

# The Promising News

Family Promise®-Salt Lake



Family Promise®  
Salt Lake

An Interfaith  
Alliance Helping  
Homeless Families  
Achieve Lasting  
Self-Sufficiency

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## The Good, The Bad, and the Promising

Each of you who reads this newsletter is deeply devoted to the well-being of the people in our community who struggle most to make ends meet, especially in today's economy. I thank you for your care and devotion and would like to give you our brief assessment based on the FPSL experience over the last year.

When it comes to the state of affairs for those we serve, there are many ways to view the news reports and forecasts from "good" to "bad," and even to "promising." In May, our Lieutenant Governor, Greg Bell announced the good news that homelessness for chronically homeless individuals was down by 42% from the year before. This is due largely in part to the introduction of over 400 permanent supportive housing units designated for the chronically homeless, which is great news.

Of significant concern, however, is that at the same time we have seen a rise in family homelessness in our community. The Lt. Governor's report stated that even after we have accounted for the decrease in chronic homelessness, we still face an *overall* rise in homelessness by 0.75 percent, unfortunately mostly families. This news was not unexpected based

on the growing trend in homelessness for families over the previous few years and the downturn in the economy which has left hard working families in more precarious situations than ever before.

This overall trend in family homelessness has grown consistently and there is no reason to believe it will improve until the nation has a greater affordable housing stock, *even after* it secures a greater number of jobs for

families and then to provide on-going case management *post* shelter-stay. So new programming offered by many shelters, including our own unique Family Promise "shelter" model, does not ask families to save up all funds needed *before* moving into a new home but merely to secure an income source that will eventually be sufficient to maintain the household budget. Deposits, several month's rent, and

even utilities may be paid by shelters so as to transition families quickly back into their own housing while offering on-going post-shelter case management to help support continual advancement on the path toward self-sufficiency.

A year ago, FPSL dedicated staff time and funds to implement our own model of Rapid Re-Housing and then implemented our new Housing Retention Program. We

hired a case manager whose position is dedicated fully to supporting those families who have moved quickly from our network into housing. We have found that much time and effort is still needed in providing necessary support to keep families housed; we have also seen greater success rates both transitioning families to housing and helping them to retain their housing in the first 24 months post shelter. In fact, this last fiscal year (2009-2010) 93% of families sheltered transitioned to stable housing.



### Guest children Sage and Sondra at a fun Zoo outing

working families and finds a way to offer affordable health care for all families.

The good news, at least currently, is that this last year's federal stimulus package designated benefited families in our nation who have experienced homelessness during this recession. Nationwide research shows that it is more humane, cost-effective, and produces better long-term stabilization results to use available funding to "Rapidly Re-house"

(Cont. on pg. 2)

# ...The Good, The Bad, and The Promising

(Continued from pg. 1)

And at least that same percentage of families has remained housed as we measure back over a two year period.

So, while the bad news is that family homelessness continues to rise, the good news is that government and private sector funding and programmatic partnerships are working efficiently and successfully to address the needs of the homeless families our shelters encounter.

And the promising news is that even during this time of recession and personal economic setback for so many households, individual donor giving to programs designed to address basic human needs has risen! *Giving USA* reported an overall decrease in charitable giving of 3.6% in 2009, but an increase of 2.6% toward human services during that same period.

We at FPSL find this easy to believe when we consider conversations with our own supporters this last year. For instance, one donor sent in a generous check; when we spoke with her to thank her, this woman who works as a realtor said that business was down for her this year and wished her donation

could have been greater, but she felt a need to prioritize her giving and go the extra mile for those who are hardest hit by the current economy.

We have even found that the children in our community are increasingly aware of others who struggle. Zander and Ozzie Smith, brothers who celebrated their respective birthdays at a shared party, asked that their party guests make donations to help homeless families through FPSL rather than bringing toys or presents of other kinds. So many of you have shown similar generosity and sensitivity over this last year. **In that regard, YOU are the promising news for the families we serve!**

As we move into our new fiscal year (2010-2011), we do so with gratitude that during bad times, our families are surrounded by so many good people (and good programming partnerships) and that as a result, they may look toward a more promising future in the months and years to come.

Jennifer Hare, Executive Director

Go Green!

Get this newsletter via email

Contact  
801-961-8622,  
laney@fpsl.org



Please recycle  
this newsletter

## Creative Volunteer Recruitment

One of our Support Congregations, Holladay North Stake's 24<sup>th</sup> Ward, recently had success with an inventive and neighborly way to recruit volunteers for their hosting week at the Inn at Christ United Methodist Church. Lead by the amazing Coordinators Jerry and Georgia James, the 24<sup>th</sup> Ward looked outside of their Congregation and invited non-member neighbors of the Church to volunteer. The response was humbling. The neighbors, representing various faiths, appreciated the invitation and opportunity to serve families in need through the Family Promise program. We applaud the 24<sup>th</sup> Ward for thinking outside the box and bringing more community members to the work and mission.



Youth  
volunteer at  
Good  
Shepherd  
Lutheran  
playing with  
some of the  
guest  
children

## Day Center Remodeling

Hammers are banging and sheetrock dust is in the air. With help from eBay and other community funders, we recently started a two phase remodel project of the Day Center to expand case management offices and space in the Day Room for the families. We would love to have everyone come take a look once things are finished; stop by any time or sign up for one of our upcoming Day Center tours.

# Spiritual Reflections on the FPSL Mission

## Tikkun Olam: The Spiritual Purpose of Life

Isaac Luria, the renowned sixteenth century Kabbalist, used the phrase “tikkun olam,” usually translated as “repairing the world,” to encapsulate the true role of humanity in the ongoing evolution and spiritualization of the cosmos. Luria taught that God created the world by forming vessels of light to hold the Divine Light. But as God poured the Light into vessels, they catastrophically shattered, tumbling down toward the realm of matter. Thus, our world consists of countless shards of the original vessels entrapping sparks of the Divine Light. Humanity’s great task involves helping God by freeing and reuniting the scattered Light, raising the sparks back to Divinity and restoring the broken world.



## Success Story: Kenya’s Family

A young single mother of two amazing children (Damien age 9 and a TyAja age 7) Kenya came to Family Promise last fall. The family left their apartment a few weeks before because of a looming eviction.

Kenya worked for a Temp Agency and was between jobs. Kenya temporarily doubled-up with friends. The weeks went by and the family stress increased. Kenya confided in a former co-worker, and this co-worker happened to be (by coincidence and grace) a former guest of Family Promise and recommended that she give us a call.

After a few days on the waiting list, we were able to welcome the family into the program. The Temp Agency had come through with a new job and Kenya was working again and the kids continued to attend their same school. The family continued to attend their church activities, Wednesday night Bible study, a Saturday evening singles group and Sunday services.

Kenya was very dedicated to homework time which the kids did every night after dinner. Damien was a funny, gregarious, full-of-life character. TyAja was quiet, shy and an amazing artist, always drawing pictures of her mom. Kenya set up a case plan and stuck to it, saving money and paying-down some debt.

Kenya was approved for a housing assistance source called Rapid Re-Housing which covered her first three months of deposit and rent, through a partnership between Family Promise and The Road Home. Kenya could not wait to get back into her own place.

**“I was so amazed at what seemed to be a complete tragedy to other’s was such a blessing to my family.”**

Around January, still employed by the Temp Agency, the current job was ending and it was weeks until a new one began. Kenya worked with the Family Promise Housing Retention Program and was approved for additional Rapid Re-Housing funds to help for that month’s rent.

Kenya’s long-term goals include: getting out of debt, going back to school for a Communications degree, and home ownership. We continue to love, support and pray for this beautiful family’s continued success and stability.

Reflecting on her stay in the program Kenya observed that “when some people heard of us going to your program (being homeless) they felt bad for our family. I was so amazed at what seemed to be a complete tragedy to others was such a blessing to my family. Family Promise holds such a special place in our hearts and we are forever grateful to the staff and the volunteers we meet while there. Thank you so much for your dedication and your passion to help families grow and stay strong.”

**Recent Guest,  
Suzanne with her  
new born, Sophia**

**New Team  
Member:**

**Welcome to our  
new Case Mgr,  
Shelley Reynolds!  
shelley@fpsl.org**

**Join us on a tour of  
our Day Center:**

**Aug. 12, 12-1 p.m.  
Sept. 16, 12-1 p.m.  
Oct. 14, 12-1 p.m.  
Nov. 4, 12-1 p.m.**

**A free light lunch  
is served at every  
tour.**

**Please RSVP to  
801-961-8622,  
laney@fpsl.org**

## Save the Date!

Family Promise’s annual breakfast fundraiser this year will be at the Little America Hotel on

**October 27, 2010, 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.**

Please mark your calendars. We would love to have your attendance and support.





Family Promise®

Salt Lake

P.O. Box 996

Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-0996

## Become a Supporter of Family Promise Today!



**Family Promise®  
Salt Lake**

*An interfaith alliance  
helping homeless  
families achieve lasting  
self-sufficiency*

**Your donation changes lives!** Please make your tax-deductible gift payable to Family Promise - Salt Lake. Acknowledgement letters will be issued upon receipt. Send this form to P.O. Box 996, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-0996 or **donate online at [www.fpsl.org](http://www.fpsl.org)**. Information on stock donations is available on request.

Method of Payment:

- Visa
- MasterCard
- Amex
- Check

(Please make checks payable to Family Promise - Salt Lake)

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please remember Family Promise - Salt Lake in your planned giving**

