



# Family Promise<sup>®</sup> of Gainesville

Building community, strengthening lives.



# **FAMILY PROMISE'S MISSION:**

**Through the collaborations of local faith communities, Family Promise of Gainesville provides homeless children and their families with compassionate care that includes:**

- case management, education,**
- housing,**
- meals,**
- and transportation**

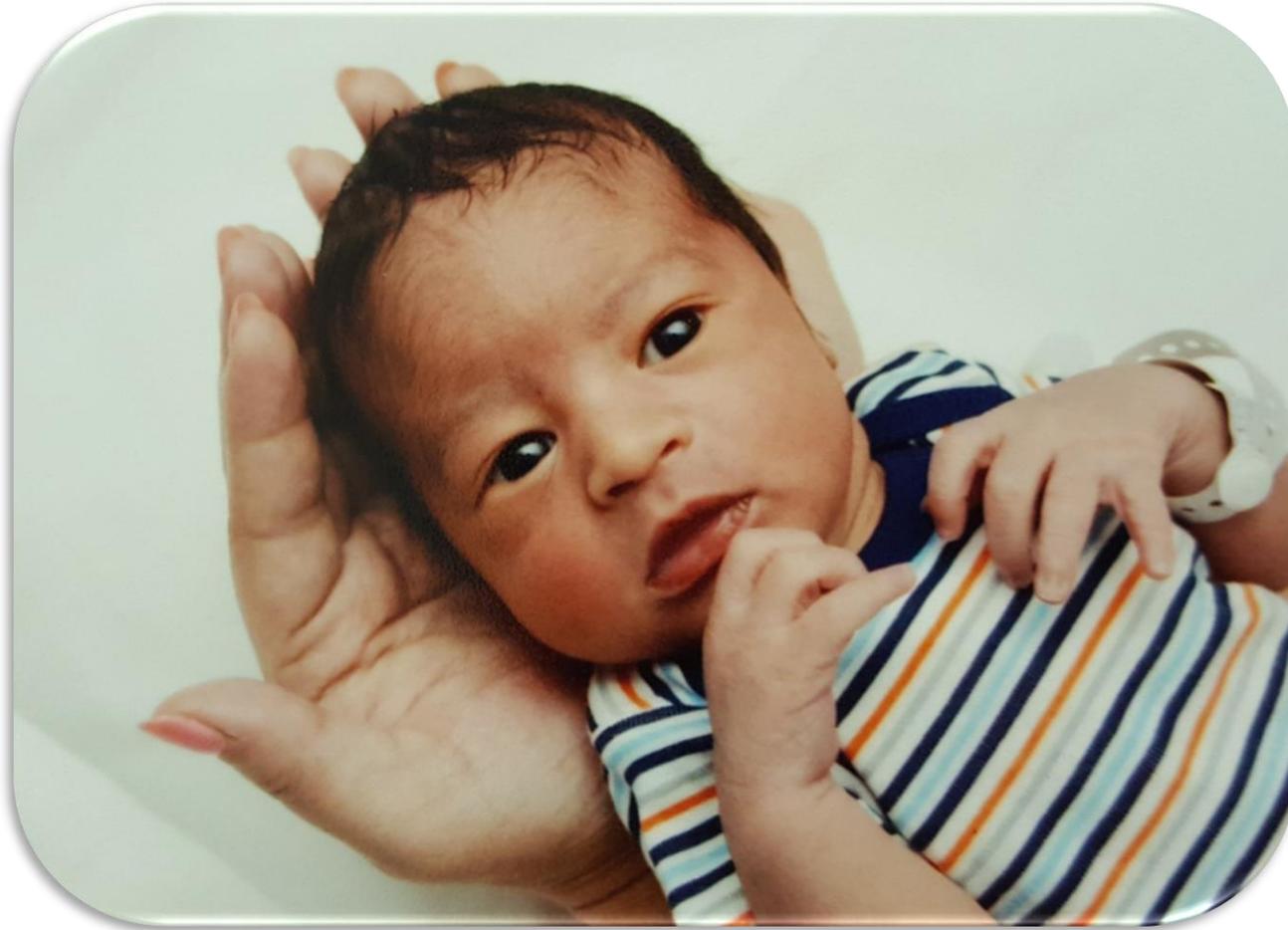
**until they can transition to a home of their own.**



# What are the impacts of homelessness?



**Children without a home are twice as likely to repeat a grade as their “housed” classmates.**



Born in Gainesville shelter May 2016

**Impacts on children**  
Children experience high rates of *chronic and acute health problems* while homeless. They are also **2-3 times more likely to use the ER.**

# A mobile shelter



- Each night families are at a congregation—usually in a locked Sunday School room.
- Volunteers man the shelter from 5 pm to 8 am daily.
- Each day they go to the day center for life-skills or case management needs. Staff provide services 8 am to 5 pm.
- Families move each weekend to a new congregation.
- The entire community helps shelter our neighbors in need.



# Key Points About Volunteers

- Family Promise is staffed almost exclusively by volunteers.
- Volunteers put the “**hospitality**” in Interfaith Hospitality Networks by providing kindness, acceptance, and warmth.
- Volunteers can develop positive relationships with guests that help in their efforts to solve problems and regain independence.
- Use the time to build your own church community-invite your friends to help out. Have small groups host an evening and have fun.

# Chain of correspondence

- Director manages Network operations
- Supervises staff and volunteers
- Case manager for guest families is the liaison to social service agencies
- School analogy: Director is the principal or dean of discipline. Case Manager is the teacher. Volunteers are the fun parents on a school field trip.

# Donations and Guests

Monetary gifts should be made only to Family Promise, not individual guests. **Our goal is to empower, not enable guests.**

- Legal tax deduction
- Boundary issues & the need for anonymity
- Favoritism
- Needs vs. Wants

Donations of furniture, household goods and clothes (unless of immediate need) will be held until family is settled in permanent housing.

# Trauma Informed Care and Volunteering

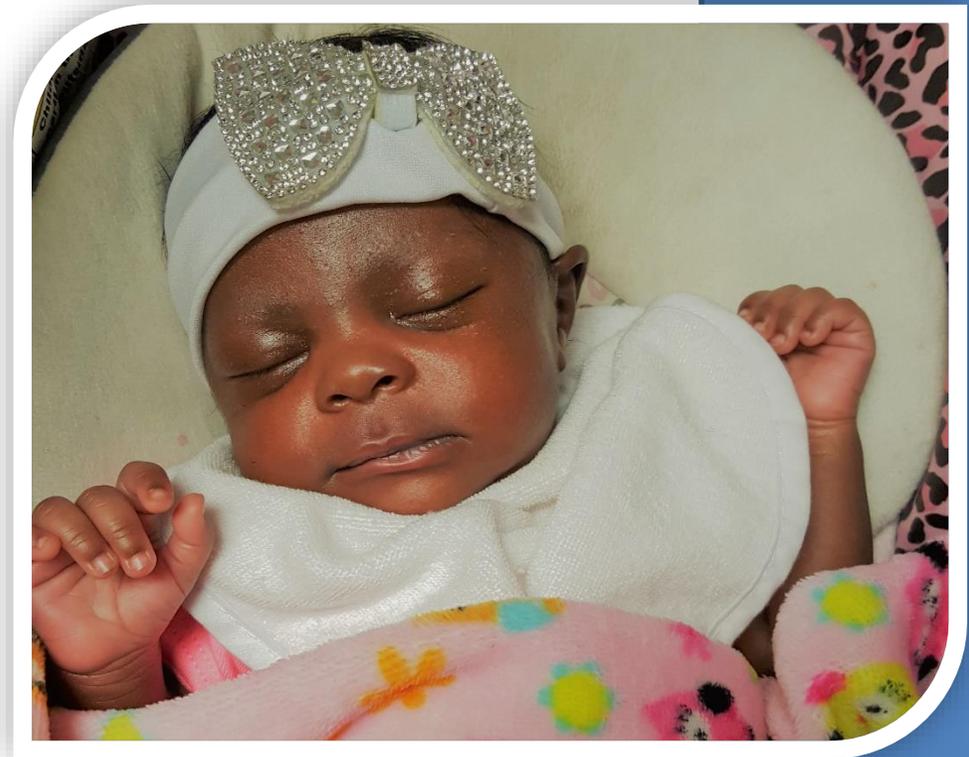
A recent study by the Harvard Center on the Developing Child indicates that programs like Family Promise have the most success when they use the following evidence-based techniques to deliver services:

1. Support responsive relationships for children and adults
2. Strengthen core life skills.
3. Reduce sources of stress in the lives of children and families.



# Trauma Informed Care (TIC)

- Trauma Informed Care is a tool used to engage individuals with histories of trauma.
- Organizations that understand Trauma Informed Care implement policies that promote healing and avoids re-traumatization.



# IMPORTANCE OF TIC

In order to break the parallel process volunteers must not match the clients level of fear, uncertainty and hopelessness. *In other words don't take the clients actions too personally.* When an individuals first enters the shelter they will feel scared, hopeless and overwhelmed. It is important that staff combats this by creating a welcoming, safe and stable environment.

If you ever feel uncomfortable, we encourage volunteers to contact the FP After Hours # for emergencies, or contact us the next day to discuss. We are happy to talk.

**352-246-0063**

# 4 R's of TIC

A program, organization, or system that is trauma-informed:

- *Realizes* the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery;
- *Recognizes* the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved with the system;
- *Responds* by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and
- Seeks to actively resist *re-traumatization*."

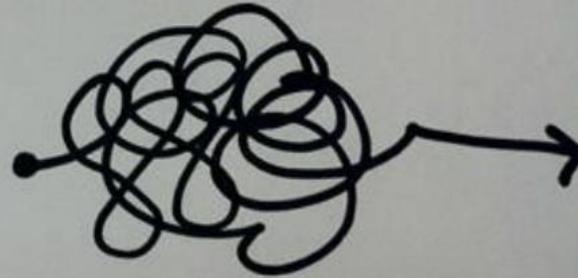


# Grief Beliefs

HOW WE  
WANT  
GRIEF TO  
WORK



HOW GRIEF  
ACTUALLY  
WORKS



# Companioning Skills

- 1. Help the person “feel felt”**
- 2. Let the person have all their feelings**
- 3. See behavior as information**
- 4. Set compassionate limits and boundaries**
- 5. Follow the grieving person’s lead**
- 6. Avoid problem solving, clichés and advice giving**
- 7. Get support for yourself**
- 8. Don’t be attached to outcome**

# Sanctuary

- The ultimate goal is to implement the Sanctuary Model of TIC.
- The Sanctuary Model best fits Family Promise's current structure as it promotes safety and recovery from adversity through the active creation of a trauma-informed community.



## Main things to remember:

LOVE the families

Have FUN

Kids are kids

GRACE



Since 1998,  
we have  
helped  
over 1,660  
people in  
Alachua  
County find  
homes.

## **Family Promise July 2015- December 31, 2017**

12,040 shelter nights

37,149 meals

216 graduates in 64 families

**91%** combined success rate

(success = graduates stay stably housed for at least 1 year after graduating from our shelter program)





## COMPARING COSTS AND OUTCOMES



**Family Promise  
Affiliate**

**\$17**

**Per Night**

- Intensive case management
- 3 full meals daily
- Extensive community-based programs and support

**74%\***

**Move into  
Permanent  
or  
Transitional  
Housing**



**Traditional  
Shelter**

**\$35**

**Per Night**

- Case management only as available
- Generally 1 full meal daily
- Connection to services

**16-  
42%\*\***

**Move into  
Permanent  
or  
Transitional  
Housing**



**Motel Stay**

**\$48**

**Per Night**

- No case management
- No food
- No connection to services

**N/A**

**Often  
families  
utilizing  
motels  
have no  
way to get  
ahead**

\*Family Promise National Census Survey, 2015

\*\*National Alliance to End Homelessness, Rapid Re-Housing: A History and Core Components



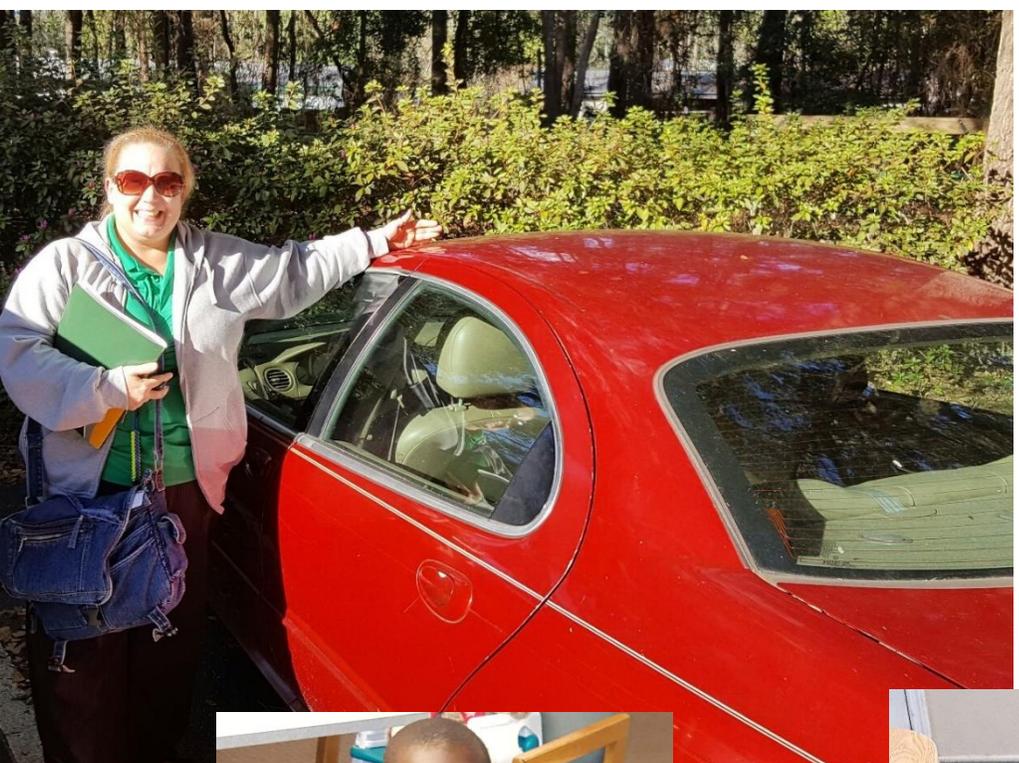
Mom had \$0 income when starting Family Promise. She now has a full time job and a home of her own.

Thank you to our  
host and support  
congregations.  
Sincerely,



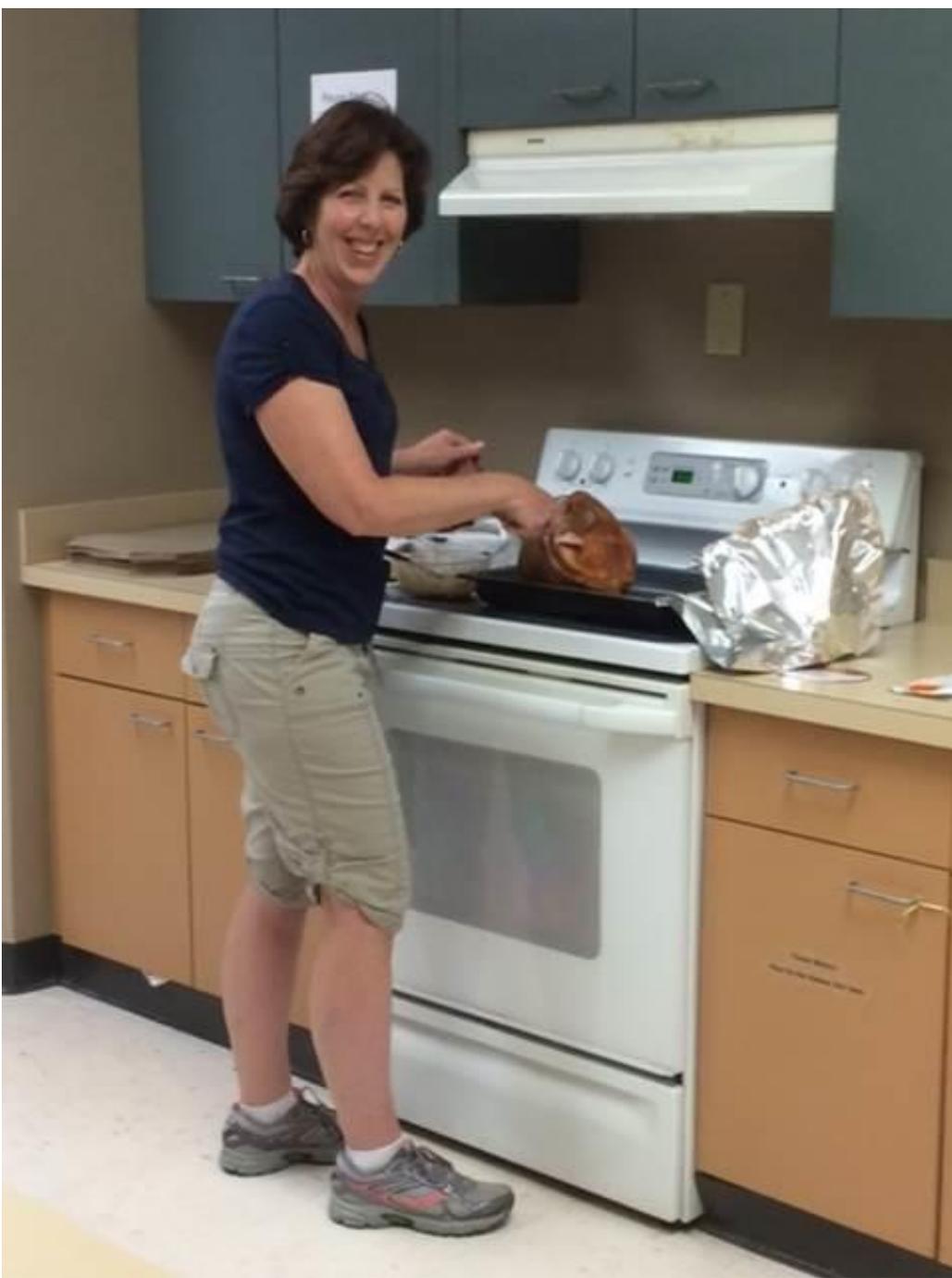
Family  
Promise®  
of Gainesville

Building community, strengthening lives.



Only four times yearly.

Congregations host families for one week per quarter. Most “host churches” also have “support congregations” that help throughout the week.





# How can your group help?

- If you can make a bed, you can help Family Promise.
- If you can greet others with a smile, you can help Family Promise.
- If you can make dinner for a crowd, you can help Family Promise.

# There are so many ways to help: Supply Drives

Born in the  
Gainesville  
shelter  
October  
2015



## Needs for Guests

- Diapers - all sizes
- Underwear for men, women, and children - all sizes
- Sundries -Deodorant, disposable razors,
- Baby Wipes
- Suitcases with wheels
- Large plastic tubs to carry clothes/personal items

## Current Guests & Aftercare

- Wal-Mart and Target gift cards (for clothing and personal care items)
- Grocery store gift cards
- Gas Cards to help guests to work
- Movie and bowling passes (for weekend use for guest families)
- Gift certificates for fast food restaurants (for weekend lunch treats for guest families)
- Twin beds (gently used)
- Dressers (gently used)

## Day Center Supplies

- Laundry Soap and Liquid Bleach (Guests use several bottles/week )
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Kitchen-size garbage bags
- Kleenex
- Soap - for bathroom and kitchen
- Cleansers - for bathroom and kitchen

# There are so many ways to help.

- Play with kids (**free hair braiding!**)
- Find out what kids like and take guests on special weekend trips.
- Office and day center help



All guests are drug screened and background checked for safety.

Color with kids, play ball, make dinner, socialize and *build community*.

There are so many ways to help.



**There are so many ways to help.  
Share your own stories.**



*The Talmud says, that "the poor person [standing at the door] does more for the householder than the householder does for the poor person." [Family Promise] is tangible proof of the truth that one who gives, receives back in at least equal measure.*

**Family Promise support  
congregation.  
Rabbi Arnie Gluck  
Temple Beth-El, Somerville, NJ**



Congregations build their own community as well. Book Clubs, Boy Scouts (with adult volunteers) and other groups can take over a night.

This night was volunteers from the chamber's **Leadership Gainesville** class of 2017.

# New projects this year: Partners in Housing



# Partners in Housing

- With a shortfall of affordable housing in our community, there's a real need to supply affordable housing solutions for families at risk of becoming homeless.
- For as little as \$20,000 per unit, Partners in Housing is 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.
- ***This opportunity takes a family out of homelessness into homeownership in as little as two years.***



# New projects this year: Photovoice



Funding has been made possible by the Puffin Foundation.



# *Through the Eyes of a Child: Family Homelessness*

## **Photovoice Objectives: purpose and goal?**

- 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 your creativity and reflective story telling through documentation and expression.

**What is PhotoVoice?** PhotoVoice is as a way for people to identify, represent and enhance their life or their community with the goals of:

- recording and reflecting strengths and concerns
- promoting group discussions and knowledge
- reaching policymakers
- achieve positive social change



**Join us Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> at Harn Museum Nights from 6-9 pm**  
to celebrate the full exhibit of the PhotoVoice project for 2018.

“If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk,  
<sup>10</sup> and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

Isiah 58: 9-10



