

FPSL HAPPENINGS

Official Newsletter of Family Promise Salt Lake

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

by Rev. Brian Diggs

Twenty-five years ago, I was ordained as a United Methodist Clergy person. During the ordination service the bishop preached a sermon. To be honest, I only remember one thing he said. From the pulpit he boisterously proclaimed, "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing." He was challenging us to be faithful to our vows and the people we would soon serve. While the saying seemed a bit hokey at the time, it still holds true for me today; here at FPSL, the "main thing" is the intentional care and guidance we strive to provide the families we serve.

Last month marked my first anniversary as the Executive Director of FPSL. During that year, the "main thing" our staff, board of directors, and I focused on was stabilizing FPSL financially and programmatically as well as addressing the multiple needs of our physical facilities. I am proud to say, we have accomplished our goals.

Currently, due to grant awards, fundraisers, and individual donors, we are in a stable and growing financial position. In fact, we were able to hire our first full-time staff person who provides vital case management to our guests. This newfound stability has also allowed us to dream for future growth!

Programmatically, the FPSL staff and board have worked diligently to integrate the Emergency Shelter Program (families sheltered in area church buildings), the Transitional Housing Program (families sheltered in units owned by FPSL), and the Graduate Services Program (families who continue to use FPSL case management services after finding independent housing). This integration effort will help us be more efficient in our mission and vision. FPSL staff also developed a program to help place unsheltered people in hotels and motels during the winter months and established a program to engage and incentivize property owners/managers to offer more sustainable rental options for our guests.

Finally, our physical facilities have been given a much-needed upgrade. Last year the front lawn was Xeriscaped. This month, our playground was completely renovated. Both of those endeavors were Eagle Scout projects courtesy of Boy Scout Troop 410. And thanks to the generosity of HomeAid-Utah (<https://www.homeaidutah.org>), FPSL received a new roof at our main complex free of charge!

Of course, all these improvements at FPSL were in effort to increase the level of service to our guests keeping the "main thing" the main thing!



IN THIS ISSUE:

Director's Desk

Page 1

Volunteer Spotlight

Page 2

Board Spotlight

Page 2

Program News

Page 3

Save the Date!

Page 4

Connect With Us

Page 4

PROGRAM NEWS & UPDATES



Family Promise Giving Day

April 28, 2022

SAVE THE DATE

Each year, Family Promise National invites the over 200 affiliates across the country to participate in an online fundraiser called “Family Promise Giving Day.” The weeklong event, culminating on April 28th, seeks to raise awareness for the growing number of unsheltered families across the country and to help fund local affiliates like FPSL. All funds raised will go directly to FPSL and will be used as a match for a grant received to help families move into sustainable housing and independent living here in the Salt Lake Valley!

Starting April 22nd, Family Promise Salt Lake will begin posting interesting facts and statistics on family homelessness on FPSL’s Facebook and Instagram pages. You are encouraged to share them with all your contacts/friends inviting them to learn more about Family Promise and to consider donating on Family Promise Giving Day – April 28th. If you are not following FPSL on Facebook or Instagram, please consider doing so (Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/familypromisesaltlake> and Instagram: [familypromise.saltlake](https://www.instagram.com/familypromise.saltlake)). If you do not use social media, please consider using your email as a way to get the word out.

The URL below can be posted to your social media pages or shared via email as a link to donate starting April 28th! Feel free to invite anyone to whom you send it to share as well. The more shares we get, the faster we will meet our goal of \$15,000. While Family Promise Giving Day begins on April 28th, donations can be accepted and processed through May 6th.

<https://www.fpgives.org/organizations/family-promise-salt-lake>



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Owen Francy, of Boy Scout Troop 410, gathers his friends, family, and fellow scouts to help renovate the Family Promise Salt Lake playground.

Thank you, Owen!



Workers with D-7 Roofing, in partnership with HomeAid-Utah, work to replace the aging roof at the Family Promise Salt Lake offices and Day Center. Wow what a difference this will make!



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

It is with delight and sadness that this month's board member highlight focuses on Rev. Russell Butler, or better known as Pastor Rusty.

Rev. Butler is the pastor at Christ United Methodist Church in Salt Lake City. He began serving on the board in 2018. Throughout his tenure, Pastor Rusty has been an invaluable voice of reason participating in programming



growth and helping navigate turbulent times during the Covid-19 pandemic. Most notably, Pastor Rusty's work housing Family Promise Salt Lake guests at his church during the pandemic won him the "Mazda Hero Award" in 2020 from D. Dahle Mazda.

Said Pastor Rusty, "Serving alongside dedicated volunteers like the ones at the church I pastor, and all the churches involved in the Family Promise network, is the motivating factor in all I do. It has been an honor to be a part of such an impactful organization."

Sadly, Pastor Rusty is retiring from full-time ministry after 28 years of service and is relocating this summer. The staff and board of directors will miss his presence and passion but wish him well on the golf course.