# FPSL HAPPENINGS

Official Newsletter of Family Promise Salt Lake

#### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

by Rev. Brian Diggs

In late February, Family Promise Regional Director, Stacy Pollard, visited our Family Promise affiliate. Ms. Pollard's role with Family Promise National is to resource local affiliates helping to ensure quality service to our guests setting them up for success. While in Salt Lake City, Stacy's primary goal was to help FPSL develop best practices during the Covid-19 pandemic especially related to case management with our families, safety in our shelters, and policy and procedure from the board of directors and FPSL staff. The weekend was extremely informative and impactful as FPSL continues to work towards a more robust shelter program in the near future. But did you know that Family Promise is so much more than our traditional direct service model to our families?

Locally and nationally, Family Promise consistently works to be a leading advocate for family housing. Our national office and our over 200 affiliates in 43 states work in concert with each other to encourage local, state, and federal government entities to create more effective ways to serve and shelter the ever-growing homeless population.

Here in the Beehive state, we have an unprecedented opportunity to make a difference in the lives of struggling families. The American Rescue Plan Covid relief package along with our state's revenues surpassing expectations means we can have a lasting legacy as we address the housing crises in Utah. In late February, the Salt Lake Tribune published an op-ed piece I wrote urging the Utah State Legislature to fully fund Governor Spencer Cox's proposed \$128 million budget request.

I am proud that I have been able to call myself a Utahan for the last 25 years. I continue to believe that together we can make a difference. As a supporter of FPSL, I encourage you to participate in this valuable process as well.



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# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Getting young people involved in service is important! It has been said that young people are the future of our communities, the nation, and the world. Not so fast. Here at Family Promise Salt Lake, we do not believe that young people are the future, but instead are a vital and integral part of the present. Young and old alike are a part of the fabric of FPSL and its mission.



Our intergenerational approach to

serving unsheltered families is what makes us so unique. This month, our volunteer spotlight focuses on two groups of young people.

First, we celebrate the hard work of some of the youth from Our Savior's Lutheran Church and Zion Lutheran Church. On a not so chilly Saturday in February, these young people and their leaders spent an entire morning cleaning the inside of the day center and clearing out weeds and brush on the outside of the building. What a testament to these vital faith communities.

Secondly, eighth graders from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Salt Lake City engaged in fundraising and donation collections for FPSL. This effort was coordinated by eighth graders Lucy M. and Scarlett N. And the cool thing, FPSL had no idea the event was even happening!

These communities of faith are on the move reminding us all that it takes all of us to make a difference in the lives of those served at FPSL.



#### **BOARD SPOTLIGHT**

It has been said that big things hinge on the smallest of details. Nothing could be truer when it comes to the important work of the FPSL Board of Directors. For the last year, the board has worked hard to add additional members who bring a wealth of talent and experience to the organization's mission and vision. And when it comes to the details, FPSL Secretary Doni Ricci's contribution is invaluable.

Since joining the board, Ms. Ricci meticulously chronicles each board meeting, presents the minutes to the board of directors

in a timely manner, and most importantly offers her insight and passion each time the board gathers.

Said Doni, "I was drawn to Family Promise because it attracts good people, both on the side of the staff, board, and volunteers as well as the guests we get to know through volunteering."

The important work of the FPSL Board of Directors continues to shape the future of FPSL. They continue to welcome new applications to join the effort. If you or anyone you know has expertise in the areas of finance, marketing, real estate, law, or business, and might be interested in a board position, please feel free to contact FPSL Board President Rev. Brigette Weier -- pastor@oslcslc.org

## **PROGRAM NEWS & UPDATES**



Several weeks ago, an FPSL staff member was in drive-thru line at a local fast-food restaurant. As he handed them his card for payment, the cashier asked if he would like to "round-up" to the nearest dollar to help support a local charity. "Of course," he said, "I'll never even notice," and he didn't. Rounding up has become a growing option for organizations to receive valuable funding. FPSL is excited to announce this new way to give to our organization – the Round-Up option.

Currently, FPSL has regular recurring funders that donate by sending in a check or online while visiting our website. Recently, FPSL Executive Director,

Brian Diggs, added a new donation button to the website making it possible for our donors to opt into a Round-Up option. Studies show that many people feel more comfortable giving a little at a time using their credit or debit card. Whether you are buying groceries, filling up your gas tank, or purchasing a new pair of shoes, rounding up each time just makes sense for some people.

#### Here is how it works:

- 1. Visit our website at: www.familypromisesaltlake.org
- 2. Click the Donation Button on any page of the site.
- **3.** Choose a one-time option, a monthly donation option, or the new Round-Up option.
- **4.** Attach a credit or debit card to your donation choice (note: if you choose the Round-Up option you will be prompted to set a monthly limit to ensure your total for the month never exceeds the amount you set. For example, if you set a \$25 limit, our donation platform will stop "rounding up" once you reach \$25. You can cancel any of your online donations any time.)
- 5. You will have access to your own personal donation history page that you can access at any time to see how much you have given to FPSL.

As always, please know that your generosity goes a long way ensuring our families get quality shelter and case management. You make the difference! For your convenience, please scan the QR code provided.

For your convenience, simply scan the QR code provided here.









### **SAVE THE DATE!!**

Each year Family Promise Affiliates across the country engage in an event called Family Promise Giving Day. Family Promise Giving Day is a powerful 24-hour online fundraising event that unites communities around a local cause like ours! All money raised goes directly to Family Promise Salt Lake and will be used to help us continue to provide the quality services you have come to expect. This year, Family Promise Giving Day is Thursday, April 28th.

In the coming weeks, you should receive emails announcing the fundraising event. And a week before the event, we will be posting images and videos highlighting the work of Family Promise asking people to consider giving. As a supporter, FPSL encourages you to get the word out. Feel free to share emails and posts as you receive them within your social networks. Our goal this year is to raise \$15,000.00! Together, we can do it!



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