



# Family Promise Metrowest

*a community response to families who are homeless*

Fall 2016

## From Our Director

Dear Friends,

What makes Family Promise Metrowest unique from other programs?

We believe, as a community, we can make a difference together. We have over 2500 trained volunteers from diverse backgrounds who share a passion and commitment to making change... and in the process, our volunteers form relationships built on mutual respect despite their individual differences.

At this point in time, this is not only unique, it is remarkable. While we are inundated with news stories of hate and division, Family Promise Metrowest is growing as a community of diverse faiths working together and making change, despite their differences in faith doctrines. We are embraced by the warmth and intimacy of friendships formed and I am personally proud that Family Promise has a role in bringing people together for a common cause.

This past week I attended an art exhibit entitled, "More than My Religion," a community outreach on behalf of the Muslim community and supported by friends from ICB in Wayland, one of our active congregations.



Family Promise Metrowest is honored to be selected as their choice charity and applaud their initiative to share art that represents Muslims as peace-loving and contributing members of society, no different from people of other faiths.

If you have time between now and December 2, stop by to see the exhibit at the Multicultural Arts Center in Cambridge. Family Promise Metrowest is a community who cares about families who are homeless, but we also support one another and all efforts to build communities of tolerance and people who care.

Sue  
Sue Crossley  
Executive Director

**MORE THAN MY RELIGION**  
September 16 - December 2, 2016



Donate



Come and enjoy delicious appetizers and delectable desserts from 15 local restaurants. Live and silent auctions will have something for everyone including cooking classes, Red Sox tickets, gift baskets, and more. Relax with a hand massage at the Neiman Marcus booth, join in the wine pull raffle or take a group photo to remember the night!

All proceeds from the event will help Family Promise end the cycle of homelessness by providing shelter, meals, and professional services to families.

For more details, visit <http://www.501auctions.com/fpm> or call 508-318-4820.

Don't Forget to Buy Your Tickets Now!

[click here to purchase tickets](#)

For weekly updates on what's happening at Family Promise Metrowest, check out our facebook page and be sure to "like" us while you are there.



## Staff

**Sue Crossley**  
Executive Director

**Carole Brodrick**  
Director of Development

**Amanda Elkin**  
Program Coordinator

**Pam Green**  
Office Manager

**Judy Mongiardo**  
Network Coordinator

**Eliz Portal**  
Transitional Housing Case Manager

**Martha Williams**  
Shelter Program Case Manager

**FAMILY PROMISE WEEK**  
**OCTOBER 16-23**

Celebrate  
Family Promise Week



## Every child deserves a home

Did you know that one out of every four people who is homeless is a child? Or, that families with children make up 40% of the people in this country who are homeless? Family homelessness is a national problem.

The week of October 16-23 is Family Promise Week. Our local affiliate, Family Promise Metrowest, is one of 202 programs across the country uniting the community to help children and their families who are homeless.

Family Promise Week will raise awareness about the issue as we celebrate the 160,000 volunteers across the country who serve our brothers and sisters in need.

You can participate in Family Promise Week by signing up to volunteer, telling others about Family Promise Metrowest or inviting us to your organization to learn how Family Promise is making a difference. Contact: [judy@familypromisemetrowest.org](mailto:judy@familypromisemetrowest.org)

## Shelter Family Updates

Eric, Tiffany and their three children have all been busy since their arrival. Eric is now working as a chef at a Framingham hotel and will begin working with an ESL tutor at the Morse Library shortly. Tiffany graduated from a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course at Mass Bay this summer and has begun a job as a Program Assistant at a healthcare center. Once she passes the CNA licensing exam in late September she will transition into a CNA position there. Their son is in kindergarten and their daughter, who is three, began Head Start last week. Their one-year-old daughter will continue at her day care in Framingham. Eric has also earned his driver's license since arriving at FPM, and the family has just received a car. As soon as Tiffany passes her CNA exam, she will begin studying for her permit test with the goal of getting her driver's license also.



Tiffany

Mona and her two sons have also become settled into their new routine. Mona has returned to full-time CNA work now that her boys are back in school. She will also begin working with an ESL tutor at the Morse Library and is looking forward to starting a GED program once her English skills have developed further. The boys have both joined local soccer teams and had their first games this fall.

We recently welcomed our newest family, Sophie and her

## Board of Directors

Bob Murray, *Chair*  
Jim Roberts, *Treasurer*  
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Donna Angelico  
Kim Cohen  
Kathy McGraw-Bentley  
JoAnne Marshall  
Morgan Molloy  
Ghazala Alam MD  
Maureen Wooster  
Card Virshbo  
Reverend Jason Rutherford

## Family Promise Clubs

Family Promise has embarked upon a new initiative with schools in the area. We will be helping students form "Family Promise Clubs" where they can learn about the challenges of homelessness and inspire volunteerism. If you are a student, parent or teacher in a local Middle School or High School and want to learn how to form a Family Promise Club please contact Carole Brodrick, [carole@familypromisemetrowest.org](mailto:carole@familypromisemetrowest.org).



## Clean out your closet and help us raise funds!

Items collected help fund:

### Family Promise Metrowest



Bring your items to our Donation Drive event:

**Friday, November 11 thru November 13**

**222 E Main Street, Marlboro  
500 Cochituate Road, Framingham**

Check out our Face Book Page and share and like our post with friends and family.

For questions, please contact:  
Carole Brodrick  
[carole@familypromisemetrowest.org](mailto:carole@familypromisemetrowest.org)  
508-318-4620

#### We are collecting:

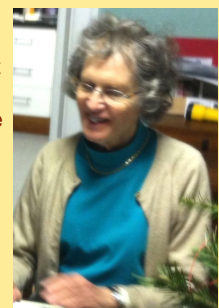
- Clothing
- Shoes
- Accessories
- Books
- Linens
- Household Items\*
- \* Small items only.  
No furniture.



## Volunteer Appreciation

five children, just in time for the start of the school year. Sophie and her case manager, along with the help of Natalia Dimitra-Topaloff, Social Worker for the Natick Public Schools, worked very hard to make all arrangements necessary to start the children in school a few days after their arrival. Sophie, like the other parents in shelter, has been busy attending back to school nights, and her four oldest children have successfully settled into their new schools. They are enthusiastic students and, along with the other students at FPM, have joined the afternoon homework club started by one of our volunteers. Sophie's youngest child began Head Start last week. Sophie is in the process of pursuing a position as a CNA.

We celebrate Janet King, a Family Promise Metrowest volunteer from Wellesley, who has been serving at our Day Center on weekends every month for the past three years. She is dedicated to our program and devoted to our families. The children always enjoy her creative craft projects.



This summer, Janet's focus was to encourage families in shelters to vote in November's Election. She followed her passion and reached out to shelters not only in this state, but all over the country, connecting with Family Promise National as well.

Thank you, Janet, for initiating this project and for your ongoing commitment to making a difference for the families we serve and for others across the nation.

## Steps to Success



Family Promise Metrowest continues to be grateful for the support we receive from the Foundation for Metrowest. The following article was highlighted in the August edition of the Foundation for Metrowest newsletter.

### *Grantee Highlight*

*Family Promise MetroWest received a grant from the Foundation in 2015 to help start a new program, Steps to Success, which aims to "offer a comprehensive approach to employment including education and resources that encourage families to reach their highest earning potential."*

*Throughout the course of the first Steps to Success program, 79% of families served by Family Promise MetroWest took a new class or training program to help improve their career skills and earning potential. Not only did participants undertake training, but 80% of teens in the program signed up for summer "career exploration" camp or for summer jobs. The success of this program is measured not only through the data gathered by the number of training sessions attended, but also by the growing confidence and motivation the families feel as they "work their way back into sustainable incomes and, ultimately, homes," according to the organization's executive director, Sue Crossley.*



We would also like to express our gratitude to Middlesex Savings Bank for their generous grant of \$15,000 to support our Steps to Success program. This program has been essential in supporting our families in reaching long term sustainability and independence.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

This past year, FPM entered a partnership with the Natick Affordable Housing Trust to create affordable housing in Natick, and we are thrilled with the progress of the home being built!



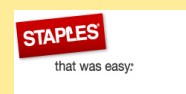
With help from a \$30,000 grant from the Wellesley Congregational Church and labor from Keefe Tech students, the home is progressing beautifully. The two-family house, which will include a two-bedroom and three-bedroom unit, will be affordable housing for our FPM families.



[Click here for Host and Support Congregations](#)

## Community Partners

### Champions



**WELLS  
FARGO**





[click here to participate and reserve your bike](#)

Come take a spinning class at CycleBar in Wellesley and help raise funds for Family Promise Metrowest! Cyclebar and volunteer, Liz Sutcliffe have partnered together to host this fun event.

#### HERE'S THE SCOOP!

**WHAT:** Awesome Indoor Cycling class for any level

**WHERE:** CycleBar in Wellesley  
386 Washington Street in Playhouse Square Mall  
Minimum donation of \$20 to participate

**WHEN:** Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 7pm

## Transitional Living Program



Jen and Julius

Jennifer and her son moved into their apartment over the Labor Day weekend. They are thrilled to be there and grateful to FPM volunteers for their generous donations of furniture and household items. Jen continues her job as an assistant teacher at a preschool and is also beginning to work on a GED

program with the assistance of the Metrowest College Planning Center. Her son, who is in first grade, is so happy to have his own room!

Carlos and Daisy are both working full time jobs. Their daughter is very excited about being in kindergarten; she started this fall and loves it! Their son is already a year old and has the best of both worlds. While Dad works in the morning, he spends time with Mom and in the evening he spends time with Dad while Daisy works. This is an example of a family working together for the well - being of their children. They also continue to save and as a result of their efforts, are reducing their debt.

Jackie has been busy speaking on behalf of Family Promise Metrowest at many of our events. She recently started a new job in administration at a local hospital. It is a very positive career move for her and reduces her commute to be closer to home. Her goal is to become certified as a medical secretary. Her teenage daughter completed a summer job through the Youth Works Program as a Summer Camp Coordinator in Framingham, where she worked with many young children who have also experienced homelessness. Her sons participated in a summer program, offered



### Cheerleaders

Avis Budget Charitable Foundation  
David Allen's Ameriprise Balance  
Mathworks  
Metrowest Medical Center  
Perpetuart  
Wellesley Hills Jr Women's Club

### Friends

Bose Corporation  
Boston Interiors  
Brookline Savings Bank  
CA Inc. Matching Gifts Program  
Comcast  
Container Store  
Dion's Fine Wines, Spirits and Craft Beers  
DCU for Kids  
Digital Federal Credit Union  
Dunkin' Donuts  
Energy Fitness and Gymnastics  
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Framingham Rotary

through the Metrowest Planning Center at Framingham State, exploring future career and educational opportunities through daily field trips around the Metrowest and Boston region to colleges, businesses, and historic and cultural institutions. We are so thrilled that they were given such an incredible opportunity to expand their horizons



Jackie

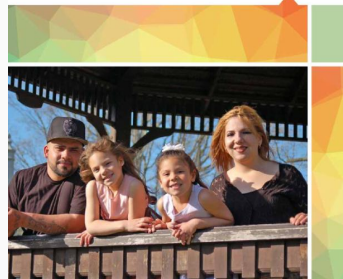
Tiffany is currently working as a private driver while she is interviewing for full-time administrative positions. Her daughters are both back in public school in the 3rd and 7th grades.

William, Yari, and their two girls are very happy in their new apartment. William began a new job in June as a warehouse associate and was recently promoted to a full-time position and given a raise. In addition to working in the warehouse, the company has certified him as a delivery driver. Yari is still working part-time as a prep chef, but is beginning to look for a full-time chef opportunity as well as opportunities to further her education. She is also going to begin working with an ESL tutor. The girls are attending public school.

Mimi and Ezra and their sons are doing well. Mimi recently returned to her job as an outreach case manager for a mental health organization. Ezra is working both as a private driver and managing their jewelry and coffee business.

Framingham Union Aid  
Goulston & Storrs  
Hologic  
HP Your Cause, LLC  
Microsoft  
Middlesex Savings Bank  
Natick Dental Partners  
Natick Rotary Club  
Philips Lifeline  
Ponca Hills Enterprise, Inc.  
Robert Hunsicker Foundation  
Roche Bros./Sudbury Farms  
South Natick Newcomers  
The Fuller Foundation  
The Village Bank  
Timothy Le Pain, Ameriprise  
Tobey Grey  
Tobin Family of Schools  
Webster First Federal Credit Union  
Wellesley Rotary Club  
Whole Foods

## FAMILY PROMISE METROWEST 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



A COMMUNITY APPROACH  
to family homelessness

## WIN A PRIZE!

Currently, we are at 690 likes on Facebook and our goal is to reach 1000 by our Keep the Promise Event on November 5th!

Help us reach our goal! Simply go to our Facebook page, "Like Us" and click **follow** on Instagram.



[FPM Facebook](#) [FPM Instagram](#)



## ACT NOW!

Are you a Thrivent Choice® policyholder? If so, eligible members are able to recommend where some of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans' charitable outreach funds go and FPM is eligible!

Program details can be found [here](#).

[Host Rotation Schedule](#)

[Volunteer Training Dates](#)

[Needed Items](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

