

## Shelter Program Information

**What is Family Promise?** Family Promise of Gainesville is a sheltering program specifically designed for families.

**Whom do we serve?** A maximum of four families, no more than fourteen individuals may be admitted to the program at one time. A child under 18 must be in custody of the adult(s) in the program. One of only two shelters in Alachua County that caters to families with children.

**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.

**Key Program Requirements:** Because we are a family organization run by volunteers, we do have a few requirements:

- Family must have a child under the age of 18
- All adults must agree to background checks and drug testing
- Guests must strive to find employment and housing. Those that have jobs must save 30% of their income to be used for future housing.
- Guests must follow the rules at each host congregation. We do not tolerate rude or abusive behavior.

**Benefits of the Program**

- **Cost effective:** \$3 in-kind is raised for every \$1 of direct donations
- **Successful:** Nationally 76% of all families graduate with jobs or permanent housing. In the last year, **89% of all guests left with increased income, or stable housing, or both.**
- **Community-centered:** Providing over 10,000 meals and 3,000 shelter nights in Gainesville each year.

<b>Family Promise of Gainesville</b>	
Year end totals	July 19, 2015 through July 18, 2016
<b>8,080</b>	<b>volunteer hours</b>
<b>10,950</b>	<b>meals</b>
<b>3,267</b>	<b>shelter nights</b>
16	graduate families
<b>95</b>	<b>people served in 27 families</b>
<b>89%</b>	<b>success rate</b>
	(success = left the program with stable housing and/or increased income)



# Family Promise® of Gainesville

*Building communities, strengthening lives.*



## Day Center

Serves as a home base while adults look for jobs and apply for services. Also provides laundry facilities, showers, telephones, a mailing address, computer facilities, and a children's playroom. The Family Promise Case Manager is located at the Day Center.



## Volunteer Network

Over 500 volunteers operate this 'mobile shelter' by alternating turns in area host congregations. Our families move once per week to a new location that is safe and offers a network of volunteers to provide meals and social support.



## Transportation

Families who do not have their own vehicle are transported to work, school, or the Day Center each morning, then back to the congregation facility each evening.



## Case Management

A skilled case manager assesses each family upon entrance into the program, determining those factors that contributed to the family homelessness. The Case Manager links families with services and resources and helps them find affordable housing.



**Support Services** - Families are provided with such support services as money management and parenting classes. Additionally, staff from the Alachua County Crisis Center facilitate a support group for the adults in the family.

**Aftercare** - To help ensure stability, families are offered the services of the case manager for six months after graduation.