



Family Promise Metrowest

a community response to families who are homeless

March 2017

From Our Director

Dear Friends,

We began the year at Family Promise with a Board and Staff retreat. It was a time for reflection and review of our strategic plan, progress towards goals and our dreams for the future.

While many areas were discussed, one recurring theme was the need to expedite families moving from shelter into the community. Our unique approach to providing shelter is appreciated as it addresses the growing need for families who are homeless. Yet, I think we can all agree it was never meant to be a solution for more than 4-6 months.

The challenge is dear. We need more time for education and development to bring families to a higher earning potential *and* we need to increase the stock of affordable, transitional and permanent housing in our local community.

This month, we began renting an apartment for one of our families who was ready to move out of shelter, but could not find an apartment that was affordable. The family will contribute 30% of their income and live there for one year as we continue working together to maximize their earning potential.

In September, we will also be opening a duplex home in Natick with the Natick Affordable Housing Trust that will allow two families to live there for up to three years while furthering their education to ultimately increase their income.



These initiatives are just a beginning. We continue exploring creative solutions to this problem by pursuing partnerships with landlords and housing groups in the area committed to permanent, affordable options. If any of you know landlords in the area that would be interested in working with us or if you have an idea of your own, give us a call. While the challenges are great, I know we will continue to make a difference, as a community, working together.

Sue



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Family Promise Clubs

We celebrate the launch of Family Promise Clubs in our local high schools. Their purpose is to educate youth on the social issue of family homelessness and to engage them in purposeful volunteering with our guest families.

The following high schools are currently participating:

Shelter Family Updates



We are pleased to announce that **Eric, Tiffany** and their three children have met their goals and have moved into an apartment nearby. For employment, Eric will continue to work as a chef at a local hotel while Tiffany is working as a retail associate at a local department store. Their son, Isaias, will finish kindergarten this spring while April will continue at Head Start and Eryannis at day care. This winter, they were recipients of a car donated by Wellesley Toyota that allowed them to have more flexibility with work. We are proud of this family and how hard they have worked to achieve their goals. As they enter our transitional living program, we look forward to seeing how they further their independence in the year to come.

Sophie came into shelter with a goal of increasing her earning potential and worked hard to further her education. She completed a CNA course and a college level class in office administration (earning an "A" for the course). Once completed, she was hired for a full time administrative position at an auto dealership in the area. A generous donor in the network donated a minivan that gave Sophie and the children the independence they needed. Recently, the family decided to move into a new apartment and share the lease with a family member. We are happy for Sophie and her children and wish them well as they move forward.



Mona and her boys had life changing news last fall when they won a Habitat for Humanity house lottery and were chosen as future homeowners for a house the organization is building in a nearby community. Mona has been busy working at the house on her days off as a CNA at a health care facility in Natick. She has also been working with an ESL tutor at the Morse Library and recently finished a first-time homeowners class. Volunteers who want to assist with the build should contact Habitat for Humanity of Greater Worcester and request that your hours be donated to Mona.

Tanya entered the program last week with her teenage daughter. She is working full time in retail, but would like to return to a career in finance where she was employed previously.

Erika and her son and **Melissa** and her four children also joined us this week and we welcome them into our

Bedford, Dover-Sherborn, Natick, Needham, Newton Country Day, Walnut Hill School for the Arts, Wayland, and Wellesley. Some clubs are independent and others are collaborating with school service organizations such as Key Club.

Since beginning this fall, teen volunteers have led our holiday party, prepared dinner and hosted at our network congregations, provided childcare and formed teams for our Walkathon. We offer our special thanks to FPM volunteer, Diana Carroll, who is assisting the staff in educating and training these new volunteers. For more information please contact Judy Mongiardo, Network Coordinator at judy@familypromisemetrowest.org.

HELP US RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR COMMUNITY
BY DONATING
CLOTHES & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS!



Our **FUNDrive**
will be held at:

Savers
500 Cochituate Road
Frammingham, MA

Friday, April 7 - Sunday, April 9

and will benefit: **Family Promise
Metrowest**



learn more:

Contact : Amy Caitlin, Office
Manager
508-318-4820

we accept:

- CLOTHING
- SHOES
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- CDs, DVDs, BOOKS
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- KITCHEN ITEMS
- KNICK-KNACKS
- SPORTING GOODS

FUNDrive
savers

Volunteer Appreciation



When Danielle Garry (on right) had to organize a service project for Professor Hannigan's Group Process Class at MassBay Frammingham last November, this Human Services major, chose Family Promise Metrowest. She and her classmates created Thanksgiving baskets for our transitional living families filled with turkeys and all the ingredients to prepare a holiday dinner in their own homes. Because of Danielle's leadership, the entire class was

program. We look forward to getting to know each of our new guests and supporting them in reaching future goals.

Transitional Living Program

William, Yari, and their two girls continue living in their apartment nearby. William is still working full time as a warehouse associate recently receiving a generous raise. Yari is working as a prep chef at a local restaurant where she recently received a raise as well. This family has worked hard to increase their income as they will be leaving the transitional living program this spring. Their two girls continue to enjoy school and their after-school program.

Mimi and Ezra and their sons are doing well. Their baby, who was born shortly after they left shelter, will be one year old this spring. Mimi continues to work as an outreach case manager for a mental health organization. Ezra keeps working as a private driver and managing their jewelry and coffee business.

Jennifer and Julius are also doing well as they enjoy having their own apartment.

Metrowest Health Foundation Supports Healthy Families

When families enter our shelter, they set goals in five areas including *Health and Safety for the Family*. Over the years, the challenges have increased as well as the time allotted by the Case Managers to provide support. As a result, we are truly grateful for a generous grant from the Metrowest Health Foundation to support our efforts. In 2016, we were proud of the outcomes achieved in this area:

- 100% of families obtained health insurance and primary care physicians for each family member.
- 100% of families secured mental health services as needed.
- 100% of families addressed outstanding medical needs.
- 100% accessed special services for their children as need was identified.

Thank you to the foundation for supporting our families in their goals for a healthier future.



Leila Mercer, Public Health Nurse, and Case Manager, Martha Williams, work on programming for our families.

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.

inspired to volunteer for FPM. They offered meals, hospitality and overnight hosting at network congregations. They filled gift bags for our children and organized craft activities at our holiday party.

Danielle did not stop there. She is now a regular babysitter for our children. She is leading Mass Bay's team for our Walkathon. She will be completing her internship with Family Promise this summer and joining our Congregation and Community Volunteer Committee. Moreover, Danielle inspired the spring section of Professor Hannigan's class to join FPM as well. Their first initiative will be a drive to collect kitchen and bathroom items for Mona's Habitat for Humanity home. Thank you, Danielle, for your enthusiastic support of our mission!



[Buy Tickets](#)

Community Partners

As always we thank our community partners for their financial and in-kind support that makes such a difference to the families we serve!

Staff

Sue Crossley, Executive Director
Carole Brodrick, Director of Development
Amanda Elkin, Steps to Success Program Coordinator
Judy Mongiardo, Network Coordinator
Eliz Portal, Transitional Housing Case Manager
Martha Williams, Shelter Case Manager
Amy Catlin, Office Manager

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[Needed Items](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

