



Mat-Su

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ANNUAL REPORT

2019



Directors Letter

Every life we change has a story.

These stories can be intense, difficult, and heartbreaking. When we hear them, we know the very real costs of homelessness.

But these stories are also transformative, providing us the roadmap and the inspiration to bring about a change in how America understands—and acts on—family homelessness.

Homelessness takes many forms: families with children doubling up with relatives, sleeping in their cars, paying for motel stays, living in shelter. Tragically, the number of children and families experiencing homelessness is not abating. In its most recent report, the Department of Education identified 1.3 million children who were homeless at some point over the course of the school year. That does not include more than one million pre-K children, who are too young to be counted.

The implications of this are enormous. A child's future begins at home, and allowing this disruption and deprivation is not only disastrous on a human level, it is short-sighted and self-destructive as a national policy

Warmly,



Ginger Bear
Executive Director

OUR STAFF

Ginger Bear
Executive Director

Pam Ratliff
Office Manager

Barbara Holcomb
Shelter Liaison

Ron Pickett
Office Assistant

OUR BOARD

Angela Schroeder, Chair
Community Leader

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Teacher-Charter School

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Knik Tribe

Kathy Sayer
Classic Country Radio DJ

Debbie Melton
Community Leader

Denise Biornstad
Community Leader



Donor Highlight

It amazes me how giving the human spirit truly is. As young as 7 years old, a child saved his money to help the homeless in our community. His older sister created a Go Fund Me account to help him raise money to buy sleeping bags, tents, granola bars, and other necessities for the homeless. I was honored to witness this young man and his dad handing a homeless man a bundle of love.

Everyone is a few unlucky breaks away from homelessness. It is an emotionally charged issue with many misconceptions. However, we can all agree that children are blameless victims in this crisis and every child deserves a chance to grow and succeed in life. Together, I believe we can break this cycle.

“Technology will help us create solutions that are tailored to the needs of the families we are serving.”



Family Success

Six--year-old Angel visits with Makana during a visit to the Day Center. Angel and her mom are able to celebrate the Christmas holiday in their own home.

Alina and Angel left a domestic violence situation and moved back to Alaska. With literally nothing they entered Family Promise Mat-Su. The volunteers and staff immediately fell in love with Alina's heart and Angel's smile.

Upon moving into their home, Alina and Angel were recipients of a household full of donated items from the volunteers they met in our program. Donations included lamps, towels, kitchen necessities, and even Christmas presents.

Alina's story is one of the thousands that begins at Family Promise each year. Every story is a gift, and these gifts are made possible by supporters of Family Promise. Your support provides families like Alina's with the tools and resources to regain stability and achieve lasting independence.



200+
Family Promise Affiliates



43
States



63 Days
Average Length of Stay



88%
Families we Shelter Find Housing



2,593,080
MEALS PROVIDED



200,000+
VOLUNTEERS



185
Babies Born in Shelter

2019 Program Overview

Programs

PREVENTION

Forty percent of Americans are just one unexpected \$400 expense from financial distress. Preventing families from spiraling into homelessness is an essential part of the Family Promise mission. Affiliates offer a variety of strategies to ensure the people we serve do not fall into the cycle of housing instability that can devastate families and alter the course of children's lives. These include administering formal diversion programs with government funding, providing rental assistance and landlord mediation, and community-based approaches that keep families housed.

SHELTER

Hospitality is a powerful word and it is at the heart of the Family Promise shelter program. Across this country, communities offer hospitality to families through Family Promise Affiliates. This innovative model—using existing space like congregations and volunteers motivated by compassion—has helped hundreds of thousands of children and adults in our 200+ Affiliates nationwide. Working with community resources, Family Promise Affiliates provide comprehensive and targeted services, including extensive case management, at one-third the cost of traditional shelter. Furthermore, Affiliates are able to serve families of all compositions, often providing their only shelter option in a community.

STABILIZATION

Workforce development. Partners in Housing. Financial capability. Health and wellness. Homelessness has many causes and housing stability involves many solutions. Family Promise Affiliates have developed and implemented more than 1,000 different programs that address every aspect of stabilization. Our goal is not simply getting families into housing; it is keeping them in housing. Key to this is identifying needs specific to the local community and tapping into the diverse resources our volunteer pool and partnerships provides. The result is families no longer at risk of homelessness. But even more importantly, in particular through programs we have launched for tenancy preparation, micro-entrepreneurship, and virtual career pathway training, Affiliates create the basis for security and stability that separates families from poverty and allows them and their children to aspire to the future every child deserves.

Envisioning a nation where every family has a home, a livelihood, and the chance to build a better future.

We help families experiencing homelessness and low-income families achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response.