



"Bringing Families Home. . .
Keeping Families Housed"

e-Newsletter
February 2021

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Program at a Glance

2021 YTD Statistics

0 Guest Families

3 Families
Transitional Housing

11 Families Forward

12 Services
Housing Stabilization

3 HUMI Families



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Message from Sherry

Welcome to February! January went by fast....it was a quiet month as many folks received the stimulus payment and were able to meet expenses. So we were able to take some time to process 2020 and think about plans for 2021. We will be sharing some of our ideas soon.

This newsletter contains an exciting update from one of our former guests. Heather was here in 2016 and moved into her own apartment. But as sometimes happens, things did not work out; and she fell apart. But thanks to an amazing God, Heather is sober, employed and working on getting her life back together! **Check out ER Church, Luray, VA on Facebook - Temple Tuesday to see Heather sharing God's word.** Heather said that she never forgot what Family Promise had done for her. Thanks for your on-going support!





2020 Statistics

13 Guest Families

**5 Families
Transitional
Housing**

**11 Families
Forward**

**181 Services
Housing
Stabilization**

14 HUMI Families

**145
Children
Served**



FPSC Happenings

With the holiday season behind us, we often face the remaining winter months with a sense of disinterest. Cold temperatures, nasty weather, and the bonus of a pandemic can certainly cause us to forget our blessings. Fortunately, God knows when to send us a gentle reminder.

During the month of January, we found that we had two transitional apartments open. The Family Promise team worked to prepare the apartment, and we were quickly able to move a mother and her 11-month old son into one of them. They are settling into the apartment really well and the little guy is loving all the space he has to play. Diane W. took a cute teddy bear to him the first day they were there, and he gave it hugs and kisses! Mom is so thankful for having an opportunity to have her own apartment, **“You guys are awesome, thank you for all you are doing for us!”**

The second apartment was going to require a more intense approach to preparation. Fortunately, we had been working with a family in need of a true second chance. They had the time to dedicate to getting it ready themselves. They have been working to clear the apartment, clean it thoroughly, and will be painting it by the beginning of February. The adults are both hard workers and are excited to be able to put in sweat equity as a way of paying their first month’s rent.

As always, the adult family members are appreciative. The father working on the upstairs apartment said, **“We are so amazed that there are still people like you all in the world. When you’ve been shot down so many times, you tend to forget that! It’s really amazing to see that we can get another chance for our family.”**

These success stories could only have happened through the HUMI Community Match grant and your generous donations. Thank you so much for helping families see there are still good people of faith in this world!

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8



And Now . . . For the Rest of the Story

Some of you may remember Heather and her children Josh & David. After leaving Family Promise, she returned to using drugs and was arrested for something that she didn’t do. She served eight months in jail. Josh went to live with Heather’s sister and David went back to his father.

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After being released from jail, Heather had no where to go and no support system. A girl she had been in jail with lived not far away, so she walked to the house. Everyone there was high. She really didn't want to use again, but her resolve was weak. She wound up using heroin and overdosed in the bathroom. It took two shots of Narcan to revive her.

She decided to go back to Luray and went to her mother's house. Things didn't go well there, and a no trespass order was issued against her. Homeless and alone, she would sleep under bridges and found other hiding places to stay warm. She kept in touch with Sherry & Diane P. at FPSC. We were able to share hygiene kits with her and other homeless women. Heather was in our hearts and prayers.

Heather learned that she could trade sex for showers, a place to sleep and food. She fell back into old habits of doing drugs and eventually started selling drugs to support her habit. This went on for a couple of years.

During her homeless years, Heather found God and went deep into the Bible. She asked Jesus into her heart, and got serious about it. She started going to church and got baptized. Everyone kept asking her if she was pregnant; and she would say, "No this is just how I look coming off drugs." Her pastor's wife had a dream that Heather was pregnant and purchased a test. Sure enough, it was positive.

Heather was on probation and visited her PO once a week. Her PO was very supportive and really stuck by her. But she had a dirty urine test during her pregnancy and went back to jail. While in jail, the other inmates would call her a Bible Thumper. Heather said she had been called a lot of things, but never a Bible Thumper! She had a chance to minister to many of the other women while she was in jail and continued studying the Bible. Her pastor and his wife visited her, and she was walking closer with God every day.

She was released from jail early, and Heather says she was afraid to have a phone, go anywhere or have any money for fear of slipping back into the old ways. A family member had a basement apartment and allowed Heather to come there to focus on her recovery and getting her children back.

Heather has a job and mended her relationship with her mother. When her mom's washing machine broke, she was excited to have enough money to buy a new one for her! Her youngest son, Emmanuel, is living with her as well as Josh and David. Her daughter, Layah, lives with Heather's mom but visits often. Heather is working toward getting her driver's license back.

Heather has been clean and sober for 15 months, including not smoking cigarettes! She is so appreciative of what FPSC did for her and tells others about our program.

Many thanks to all our prayer warriors. Prayers are answered but sometimes in ways we never expected!!!



Host Churches & Organizations

All Souls Anglican Church/
Community Mission
Church of the Brethren

Antioch Church of the
Brethren

Buttonwood Lodge/
Camp Caroline Furnace

Lebanon Lutheran Church

Mt. Hermon United
Methodist Church

New Market Seventh-Day
Adventist Church

St. John Bosco Catholic
Church

St. John's United
Methodist Church

Shenandoah Valley Teen
Challenge

Shrine Mont

Strasburg Assembly of God

Strasburg Christian
Church

Valley Pike Church of the
Brethren

Wakemans Grove Church
of the Brethren



Special Thanks

We are so grateful to all of our supporters. But there is one special person that is always there that we can call whenever something new is on the horizon. He gives us great encouragement and support. His heart for our Board Members and Staff are greatly appreciated. He also serves on our Finance Committee. **Thank you Lew Cohen for all you have done for FPSC over the years !!**



Welcome

Hello! My name is Elizabeth Shoemaker, and I am a new intern at Family Promise of Shenandoah County. I am currently a senior at James Madison University majoring in social work, and I'm from Norfolk, Virginia. I am excited to be working with FPSC and to be a part of this wonderful organization. I look forward to the many opportunities that this experience will provide me with!



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