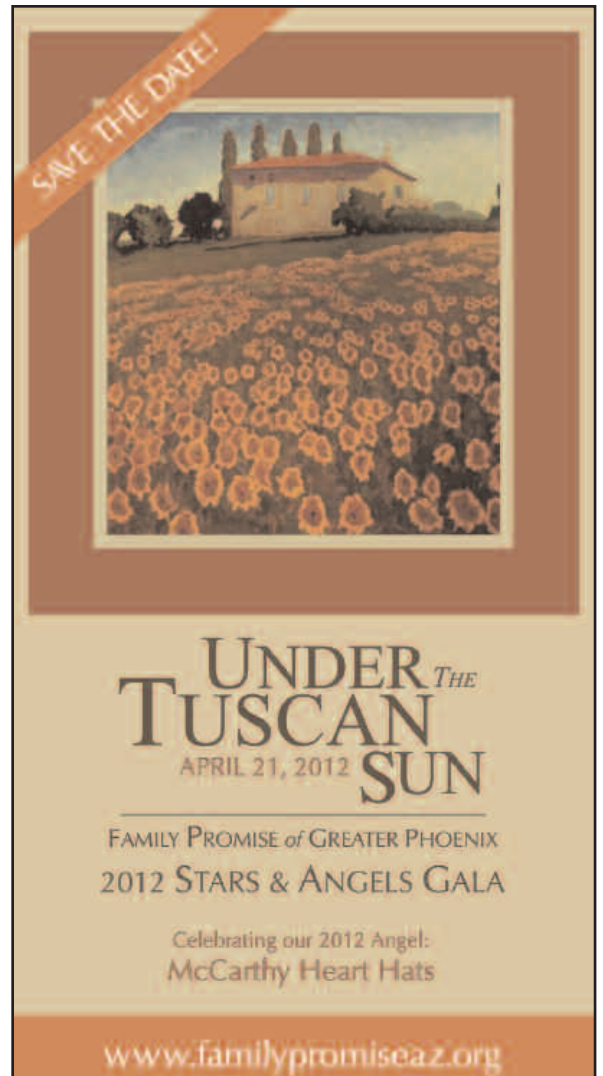
A Volunteer's Words

Michelle, a volunteer at Family Promise, has spent long hours painting the garden beds. She found Family Promise online and needed to complete some community service hours. She came to us with the idea of painting the beds with inspirational quotes for our families. Her words are beautiful and give hope to everyone at Family Promise.



McCarthy Heart Hats

McCarthy Construction's Foundation, Heart Hats, is amazing. They donate their time and money to rehabilitate hospitals, houses, and many other projects. Family Promise had major flooding issues with the laundry room and needed a rehab. McCarthy Heart Hats stepped in and completed the project in three weekends. Thank you Heart Hats!



TED'S THOUGHTS-WE'RE NAMING NAMES

by Ted Taylor, Executive Director



Family Promise is blessed in so many ways. Yet, we often fail to mention businesses that choose to make a difference at Family Promise. Their incredible

generosity just doesn't get mentioned enough. At a time in America where neighborhood business generosity is more foreign than familiar, we have been blessed beyond measure by neighborhood businesses helping our families move from homelessness to sustainability, expecting nothing in return. We can't mention them all here. But, I wanted to point out a couple.

Kachina Cadillac is literally one-half block from Family Promise, in South Scottsdale. They could have easily just ignored the plight of our families struggling to find basic shelter, after-all, they are in the car business. Yet, in difficult times, the team at Kachina chose to commit \$50 per car sold, to help our families. This year alone, they have helped 8 entire families (over 24 family members) to move from homelessness to sustainability, through their financial support. Now that is incredible!

Joy Estes, of State Farm Insurance of Scottsdale, working with Scottsdale Police, and Cintas (Shredding Company), held a second annual Shred-a-thon for Family Promise. This amazing 3 hour event generated enough donations to provide over 150 hours of social work

counseling for our families. It was so moving! We even had help from a family who recently graduated from the program. Anyone who knows Joy can't help but rave about her energy and passion to help others. She has truly made a difference for our families.

These businesses get little recognition for their generosity. We love their passion to help, and are always looking for ways to express our appreciation for their help. I want to ask you all to consider businesses of this character when you choose where to buy your car, or your insurance. Kachina Cadillac and Joy Estes State Farm Insurance Agency are their names. They are changing lives in our neighborhood. Thank you.



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Faith United Methodist Church
Mission del Sol Presbyterian Church
Mountain Park Community Church
Mountain View Lutheran Church

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Palo Cristi Presbyterian Church
Scottsdale Congregational United
Church of Christ
Scottsdale Church of the Nazarene
Shadow Rock United Church of Christ
St. Barnabas on the Desert
Episcopal Church
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Trinity United Methodist Church
University Presbyterian Church

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.