

January 2022

# FPSL HAPPENINGS

Official Newsletter of Family Promise Salt Lake



## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

by Rev. Brian Diggs

In March of 2010, country music singer Miranda Lambert released a single that charted number one titled “The House that Built Me.” It has been a favorite of mine since the first time I heard it! The song’s opening line is, “I know they say you can’t go home again, but I just had to come back one last time.” However, one FPSL family did go home again, and this time to stay.

DeeAnna and Clark were evicted from their home in October and were suddenly without shelter. They have two girls and one boy ages 11, 9, and 4. They didn’t know where to turn for help. Even though they had acquired a Section 8 housing voucher, they were unable to find available units. Thanks to recent funding from a Salt Lake County Emergency Solutions Grant, FPSL was able to place them a motel for several weeks. Working with FPSL Case management and staff, DeeAnna and Clark finally found a new home in West Valley City! But wait, there is more!

When DeeAnna looked at the address, she was in shock. The home they were able to secure was the home that built her. That’s right, their new West Valley City home is the very house DeeAnna was raised in as a child! Miraculously, DeeAnna and her family were able to move in and celebrate Christmas in their new place!

Said DeeAnna, “I tucked my son in the other night. His new bedroom was my bedroom when I was his age. If it weren’t for Family Promise, I don’t know what we would have done. Being able to stay in the motel allowed me the time to search and apply for housing. Otherwise, we would have spent that time looking for a couch to sleep on or a shelter to stay in. We got the house two days before Christmas! I still can’t believe it!”

Miranda Lambert’s “The House that Built Me” goes on to say, “I thought if I could touch this place or feel it, this brokenness inside me might start healing.” Well, that wish became a reality for DeeAnna, Clark, and their kids.

As one of over 200 affiliates across the country, FPSL is proud to assist unsheltered families to find sustainable housing. We believe that having children and their parents/guardians in stable housing creates a safe and healthy environment for families to flourish.



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## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: Tom Tempfer

Climbing ladders that are two stories high is not for the faint of heart but, there are those who are willing to do it – especially for the right cause. Tom Tempfer is a retired local businessperson who felt the need to give back to his community. “Anything you need help with, just let me know,” he told FPSL office staff.

Since then, Tom has used his tech and handyman skills to install security cameras at the FPSL Day Center. Located at the top of the building, these cameras help ensure all guests in our programs are safer and that our facility can be monitored when staff are not present. Additionally, Tom has volunteered for future projects as requested.

FPSL relies heavily on volunteers like Tom. Our community-based approach addressing family homelessness in the valley changes the lives of guests and volunteers alike. If you would like to volunteer at FPSL, please do not hesitate to call or email. Together we can make a difference!



## MEET FPSL BOARD MEMBER: Rev. Brigitte Weier

Rev. Brigitte Weier is the pastor at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Holladay, UT. Rev. Weier has over 10 years of service to Family Promise in Colorado and Utah and 20 plus years serving Lutheran congregations in four states. A graduate of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, Rev. Weier has a clear and committed passion for serving the most vulnerable and marginalized of people in several capacities. One such passion is addressing homelessness right here in Utah!

Rev. Weier took on the role of FPSL Board President when it was needed most. Navigating the complexities of the Covid-19 pandemic was, and continues to be, an extremely difficult task. She has worked diligently with the rest of the board to hire new staff, expand the board, and dream for the future!

Said Rev. Weier, “My faith has called me into service. I have believed in the mission of Family Promise for many years now and I am excited to see the success we are currently having. Working alongside the FPSL board has really renewed my faith commitment to this valuable mission.”





## **HAPPENINGS: New Funding Furthers the Family Promise Mission**

Family Promise Salt Lake is excited to announce that we are well on our way to financial stability. Since FPSL Executive Director Brian Diggs began last March, the organization has secured almost \$150,000 in grant funding in addition to the many faithful and consistent donors in the community. As is the case with most funders, this money is allocated for direct services to the guests we have in our programs.

Having pivoted during the pandemic, FPSL is now sheltering families in two area churches, hotels and motels, and in our 5 Transitional Housing Units here in Salt Lake City. Each family unit works with FPSL Case Management to secure employment, housing, and appropriate schooling/daycare.

If you know of families who need help with rental assistance, applying for affordable housing, or who need immediate shelter, please contact Michelle Jarest at [jarest@familypromisesaltlake.org](mailto:jarest@familypromisesaltlake.org) or at (801) 961-8622.

### **FOLLOW US ONLINE!**



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