

OCTOBER 2021

FPSL HAPPENINGS

Official Newsletter of Family Promise Salt Lake



From the Director's Desk

BY REV. BRIAN DIGGS

Hello, my name is Rev. Brian Diggs. As the new Executive Director of Family Promise Salt Lake, I am pleased to update you on what is happening with the organization and dream with you toward our future. But first, here is a little background about me.

I am a United Methodist clergy person who moved to Utah in the summer of 1997. While serving as the Associate Pastor at Christ United Methodist Church, I quickly knew Family Promise was an organization I wanted to support. That same year, I was added to the board of directors and a year later was elected president of the board of directors. Having served as a pastor over the last 24 years in the Salt Lake valley, I always touted Family Promise as the most important outreach ministry we did because we engaged in the hands-on work of serving people! I was hired in March of this year to help revitalize Family Promise Salt Lake as we prepare to continue our service to the broader community.

As you might imagine, our organization struggled during the Covid-19 pandemic. We have had to pivot from using the traditional rotation model (families moving from church to church on a weekly basis) to a static site setting where families remain in place. Currently we are serving 7 families and hope to add additional families in the winter months. The Family Promise staff and board of directors are exploring plans to re-open the 12-church rotation in the Spring of 2022.

Additionally, we have added 4 new people to the board of directors to diversity and expand our hands-on approach for future growth. We are also in the process of hiring a case manager who will be responsible for working directly with our unsheltered guests to help find sustainable housing, employment, and appropriate schooling/childcare.

It has been a busy and productive 7 months since I first got the keys and opened the office doors at the Family Promise Day Center. I am proud to be connected to such a loyal base of supporters, dedicated congregations, and our hands-on board of directors. I look forward to what the future brings knowing that all things are possible for a community that works together to help end homelessness for families in the Salt Lake Valley.

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FPSL Expands Board of Directors

FPSL is excited to announce and welcome the addition of 4 new board members who bring experience and enthusiasm to an already dedicated board of directors. Under the leadership of Rev. Brigitte Weier, President of the Family Promise Salt Lake Board of Directors, we are pleased that Cole Wilkes, Nicole Farrell, Devan Moreno and Rod Emam joined the team!

Mr. Wilkes is a 3rd grade teacher who brings experience working with disadvantaged children in the public school system. Ms. Farrell is a Human Resources Specialist and lawyer who has worked with Family Promise Salt Lake in the past. Mr. Moreno is an entrepreneur in the Salt Lake valley and has experience working with non-profits abroad. Mr. Emam and his family have been integral in bringing health care to low-income populations in the Salt Lake valley.

Said Mr. Wilkes, "As a 3rd grade teacher, my passion is so much more than just educating children. It's more holistic, in fact. My passion is the health and wellbeing of children who never had the advantages I had growing up. Education is only a part of that. Family Promise is where I want to be to make a difference for future generations."



"My passion is the health and wellbeing of children who never had the advantages I had growing up."

COLE WILKES

Featured Family of the Month

Sitting in the kitchen of a Family Promise Salt Lake Shelter, Jorge and Jhoselin told their story. “I was a dentist and Jorge was a military man,” said Jhoselin, “but the situation in Venezuela became too much for our family to withstand. We had no choice and had to leave.”

Jorge and Jhoselin are the proud parents of their 2 children and fled the persecution they faced at the hands of the Nicolas Maduro, the president of Venezuela. Both parents described the corruption in their home country and how they often feared for their lives and the lives of their family. “There is very little food. They kidnap so many people and hold them for ransom money. Even basic services are scarce,” said Jorge, “but we are so blessed to be here.”

Currently, Jhoselin and Jorge are working and rebuilding their lives here in Utah. Their children are in pre-school. Said Jorge, “We are so blessed to be a part of the Family Promise program. They have given us shelter, clothing, and food. We will never forget how nice the people are here and we want to give back to Family Promise someday.”



Family Promise Week 2021

October 24th through October 31st is National Family Promise Week.

As a Family Promise affiliate, Family Promise Salt Lake is one of over 200 affiliates in 43 states! Together we are a mighty force in the effort to address family homelessness. Many of our affiliates will be participating in an online celebration fundraiser.

Beginning October 24, we invite you to help us raise awareness for the community we serve and help raise valuable funding for our programs to serve our guests by using social media, email, and personal invites. If you are on social media, please find us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter and be sure to share our posts starting on October 24th and ending on the 31st. There will be a new post each day! Also, feel free to check out the QR code to the left starting October 24th for more information, or visit our website at www.familypromisesaltlake.org.

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of children and their parents/guardians for generations!



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