



352-378-2030 • www.familypromiseofgainesville.org • Emergency after hours number 352-246-0063.

OVERVIEW FOR SUPPORT CONGREGATIONS

What is Family Promise? Family Promise of Gainesville is a sheltering program specifically designed for families with children. It is a 90-day self-sufficiency program that helps homeless families find and keep a home of their own.

How does FP work? Families have dinner, spend the night and eat breakfast at local churches or synagogues for one week at a time on a rotating schedule. This allows the entire community to share in caring for their neighbors.

- The volunteers are community residents who recognize that any family can lose its home, and that it takes time to find affordable housing.
- The Case Manager meets with families at least once a week to discuss housing and employment possibilities and to assist in finding social services that may be helpful to families.
- During the day, the Day Center serves as home for all guests. When not working or in school, guests can do laundry, take showers and receive case management. They may use this address and phone number as their contact information.
- FP may provide transportation to doctor's appointments, job searches, job interviews, and social service appointments, etc. during the hours of 9am and 4pm.

What Is a Support Congregation?

A Support Congregation is different from a Host Congregation in that it doesn't open its facility to host families. Instead the Support Congregation is partnered with a Host Congregation and provides volunteers to help the Host Congregation during their host week. Many congregations choose to become a Support Congregation because of space limitations, size of congregation or while adding additional space to their current facility. This is a great option for these congregations because their members are still able to volunteer and impact local families' lives without having to commit their building.

The following are the basic elements needed to be a Support Congregation:

- The goal of the Family Promise of Gainesville affiliate is to have support congregations take over 1-2 days during a host week—so that this **is 4 to 8 days per year total at a host facility**. If you can fill the slots for one full day (including overnight) for each rotation, it will provide tremendous support for the host church.



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- Volunteers: A Support Congregation provides needed volunteers for their Host Congregation to help cover volunteer shifts during the host week. There should always be at least 2 volunteers present and generally not more than 6 at a time at the Host Congregation. *All volunteers complete training and orientation before they begin serving.*
- The support congregation provides a person(s) to serve as the Primary Coordinator to recruit needed volunteers for the host week, attend scheduled meetings and act as the main contact for the congregation.
- Key coordinator from your support church work with key coordinator from the host congregation where you are assigned: walk through at assigned host church to become familiar with the facility.

Facility Checklist to confirm with host church

1. Accommodations

- A. What rooms are to be used?
- B. Which bathrooms are available to guests? Is there a family with small (crying/irregular sleep pattern) infants that would best be served in a space with doors?
- C. What storage space is available for linens, guests' belongings, etc.?

2. Security

- A. Do any rooms need to be locked? Who is responsible for keeping rooms secure? Is there a key checkout?
- C. Overnight security: When to lock up? How?
[Recommended policy is to lock up at 9 pm. If a family works late night shifts, let overnight hosts know. If you don't hear from a family by 9 pm and were expecting them, please call the after- hours line for Family Promise.]

3. Kitchen

- A. Which pantries and cabinets store program staples?
- B. How should leftovers be used or distributed?
- C. Is the refrigerator open to guests apart from mealtimes?

4. Housekeeping

- A. What specific chores need to be done daily? Weekly?
- B. Whose responsibility are they

5. Laundry

- A. Where is clean linen kept?
- B. Are the congregation's laundry facilities (if any) available to guests?
- C. Who does program laundry? Where?

6. House Rules and Communication

- A. Are local emergency numbers posted in every room?

B. What is your policy on guests' use of phones? Time they need to be in shelter?
Chores? Calls to director if needed?

7. Children

A. What supplies, games, and books are available for children?

B. What areas are available for play (indoor and outdoor)?

- The Support Congregation will consider providing financial support.
- The Support Congregation also commits to:
 - ✓ Make a minimum one-year commitment in writing.
 - ✓ Publicize and promote the Family Promise Program within the congregation.
 - ✓ Promote and support fundraising events.



- To become a Support Congregation contact Jayne Moraski, Family Promise Executive Director at 352.378.2030 or qnvfamilypromised@gmail.com**

Example Week is shown below:

August 23-29 Schedule							
First Presbyterian Church facilities located at 106 SW 3rd St, Gainesville, FL 32601(352) 378-1527							
Curtis Murphy from First Presbyterian Church will greet families each day at 5 pm. 281-2004							
	23-Aug	24-Aug	25-Aug	26-Aug	27-Aug	28-Aug	29-Aug
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Crew	Board of Directors						
Point of contact for the day:	Stan Beckerdite 352-283-1449	Adam Gurske (352)238-1179	Brenda Cohen 352-538-2884	Sherrie Kirk 352-281-5542	Jayne Moraski 352-359-	Jim & Kim Hasko 352-281-2496	Stan Beckerdite 352-283-1449
Task	sbeckerdite@Cox.net	adam@adamgurske.com	teachercohen@cox.net	Sherriekirk@gmail.com	gnwfamilypromise@gmail.com	kim.hasko@yahoo.com	sbeckerdite@Cox.net
Set up team meet at 11:45 with a full trailer and recruit volunteers after service lets out	FP Board						
Van driver (no CDL needed)	Pick up families from Day Center Sunday						Drop off families at Day Center Saturday morning. Pick up families from Day Center Sunday
Dinner hosts (2 people needed)	Beth Haines 352-283-5026	Janet +1 from University Lutheran	Grace UMC/Baptist	Lutheran combo	Jayne Moraski 352-	Jim & Kim Hasko 281-2694	Eddy Grace
Evening hosts (2 people preferred)	Beth Haines 352-283-5026 NEEDS BACK UP FOR JURY DUTY	Jim Skiles from Grace UMC	Grace UMC/Baptist combo	Lutheran combo	Sally Craven FUMC 378-7827	Sally Craven FUMC	Eddy Grace
Overnight hosts (2 people needed)	Beth Haines	Kathy Franks 352-316-5091 AND Beth Herrington 352-316-6631	Grace UMC/Baptist combo	Lutheran combo	Mike Lattimer 352 377 595	Rebecca at United Church of Gainesville 352-214-3990	Down at United Church of Gainesville 352-226-5992
Take Down							Eddy Grace
Laundry	FP Board						Judy Lang 213-3213
Day Center host am (8:00 to 12:30)	FP Board						Judy Lang
Day Center host pm (noon to 5)	FP Board						Judy Lang

A support congregation fills the volunteer slots once per quarter—only four times yearly.



Why join Family Promise?

Family Promise gives us a chance to act out our commitment. The health of the congregation grows as people reach out in a hands-on way. We are a church committed to serving. People join us because they've heard this is a place to come if you want to get involved. As a result our numbers have increased.

**Rev. Phillip Wilson
Church of the Redeemer Episcopal Church, Morristown, NJ**

In only 4-8 days per year (from 5 pm to 7 am the next morning), you can build your own congregation's connections to each other and to the community. You can make the difference in the lives of local families.