

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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MESSAGE FROM “CARDBOARD CITY:” ANYONE CAN HELP

Why would 500 youngsters and 100 adults gather in a park to spend a night sleeping in cardboard boxes?

The overnight event, dubbed “Cardboard City” by Family Promise-Greater Phoenix, will draw attention to the challenges faced by the Valley's homeless families. It will also highlight the efforts of many agencies and hundreds of volunteers who help the region's homeless find services, shelter, employment and financial stability.

The event is planned Oct. 21 at Barney Park, 800 E. Galveston St. in Gilbert.

“This is a great way for people to get together for a very worthy cause, have a little fun, and get a glimpse of the realities homeless families face,” said Ted Taylor, executive director of Family Promise, a Scottsdale-based organization.

Young people and adults from a variety of faith communities are being recruited to take part. The evening will feature some activities strictly for fun. Others will demonstrate how anyone can be involved in lending a hand to homeless families – such as assembling hygiene kits for clients served by several of the Valley's homeless service providers, such as Tumbleweed, A New Leaf, and Save the Family.

“We have volunteers in 17 churches all over the Valley providing food, shelter and encouragement to homeless families every week,” said Taylor. “Making that people-to-people connection is extremely important to our program, and we'd like more people to be aware that they can make a difference, too.”

Family Promise-Greater Phoenix operates a family homeless shelter located in Scottsdale and partners with 17 churches and other faith organizations to house families in immediate need of shelter. The organization is one of 159 Family Promise programs throughout the country providing meals, a homelike setting, emotional support and a full range of social, economic, and educational services.

More information on the Greater Phoenix program is on line at www.familypromiseaz.org.

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