

NOVEMBER 2021

# FPSL HAPPENINGS

Official Newsletter of Family Promise Salt Lake



## From the Director's Desk

BY REV. BRIAN DIGGS

Last July my wife and I had the privilege to vacation for a week in Hawaii. Maui is the most beautiful place I have ever been. The rolling waves, majestic mountains, and lush foliage are truly a sight to see. But we never thought we see the number of homeless people we witnessed in that tropical paradise.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, Hawaii has the third highest percentage of homeless families in the country behind Washington D.C. and New York. For every 10,000 families in Hawaii, 21.1 are homeless. Here in Utah, that number is 4 families per 10,000. Whether you are at the beach or hiking the Wasatch front, family homelessness is on the rise.

As one of over 200 affiliates in 43 states, Family Promise Salt Lake is a leader in addressing family homelessness with our unique and one-of-a-kind approach. Many people think that Family Promise simply shelters children and their parents/guardians, but there is so much more to what we do!

While in our program, families work with case management to explore the barriers that lead to homelessness, find gainful employment, appropriate schooling/childcare, and eventually sustainable housing. In the near future, we plan to expand our services and invite our guests to take a financial literacy course, a healthy cooking course, and to provide community resources that address both physical and mental health.

I am proud to be a part of the Family Promise network of affiliates that understand the complexities of homelessness and that seek a holistic community-based approach! With your support, we will continue to help make a significant impact on the lives of children and their families for years to come.

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## FPSL Welcomes a New Case Manager!

FPSL Executive Director, Rev. Brian Diggs, and the Board of Directors recently interviewed several professionally qualified candidates to fill the position of Case Manager. After a time of discernment, we are excited to welcome Michelle Jarest to the FPSL team!

Michelle is a graduate of the University of Utah with a Bachelor of Social Work. Most recently, she worked as a case manager with Utah Community Action and as a case manager at Odyssey House of Utah.

As the new case manager at FPSL, Michelle will be responsible to work directly with each family in the program. Her primary tasks will center on collaborating with guests to craft individualized case plans that will empower families to reach independence outside of the program. Moreover, Michelle will continue to track the progress of FPSL families for up to two years after leaving the program.

Said Ms. Jarest, "I am extremely excited to begin working with Family Promise! I am looking forward to collaborating with the board and staff to help Family Promise deliver quality case management to each family we serve. I believe that case management is essential to helping others believe in themselves, identify their goals, and better their futures. I am very grateful for this opportunity and cannot wait to begin meeting and working with the families! "



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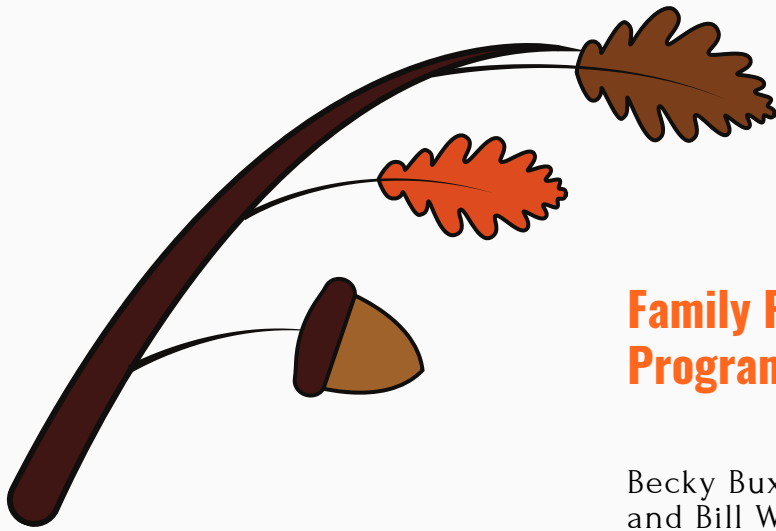
MICHELLE JAREST



## Featured Volunteer of the Month

Meet Alex Young! Alex is the father of two girls, a dedicated husband, and works as a website developer. Recently, he has been leading the effort to revitalize the FPSL website. But more than that, Alex is a volunteer!

Seeking to embody FPSL's dedication to hospitality, Alex recently smoked several pounds of pork shoulder to give to FPSL guests. Complete with buns, baked beans, and other sides, Alex and his daughter delivered their home-cooked meal to several guests in our program. Thank you, Alex! If you are interested in volunteering, please email Brian Diggs at [brian@familypromisesaltlake.org](mailto:brian@familypromisesaltlake.org).



## Family Promise Salt Lake Welcomes a New Program Development Team

Becky Buxton, a former Professor at the University of Utah, and Bill Woods, a retired law enforcement officer, are long-time supporters of Family Promise Salt Lake. As members of First United Methodist Church of Salt Lake City, Becky and Bill often volunteer while FPSL guests are sheltered at their church. Now that they are officially retired, they are ready to get to work!

Bill and Becky recently volunteered to work with the FPSL staff to help re-establish the 26-year-old FPSL model that shelters homeless families in area church buildings on a rotating basis. As the new Program Development Team, Becky and Bill will be re-connecting with congregations who hosted and supported FPSL prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, determining a date the rotation will begin again, and will help train returning and new FPSL volunteers using the new Family Promise National training platform.

Said Mrs. Buxton, "One of the most acute needs in our community is affordable housing. Family Promise gives people like me an opportunity to help, to meet some really interesting people, and to experience life-changing stories."

FPSL is planning to re-open the rotation around Easter of 2022! Stay Tuned!





## Meet FPSL Board Member: Rod Emam!

Rod Emam was born and raised in Salt Lake City as the son of two Iranian-American immigrants. He is currently employed as the program director at The Rising Sunset Proctor Care Services. Rod also serves on the board of directors and is project manager for the Siaosi Brown Dialysis Center which is Tonga's first dialysis center. He enjoys reading about history, martial arts, basketball, and swimming. The Family Promise Mission is very important to him and feels very privileged for the opportunity to serve.

Said Mr. Emam, "I feel truly blessed for the opportunity to contribute to this admirable cause because I know what an impact we are making for the families in our program. With the help of our amazing team and the congregations that participate, we are able to assist motivated families to break the cycle of homelessness".

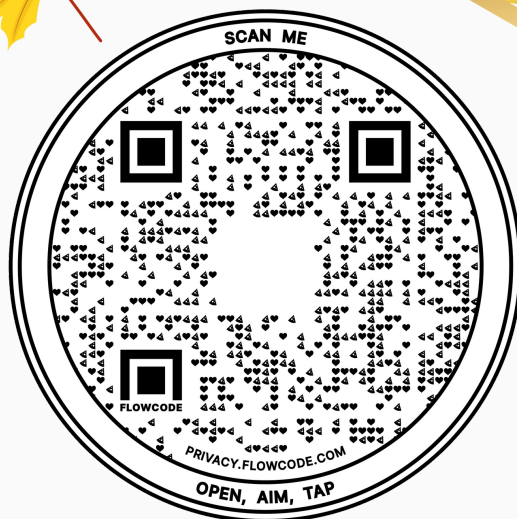
The expansion of the Family Promise Board of Directors provides the organization a more diverse and robust vision for future growth.



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ROD EMAM





## Follow Us Online

Follow Us Online at: [www.familypromisesaltlake.org](http://www.familypromisesaltlake.org)  
And, to donate simply open the camera app on your smart phone, point it at the QR Code above and then tap the link that pulls up on your screen.

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