

February 2019 Newsletter



Bringing Families Home

**PO Box 733 – 781 Spring Parkway
Woodstock, VA 22664
540-459-4599**



Board of Directors:
George Bowers, President
Katherine Morrison, Vice President
Kent Jeter, Treasurer
Libby Rocco, Secretary
Ellen Bowers
Ellen Fairchild-Flugel
Linda Holler
Mary Jane Koch
Becky Leland
Willie Mitchell
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Message from Sherry

We just completed the 2018 census report for Family Promise National. FPSC served 17 families - 59 individuals. This includes families who did not enter our overnight shelter program but were assisted in other ways. There were 34 children (20 under the age of 5). The families had 2,086 nights of safe shelter - a bed to sleep in and hot meals each day. Ten of our families were single moms and children; six of the families had two parents and one family was a single dad and his children. Ten of the families gained or maintained employment during their stay with us. Nine families successfully found their own housing. Six of the families were able to reconnect with extended family and moved into shared housing.

Once again - I want to say a big THANK YOU for your support! The families really appreciate everything FPSC is able to do for them. **We have a "Grateful" chart** on the wall for folks to post blessings or things they are thankful for. Here a couple of the posts:

**Blessed to have FPSC...amazing women and men!
Thank you for supporting our families!**

Thank you Family Promise for keeping our family together and healthy!

*Sherry Arey
Executive Director*



FPSC Family Visits with a Rescue Dog

Community Mission Church of the Brethren – Pastor Dale Bowers

Community Mission Church of the Brethren, nestled near Back Road, is a well appointed church that Charles Helsley founded around fifty years ago. The church started their services in an outdoor pavilion and quickly grew to serve the neighboring area.

The country church has recently lost their beloved senior pastor, Hardy Lutz; but, luckily, they have a ready successor, **Pastor Dale Bowers**. Pastor Bowers is a skilled craftsman in wood in addition to guiding his congregation.



Dale first heard about Family Promise through his brother, George, and then attended the first community meetings to get information about the program. Once FPSC was up and running, the membership voted to participate in the program as a support church. **Community Mission COB** has been helping **All Souls Anglican Church** host Family Promise guests - helping with meals and overnights at the All Souls' location.



This wonderful congregation recently helped out even more by hosting guests for a week when the original host scheduling fell through! Pastor Bowers allows that, “Everyone thought the week went well” and thinks that the active involvement of his church members with Family Promise provides a wonderful opportunity for the kind of service that really makes a difference. Community Mission COB has now committed to hosting at their church a couple of times a year to help All Souls! Many thanks and blessings to Community Mission COB!

Pastor Dale shared this perspective:

Comment: You’ve got to be careful who you let into the church.

Response: You’ve got to be careful who you **don’t** let into the church. Whose church is it – YOURS or GODS?

Ellen Fairchild-Flugel

NOTE: If your church would like to have a “trial run” as a host site, please contact Sherry Arey (540-459-4599 or email: shenfamilypromise@gmail.com) to learn more about hosting.



Weeks Available in 2019

March 24-31
June 30 – July 7
September 22-29
December 15-22

Strasburg High School FCCLA Supports FPSC

For the fourth year, the **Strasburg High School FCCLA** will help serve at the Steak Dinner & Silent Auction which will be held next month! In case you didn't know, FCCLA stands for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America and is a national organization whose 2018-2019 theme is "You can do anything you set your mind to do. **Believe in Yourself** as you lead others, develop new skills, explore career opportunities, build strong families, and give back to your communities. Make a difference. Be You." This is remarkably similar to FPSC's approach to helping homeless families rebuild their lives.



Strasburg High School FCCLA Chapter Officer Team

Nationally, there are FCCLA chapters at the middle and high school levels. The chapters participate in projects in a number of areas including Families First, Community Service, Financial Fitness, Career Connection, etc. The chapter at Strasburg High School is under the direction of Family and Consumer Science teacher, **Heather Hiserman**. Heather first learned about Family Promise "back in the day" when FPSC was first forming from her student, **Miley Hupp**. They could see right away that helping FPSC was a great fit for their community service project and they helped serve at the first Steak Dinner & Silent Auction in 2015. They have also teamed up with other community organizations to make a difference: Town of Strasburg, Strasburg Heritage Association, Response, and others.



The chapter attends State and National conferences where they have an opportunity to "participate in workshops, compete in STAR Events, network with fellow members and advisers, and visit the Exhibits Expo along with College and Career Fairs. This year's National Conference will be held in Anaheim, CA. Heather says about 15 students will attend the event at the beginning of July.

The Strasburg High School Chapter has about 60 students, and 10-15 students usually help with the Steak Dinner each year. The chapter has won many awards, and the students have had many opportunities for personal growth. **Jana Bowman** was an FCCLA Japanese exchange student and had the opportunity to attend school in Japan for about six weeks this past summer.

A high percentage of FCCLA students go on to college to further their education. One of their chapter members, **Laura Taylor**, served as the National FCCLA president in 2014-2015. She will be graduating from

the University of Mississippi with a degree in public policy this year. One of the great things about FCCLA is that leadership and other skills learned in the program are easily transferable to any career path or service opportunity the students decide to pursue.



Diane Pence

Join these wonderful students at our Steak Dinner on March 23rd at the Moose Lodge.

Many, many thanks to Heather Hiserman and all of her students for their great community support and for helping out with the FPSC Steak Dinners!!!!

Annual Appeal & Planned Giving

Many thanks to all of you who donated through our **direct mail appeal** which was sent out in November 2018. To date we have received gifts from **117 donors**. The **largest individual gift was \$4,000**. We even received **a gift of stock**.

If you haven't sent in your donation yet, **it's never too late**. In addition, other **planned giving** helps you enjoy the benefits of capital gains tax savings, increased income, and income-tax savings while benefiting homeless families with children reclaim and maintain their independence.

Types of Planned Giving

- Bequests
- Gifts of stock
- Matching gifts through your employer
- Required annual IRA minimum distributions

Important Info

Please provide your broker with the following information:

DTC #0226 – Fidelity Investments
 Name on Account – Family Promise of Shenandoah
 Tax ID #46-1024116

Steps to Take

1. Contact FPSC directly when planning your gift.
2. Contact your attorney or financial advisor – they can assist you with determining what type of gift best suits your personal circumstances.
3. Be sure to talk to your family about your plans and personal wishes in addressing family needs as well as your legacy gifts.

Family Promise of Shenandoah County is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Donors may deduct contributions as provided in IRC §170(b)(1)(A)(i) of the U.S. Tax Code.

Case Manager's Corner

Wow it's February already! February is the month of love (Valentine's Day), Groundhog's Day, healthy heart awareness (American Heart Month), African American/Black History Month, and it's also my anniversary for working at Family Promise of Shenandoah County for 2 years!

These 2 years have been a time of growth for FPSC and for me as well. When I started at FPSC I really did not have any knowledge of working with the homeless population – I came from the world of working with

the elderly. I knew that we all have our stories, some stories are better than others, and one decision or choice could make a huge difference in that story. Families may come to Family Promise with a very different story than most of us. They may have come from a family where negative influences are all around them – drugs, alcohol, emotional and physical abuse, lies and deceit are everyday occurrences. They come to FP in crisis mode - not having a job, child care, vehicle or a second parent to help with the care of the children. They come without the paperwork needed to get housing (i.e., birth certificates, driver’s license or identification cards). They may not have enough clothing or food for their children because they had to leave their housing situation at a moment’s notice. It can take several weeks before our guest families actually start feeling that there is a chance of having a home again that they can share with their children.

Our guest families do not always come from a home of love, history, or heart and this experience may be the first time they have truly experienced giving, caring or positive relationships that they receive from our staff and volunteers. So, thank you for sharing your time, being a positive influence, showing these families your heart, love and hopefully helping them change a bit of their story and their family history.

Diane Wittreich

Congratulations Citizen of the Year



FPSC Board Member, **Libby Rocco**, was honoured as Citizen of the Year by the Shenandoah County Chamber of Commerce at their annual awards party last month. When asked about her work with Family Promise of Shenandoah County, Libby says:

“About six years, ago, I saw that a meeting was planned at Antioch to discuss ways to help the homeless in our area. At the time, there was a homeless encampment on Rt. 11 and it pricked my conscience every time I drove by, so I decided to attend that first meeting. From there, we started the process to develop our own affiliate, choosing Family Promise because their national organization could provide guidance and oversight in this new venture. I feel that following Christ compels us to respond when we see pain and suffering of others. Family Promise offers an opportunity to live out Matthew 25:35-40, where we are called to give shelter, food and comfort to those in need.”

Many thanks, Libby, for all that you do for FPSC and our community!

Big-Boy Haircut

It was another God moment at the beginning of January when **Terry Bowers** owner of **The Hair Gallery** volunteered to do haircuts for guests when her home church, Antioch COB, hosted that month. Just a few days later, a new family entered the program. The one thing the mom wanted was to get her hair cut – it was more than a year overdue. Her 18-month old son was also needing his first big-boy haircut. One evening, Terry brought the “tools of her trade” to the church and worked her magic. Many thanks for sharing your gifts with FPSC families Terry!!!





Family Promise of Shenandoah County

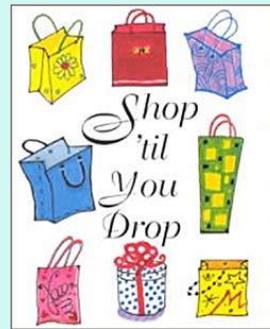
Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019, 6-7:30 pm
Antioch Church of the Brethren
23502 Senedo Rd., Woodstock

*Join us for a Celebration of Gratitude
For Three Great Years of FPSC*

Great Music, Updates, Future Vision,
Recognitions

Light Refreshments

**Belk - Apple Blossom Mall
Winchester**



Point of Sale Campaign

Feb. 3 through Mar. 2

As customers check out,
they will be asked to donate
to Family Promise.

Please say yes!

This is a *national partnership* campaign between
Belk and Family Promise. **Belk in Winchester has
been partnered with Family Promise of
Shenandoah County.**



Paint Nite Fundraiser

Partner or individual painting!!!

Sun., Feb. 24, 5-7pm

TGI Fridays

180 Crooked Run Plaza

Front Royal

Tickets: \$45 (\$15 donated to FPSC)

Purchase Tickets at:

<https://www.yaymaker.com/events/labs-in-love-partner-painting-at-tgi-fridays-front-royal-10143160>

Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship as we raise funds for FPSC. No experience needed!!!

Artist: Jenae Jenkins.

Organized by Michelle Morris, Woodforest Bank, Front Royal.

Note: PaintNite is now Yaymaker.

"The Word says God don't give us credit for lovin' the folks we want to love anyway. No, He gives us credit for loving the unlovable. The perfect love of God don't come with no conditions..." (Same Kind of Different as Me)

Thank you for showing our guests the perfect love of God - unconditional and accepting!

Wish List

Detangler
Dryer Sheets
Clorox Wipes
Swiffer Wet Jet Floor Cleaner
Toilet Paper
Air Freshener
Liquid Dish Soap
Laundry Baskets
Twin Sheet Sets
No-Spill Sippy Cups

Inexpensive Craft Kits (suncatchers, etc. – these are available at Michael’s and other stores)



Steak Dinner & Silent Auction March 23, 2019, 4-7:30 pm Woodstock Moose Lodge

How You Can Help

Sponsor the dinner. Contact: **Becky Leland:** 540-333-1976, beckyaleland@gmail.com or **Willie Mitchell:** 540-335-6235, mow@shentel.net

Donate silent auction items or provide baked goods for auction. Contact: **Ellen Bowers:** 540-325-9362, trevorcoco2@yahoo.com

Volunteer to help with set-up & serving. Contact: **Suzanne McIwee** at 540-335-4477, sartz@shentel.net

Buy your tickets early – This event is very popular!!! Tickets will be available at our Celebrating Gratitude event on February 17th. They can also be purchased at the Family Center after that date or through your church’s network coordinator.

*We **challenge** each of our network churches to donate a theme basket for the silent auction.*



SAVE THE DATE

Cardboard City, September 6, more information to come!!

Website:
www.shenandoahfamilypromise.org

Contact:
540-459-4599

Email:
shenfamilypromise@gmail.com