# Family Promise of Gainesville

# **Annual Report 2017**



#### Watch us grow!

Se'Myah in May 2017 and again in December 2017. Her family graduated from Family Promise shelter this year. Family Promise added programs and served 67% more people in 2017. Family Promise of Gainesville is growing, just like Se'Myah.

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#### **OVERVIEW**

Eliminating Homelessness One Family at a Time

Family Promise provides shelter and services to homeless children and their families in Alachua County.

#### **Congregations & Civic Groups**

Our shelter is a network of local faith communities and civic groups. The congregation's educational rooms become bedrooms for each family during the week.

#### **Volunteers**

Each night, guests return from work and school to shelter in the host congregation for that week. Volunteers are coordinated by host congregations to provide meals, toiletries and offer support for the families in shelter from 5 pm to 8am at the host location. Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Family Promise program and the

reason it is the most cost effective shelter in Gainesville.

#### **Day Center**

At the Day Center guests can use computers to look for work, do laundry, take showers and have a place to rest if they work evening shifts. The Case Manager meets with parents to determine how they are doing with finding employment, applying for housing, and other needs. The Case Manager also links families with other service providers. As lack of transportation is often a barrier for homeless clients we serve, FP provides a van to transport families in the morning and afternoon and bus passes to use during the day. Families in FP receive case management services and deep support that is not often possible with other shelters in Alachua County, Florida.

#### **History of Family Promise of Gainesville**

Family Promise has been operating this intensive case management shelter with high success rates since 1998. We have 11 host congregations and over 25 support organizations that work to better the lives of homeless families.



We are a 501(c)3 non-profit in good standing with the state of Florida. We are one of over 200 local affiliates that work with the <u>National Family Promise model</u>. **Family Promise's national organization** is built on the principle that the resources to address family homelessness already exist in the community. The challenge is bringing the resources together to solve family homelessness—one family at a time. The Family Promise "rotating shelter" provides proven results that are highly cost effective.

#### **2017 ACHIEVEMENTS IN GAINESVILLE:**

Family Promise of Gainesville								
2017 Year end totals								
13,920	volunteer hours							
16,632	meals							
5,481	shelter nights (total people sheltered each night x the number of days in a year)							
31	graduate families							
	people served in 31							
120	families							
97%	success rate							
	(success = left the program with stable housing and/or increased income)							

- The total number of people served grew by 67% from 2016 to 2017.
- The average stay in shelter for all clients was 41 days (a decrease from 2016).

#### **NATIONAL FAMILY PROMISE STATISTICS:**





#### New programs in 2017:

#### **PhotoVoice**

Summer photography curriculum for kids.
Objectives of this 2017 program:

- Create an eye-opening photography exhibit that capture the experience of homelessness.
- Bring greater awareness of homelessness in our community and draw support for Family Promise of Gainesville.
- Empower and enrich the lives of kids that have experienced homelessness, by supporting and building on their creativity and reflective story telling through documentation and expression.

#### **Partners in Housing**

This opportunity can take a family out of homelessness into homeownership in as little as two years.

Family Promise's Partners in Housing program is a new program purchasing and restoring manufactured homes so they become affordable places where families can be proud to live. When a family shows fiscal responsibility by consistently paying their rent and utilities, they qualify for the Habitat for Humanity Homeownership counseling program. We purchased our first home mid-2017 and hope to start serving families in early 2018.

#### **Rapid Rehousing Program**

Rapid re-housing is an intervention designed to help individuals and families quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. Providing first month's rent and deposits were one way we used this program to reduce the average days in shelter, house families faster and help 67% more people than last year.

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#### **Day Center Renovation 2017**

Thanks to supporters from Queen of Peace, with additional artwork donations from Burlap Rose Revivals in High Springs, The Jewish Council of North Central Florida, and Trinity United Methodist Church, the day center interior was completely renovated in 2017.



BEFORE – 15 year old carpet used 365 days per year by four families with kids.



AFTER – linoleum floors & updated furniture.



Before playroom with no color and old carpet



After playroom with chalkboard donated by local artist, Burlap Rose in High Springs.



#### 2017 successes (continued):

Continued partnerships with Greeks for Gainesville, Junior League, Children's Home Society, and Habitat for Humanity helped our program succeed throughout the year.

Special thanks to Covenant Presbyterian Church for sheltering our families during Hurricane Irma, and to Faith Presbyterian Church for cleaning up debris at the day center afterward.



#### Bed Race 2017





The superheroes of the Gainseville Alachua County Association of Realtors won the 2017 event (pictured left). Gainesville Juniors won the youth division (pictured right).

We had more teams than ever, and we are now looking for sponsors for the **May 5, 2018 Bed Race.** To inquire about sponsorship, please contact <a href="mailto:gnvfamilypromise@gmail.com">gnvfamilypromise@gmail.com</a>.



Individual successes happen throughout the year, within each family.

The following letter from a recent Family Promise of Gainesville guest highlights the benefits of our program:

Hello to potential volunteers and donors,

I am the mother of 3 minor children the ages of 15 years, 9 years and an 8 months old. My journey began here in April as a homeless mother with children. If it was not for Family Promise and their staff, I don't know where I would be right now. The staff's assistance with mentoring, counseling, and everyday laughter kept my self-esteem and faith on an all-time high and my confidence continued to excel. I always felt encouraged to do better and to strive to become a better parent, person and woman. I also learned the value of a dollar and the purpose in trying to save it with their budget saving packages to work on, given to me by staff.

The journey there at Family Promise gave me a new understanding, new meaning on how important it is to ask for help, letting me know that someone cared for my children and me, letting me know that we were loved as well as cared for unconditionally by staff. I am so forever grateful for them assisting my children and me with all of our needs, concerns, and welfare, I am so very grateful that Family Promise was the shelter that had chosen to accept my children and me.

I want to say thank you to all the staff and to all the services for being in my family's life. I pray that God continue to bless your foundation with all that you need to continue to bless other families.

I pray that every mother that comes through the Family Promise program gain their securities, self-esteem, and confidence back while they continue to remain productive positive and encouraged women.

Sincerely, Michelle M.

2017 graduate from Family Promise shelter program



# Volunteers

This year Family Promise of Gainesville had over 600 volunteers provide over 13,900 hours of service.

Family Promise would not exist without volunteers, and every night of the year, our families are cared for by volunteers. This volunteer network means that for every \$1 of direct donations, over \$4.65 is generated through in-kind contributions and grants leveraged.

Because volunteers donate their time, host sites and supplies, we are the most cost-effective shelter in Alachua County.

We welcomed several new volunteers, congregations and partnerships:

#### **New Civic Group Volunteers**

Gainesville Juniors Volleyball Club Heavener School of Business class projects and internships Sigma Barbecue – three fraternities raised funds for the shelter in early 2017.

#### **Local Organizational Partnerships**

Habitat for Humanity Children's Home Society Boys and Girls Club Gainseville Alachua County Association of Realtors

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#### **2017 Host Congregations**

Covenant Presbyterian
First Presbyterian Church
First United Methodist Church
Gethsemane Lutheran
Queen of Peace Catholic Church
Southwest United Methodist
Trinity United Methodist
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
United Church of Gainesville
University Lutheran Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Wesley United Methodist

#### **Existing Support Congregations**

Abiding Faith Christian Church **Bartley Temple UMC** B'Nai Israel Congregation Celebration UMC Community Praize Center **Covenant Church** Faith Presbyterian Church First Baptist Church Gainesville **Grace Presbyterian** Greater Liberty Hill UMC Holy Faith Catholic Church Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Johnson Chapel Kanapaha Presbyterian Mount Pleasant UMC Mt. Nebo UMC Servants of Christ Anglican Church Spring Hill MB Upper Room Church of God in Christ Ft. Clarke Missionary Baptist Church Jewish Council of North Central Florida Zion Lutheran Church

























We are currently seeking new congregations / groups to add to our hosting schedule. Contact gnvfamilypromise@gmail.com for more information. This can be a full host church, or a church that just provides its facility while others volunteer, or a volunteer opportunity as little as four days yearly.

We will work to find a volunteer schedule that fits your group.



# **Corporate Sponsorships**

Thank you to all our corporate sponsors for the year, in both the Bed Race and in other efforts throughout the year. We encourage our partners and volunteers to support these local business partners.







**Gold Sponsors** 































#### Additional corporate partners throughout the year:

**Swift Creek Realty** 

**US Health Advisors** 



2 College Brothers



Molly Maid



### Non-Profit 990 Tax Return

Tax returns do not include the over \$260,000 in annual in-kind donations that are provided in the form of furniture donations, meals for homeless families, volunteer hours, and building rental.

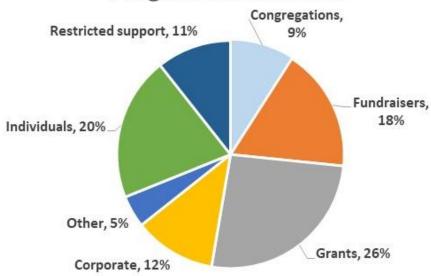
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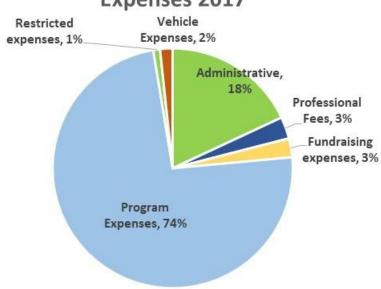
# **Financial Stability**

Thanks to support of individuals, congregations and corporate partners, Family Promise is financial stable but we are unable to grow as hoped *without* continued support. In 2017, the board of directors voted to improve fiscal policies by creating a minimum operating reserve fund. This year we are going to increase case management and life-skills classes, and expand partnerships to provide service to guests. The Partners in Housing Program official starts in 2018 and we hope this transitional housing program can be a launching point for many of our families to re-establish their credit and continue the path toward housing stability.

## **Program Income 2017**



#### Expenses 2017



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#### Why support Family Promise?

- The number of students identified as homeless in Florida more than doubled between 2007-08 and 2015-16.
- Homeless students trail their housed peers in attendance, academic, and disciplinary indicators.
- The lack of affordable housing for families with children is a root cause of students' homelessness.
- There is still so much work that needs to be done.

#### **Leave a Legacy**

Leaving a gift to Family Promise of Gainesville in your will is a way of legacy of love and caring for your neighbors. Such gifts, big or small, can be life-changing for families in need, right here in your town.

Thank you to everyone in Alachua County who has helped Family Promise end homelessness-one family at a time.

# www.familypromisegvl.org



#### **Contact information**

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