

FAMILY PROMISE OF CAPE MAY COUNTY



Volume 1, Issue 1 August 17, 2009

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR.....



Here it is...our first quarterly “Family Promise of Cape May County” newsletter. I can’t believe it’s been three months, five families, seven children, four love birds, two parakeets and one greyhound ago, that we opened our doors to those in need. Families, that without Family Promise of Cape May County, would have had to seek shelter in drug infested motel rooms, housing unfit for human habitation or in automobiles. And I credit our starting success to our Faith Community Coordinators.

Each one of you was amazing during your host week, not only with our guests, but with your volunteers. You gathered “the best of the best” from your Houses of Worship and it showed. I had volunteers ask me, “How big of an impact are we really having on two or three families at a time?” Let me assure you that your volunteer hours have an impact far beyond what you may see! For every family we serve, we are planting seeds. Your labor of love provides hope, not just to the parents, but also to their children. Every time I hear little three year-old Summer and six year-old Mickela sing “If You’re Happy and You Know It”...I know it! And when eleven-year old Stanley asks to say the blessing at dinner...It’s a Blessing! When nine year old Chris proudly displays his ribbons for reading on the family refrigerator...I realize we ARE A FAMILY under God. And when fifteen old JJ informs me that this is the kind of work he wants to do when he graduates from college...I am reminded that this is God's work. So yes, you are making a difference. Your interventions are making a LASTING difference that effects the future of these families, including the children and grandchildren who are not even born yet!



God Bless You All,
Laurie Johnson

Guiding the Work of Family Promise in Cape May County

Opened
Mothers’ Day, May 10th, 2009

141st National Affiliate...14th in New Jersey

The mission of Family Promise is to mobilize communities to help low-income families achieve and sustain their independence. Providing homeless families with shelter, meals, and comprehensive, compassionate support. Around Cape May County, Houses of Worship have opened their doors and opened their hearts. Our focus is on the religious community because we believe that is has a vital role and responsibility in our community, affirming that *all of us* share the creation of a just and compassionate world. By knowing that simple acts of kindness, in the *hospitality* we offer—can and does have a dramatic effect.

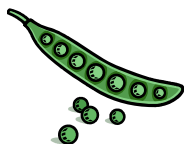


The Family Promise Garden

How to Plant Your Garden...
*First you come to the garden alone
....while the dew is stiff on the roses*

Plant 3 rows of peas:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul



Plant 4 rows of squash

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling



Plant 4 rows of lettuce

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another



NO GARDEN IS WITHOUT TURNIPS

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another



TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE THYME:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends



WATER FREELY WITH PATIENCE AND CULTIVATE WITH LOVE. THERE IS MUCH FRUIT IN OUR GARDEN BECAUSE WE REAP WHAT WE SOW.

MOONLIGHT CRUISE

On August 5, 2009, Family Promise held its 2nd Annual Sunset -Full Moon Cruise, sailing on the Spirit of Cape May. Leaving from The Miss Chris Marina, we travelled all around the island on a two hour tour. The evening was lovely and when the moon broke through the gray clouds, it shone brightly above.



A delicious buffet was prepared by Lucky Bones, a popular local dining establishment. There were raffles, door prizes and a Silent Auction.

Entertainment was provided by the very talented Maura McKinney Mastro. Maura sang some familiar old Irish tunes, as well as other popular songs accompanied on her guitar.

It was a very enjoyable evening and I look forward to our next year's excursion.

Mary Glenn
Administrative Assistant

****Save the date.....August 24, 2010**

FAMILY PROMISE AGENCY OPEN HOUSE

Thanks  to those who attended  our first agency open house. If you missed it and would like to stop by for a visit call.....

609-846-7862 or 609-350-4875

Familypromisecmc@yahoo.com

CASE WORKER'S CORNER

Wow! My first three months with Family Promise have been truly amazing. My Family Promise journey began with meeting several dedicated Board members who, for many years, worked to make the dream of Family Promise coming to Cape May County a reality. Then came my first encounter with Network Director, Laurie Johnson who inspired me (and the many people we've contacted) by her vision and compassion for the homeless families in our community. We went out into the local community to introduce the Family Promise program, and began networking with the numerous agencies in Cape May County who work hard to address the needs of the families we now serve. Some of these agencies who have been initially instrumental to Family Promise are the Board of Social Services, Cape Assist, Cape Counseling Services, Caring for Kids, Catholic Charities, The Division of Youth and Family Services, Families Matters, Habitat for Humanity, Hope Pregnancy Center, The Puerto Rican Action Committee, South Jersey Legal Services, United Way and last, but not least, Workforce 55+, who provided us with Mary Glenn, our Administrative Assistant, who works with us 20 hours a week.

On May 17th, after our official ribbon cutting, we opened our doors to our first family and began the process of meeting and screening more families on the verge of homelessness. It is humbling to see their strength in adversity, and their tenacity in spirit, in dealing with the many obstacles in their path. Homelessness is not always their biggest obstacle.

I have been very impressed by the generosity of our Faith Community who have cooked meals, played games, and opened their doors to our families. And also by local businesses that have made donations to our office and Day Center in Rio Grande... "This and That" Thrift Shop, the Girlfriends Group, Computer Tech Support and many more people who I haven't even met, who donated office equipment, computers and their time and talents. Special thanks to our volunteer van driver and our on the spot handyman, Leif Johnson, who keeps our Day Center and van running smoothly. It has been an encouragement to meet so many people who are dedicated to the cause of loving one another, through becoming our brother's keeper. You have given this tired, middle aged, social worker, a Ray of Hope and a desire to trust again. Thank you!

Kathleen O'Neill, Case Manager

Matthew 25:35

*For I was hungry and you fed me.
I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink.
I was a stranger and you invited me into your home.*

Cape May United Methodist
Cape May Presbyterian

Holy Trinity Lutheran
Temple Beth Judah
First Baptist of Wildwood

Cold Spring Presbyterian
First Assembly of God



Avalon United Methodist
Maris Stella RCC

Petersburg Wesley United Methodist
Woodbine Baptist

St. Mary's Episcopal
Our Savoie Lutheran
St. Paul's RCC

First Baptist CMCH
Our Lady of Angels RCC

Sea Isle United Methodist
St. Joseph's RCC
Messiah Lutheran

Seaville United Methodist
Seaville Quaker Meeting

Resurrection RCC



Family Promise of Cape May County
P.O. Box 200
Cape May Court House, NJ 08201

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
familypromisecmc.org



You CAN make a difference.....
“A- Dime A-Day” Difference
to those who need
A HAND UP.....Not A HAND OUT.

Your donation of just **\$36.50** will provide to our families a week worth of :

***Laundry**

***Transportation cost to and from the Houses of Worship**

***Phone, Fax & Internet access**

or

***Day Center necessities**

Or a month for **\$150.00**

Or a year for **\$1,800.00**

****Make your donation in memory, or in honor, of a LOVED ONE and we will post it on our website for the week, month or year that you specify.**

Mail your donation today



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