

December 2021

# FPSL HAPPENINGS

Official Newsletter of Family Promise Salt Lake



## From the Director's Desk

by Rev. Brian Diggs

I have a friend. My friend is a single father of two and works two jobs to make ends meet. Last week, he asked me to keep an eye out for a new place for his family to live. "Anything will do," he told me, "All my girls and I need is a roof over our heads." "I just don't want to go back to the shelter."

Here at Family Promise Salt Lake, we know that home is so much more than a roof over our heads. Home is the place where family meals are prepared and shared, homework is completed, and birthday parties are held. Our homes serve as anchors for physical and emotional health and wellness. Above the offices of FPSL, we are proud to say that we have three dedicated apartments that are part of our Transitional Housing Program. In addition, we have a duplex that we also use as part of the program. Working with FPSL case management, families pay a fee each month and incrementally increase that fee until they reach financial stability. It is their "home away from home" until they are able move into a new place. But, to create a place to call 'home', a roof is still needed.

Recently, the FPSL Board of Directors and I began the process of replacing the roof at the Family Promise Day Center located at 814 W 800 S in Salt Lake City. The years of wear and tear have caused leaks in the building. And, with winter now here, the need is more urgent than ever. Working with area non-profits and roofing professionals, we are well on our way to putting a roof over the heads of the families who sleep there at night and the families who use the Day Center during working hours. In fact, it appears that all the labor and material will be donated thanks to our friends at Homeaidutah.org. Together, our community is helping to fulfill the dreams of the families we serve come true.

If you would like to make a financial gift to help offset the maintenance costs of our shelter units, please visit our website, [familypromisesaltlake.org](http://familypromisesaltlake.org), and click the donation button.

As always, thanks so much for your support!

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## Oquirrh Hills Middle School Rocks!

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Mrs. Joy Anderson,  
Advisor of Student Body  
Officers

Mrs. Joy Anderson, Student Body Officer Advisor, believes that getting kids interested and invested at an early age is critical to the wellbeing of the community. She, Principal Donna Hunter, and the Student Body Officers at Oquirrh Hills Middle School in Riverton, UT chose Family Promise as their Charity of Choice for this year’s Oquirrh Fest at the Oquirrh Hills Middle School.

Said Mrs. Anderson, “With events like Oquirrh Fest, students learn the value of giving, and that it is more than just money. It is time, kindness, and friendship that truly make a difference in their own and others’ lives.”

Oquirrh Fest is an annual festival held in December at OHMS. The student body set a goal to raise \$20,000 for Family Promise Salt Lake. On December 17th, OHMS held a celebration assembly to announce the grand total. They did it, raising \$20,243.57!

The staff and board of directors of FPSL thank Oquirrh Hills Middle School for their generosity and we believe that these community-based efforts go a long way in transitioning FPSL guests into sustainable housing while instilling in young people the importance of giving at an early age.





FPSL's success relies on volunteers who believe in serving and empowering families in our programs. One such volunteer is Melanie Louviere. Mrs. Louviere heads a program for 6th graders in the Salt Lake Valley that seeks to empower students to give back to their communities. In fact, her own daughter recently did a service project for FPSL, and now, Melanie has been bitten by the service bug!

Mrs. Louviere has volunteered to help the staff and board of FPSL with future marketing goals. Given her extensive experience, FPSL will be better positioned to promote our services to the wider community through strategic planning and implementation.

Said Mrs. Louviere, "I love Family Promise's mission - by focusing on families, you can create more than just housing opportunities. Families are the best support system! When they have the skills and confidence that Family Promise teaches, they can continue to work together, support each other, and have a better chance at success."



# Happy Holidays!



### Meet FPSL Board Member: Tonya Woolsey!

I am currently employed with Jordan School District in the Life Design Program. I work with at risk and disabled young adults between the ages of 18 – 22 years old in a transitional training program. We work on life skills, job training and public transportation training. I have worked with students in Transition Programs for over 22 years. I try to bring some of these skills to the Families we serve.

I have been involved with Family Promise of Salt Lake since 2003 when it was called Salt Lake Interfaith Hospitality Network. I started out as a dinner and overnight host at different churches in the Network. I encouraged our pastor at my own church, Trinity UMC, to remodel so we could become a Church Hosting Site. With the help of The United Way and many volunteers, we remodeled our education wing and as Church Coordinator began hosting at our church.

The Family Promise Mission is especially important to me because Family Promise is not just a shelter, we are a program that helps families overcome the obstacles that contributed to how they became homeless. We follow families in aftercare to insure they continue to be successful. I am honored to serve on the Family Promise Board to make a difference for families that will hopefully last forever.



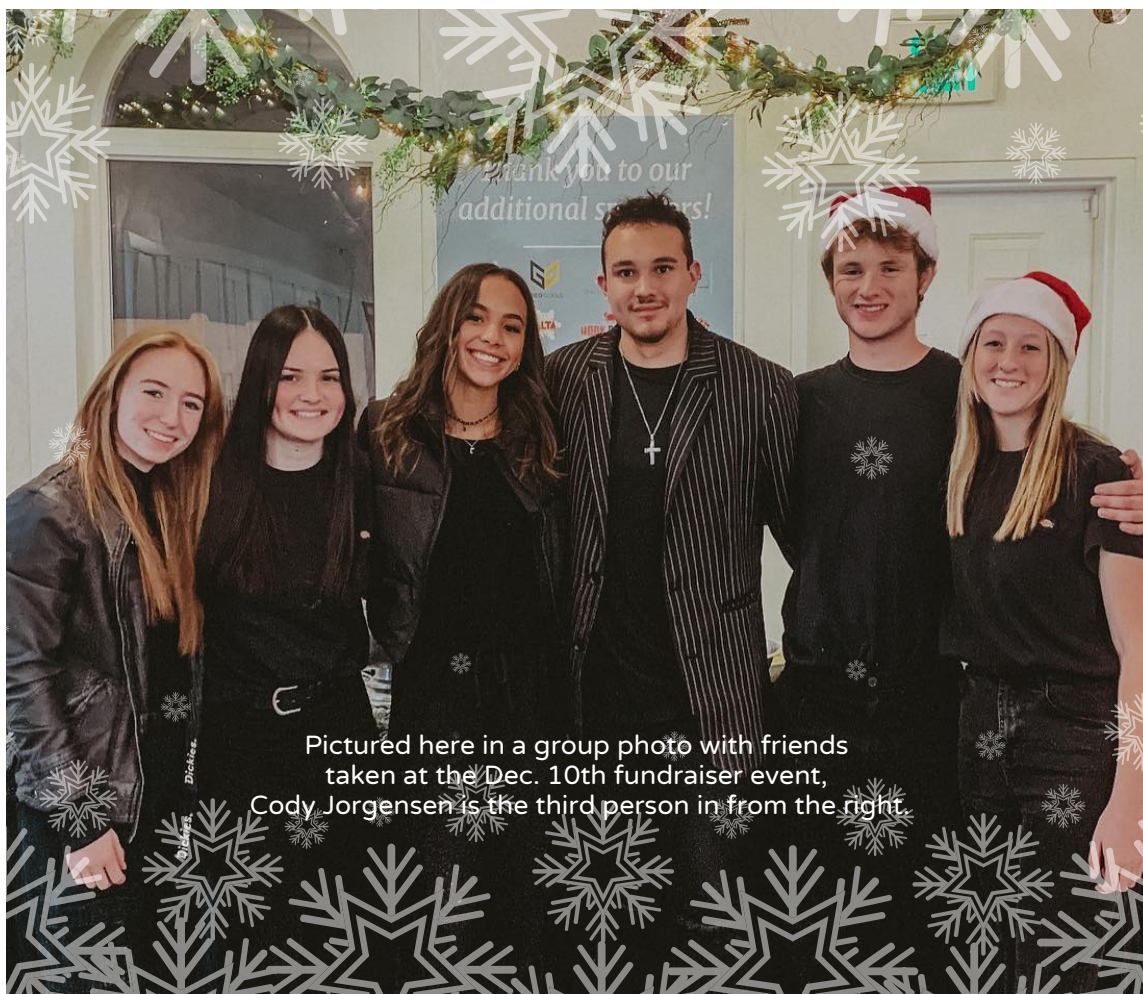


## A Christmas Dinner to Remember

The generosity of ordinary people is extraordinary! In October, a 21-year-old realtor named Cody Jorgensen stopped by the FPSL offices and asked to help. His plan was to put on a fundraiser for FPSL, doing it all with his friends and family.

Well... he did it! A little over 100 guests arrived at Arbor Manor Event Center on December 10th to celebrate the work of FPSL. The event featured talented singers bellowing holiday music, a delicious dinner buffet catered by Hug-Hes Café, and a silent auction. FPSL Executive Director, Brian Diggs, welcomed guests and explained the various programs FPSL provides to unsheltered families right here in our community.

In just less than two months, Mr. Jorgensen raised a little under \$5,000 with this fundraiser event! Having dedicated visionary volunteers like Cody, helps FPSL continue to serve families in need.



Pictured here in a group photo with friends taken at the Dec. 10th fundraiser event, Cody Jorgensen is the third person in from the right.



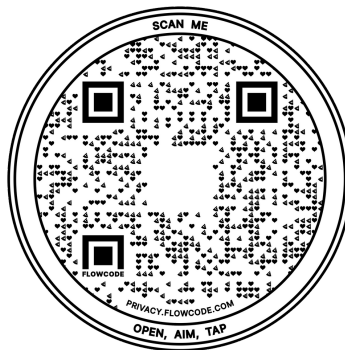
## More than Just Shelter; The importance of Case Management

by Michelle Jarest, FPSL Case Manager

Case management is a broad and encompassing term that can change meanings depending on the organization in which case managers work. For Family Promise Salt Lake, our focus is to help families gain long-lasting independence and stability. In this context, case management requires offering needed services and resources to families, as well as support, understanding and a sense of community.

In the first two weeks with Family Promise Salt Lake, I have been taking steps to build a relationship with each of our families to ensure they will be able to succeed in our programs. I started by meeting with each of the families and introducing myself. I wanted this process to be as welcoming as possible, as I understand it can be difficult for a stranger to enter someone's living space and begin to "tell them what to do." Rather, I spoke with the guests to let them know that case managers and guests work as a team, and I am on their side as an advocate. After meeting with each of the families and listening to their needs, I created individualized case management plans for each head of household. These case management plans include goals such as maintaining a clean-living space, employment, and affordable housing searches. Each of the goals have completion dates, which helps motivate guests to move forward in the program and understand the importance of managing their time and expectations.

## FOLLOW US ONLINE!



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