



FAMILY PROMISE

of Monroe County

Volume 2 Issue 2

Winter 2009

United All the Way

Family Promise of Monroe County is now one of United Way’s new Partner Agencies as they were approved in June, by United Way of Monroe County’s Board of Directors. FPMC’s *Step Up* Program is the newly admitted program for 2009-2010 funding cycle. The United way funding will go for basic needs to the participating families such as diapers, additional food items, toiletries, and case management support. The United Way panel was impressed with the professionalism and follow-through of the program.



United Way
of Monroe County

Sanofi Pasteur (Vaccine Division)

A huge thank you to Sanofi Pasteur for awarding \$15,000 in support to the Family Promise’s *Step Up* Program which will assist the organization in providing case management to our homeless families with children. The grant will allow us to provide resources and counseling on life skills to aid the families in regaining their independence and help them in maintaining self-sufficient and productive lives.

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins-United Way Charity Fund

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins-United Way Charity Fund awarded \$7000 to support Family Promise’s *Opportunities* Program which will give the organization’s participating children the chance to join in after school and community activities. The grant will help fund such items as uniforms, travel, and activity fees for the kids. Thank you for helping us make sure “kids are kids”!

Wal-Mart Distribution Center

Thank you to Wal-Mart and its employees for donating the \$1000 community grant. This grant will support basic needs for our participating families. A special thank you to their employee John Klebetz from Lighthouse World Prayer Center for recommending Family Promise and our mission.

CLEAN COMEDY FUN



A wonderful evening of laughs at the Sherman. Thanks to all our friends and supporters for making this year’s Clean Comedy Night a great success. The comedy of Cortez, A.G.White and Hadiyah Robinson made the evening enjoyable for all. A special thanks to Getting Property Management our platinum sponsor and to Rich & Staff at the Sherman for their backing of the event and our organization’s mission. We look forward to everyone joining us next year for our annual evening of laughs.

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Message from the Director



Everyday is a Miracle!
Growing up as a child I would hear those words from my Grandmother, Aunts and Pastor. Now, many years later and working for the better of our community, I understand how everyday is a miracle its self and we should be thankful for what gifts we are given.

On a daily basis we take so much for granted, like having a roof over our heads, or just having a ride to work. Just the other night as 2 of my cars were towed off to the mechanic and my husband was losing his mind.

I took a step back and reminded him that we should be thankful that we are blessed with the cars and the driveway they are parked on.

This newsletter is dedicated to our volunteers, everyday people, pastors, and supporters who over the last year have realized that daily life is a gift and those of us blessed with daily miracles, need to apply "scotch tape" to the lives of those who are not as fortunate.

I thank everyone in the community for their assistance and support as we help families tape their lives back together and start realizing again that life is a gift and they too can experience life's daily miracles.

A Heartfelt Thank You

I want to express my sincere gratitude to everyone for helping me through this tough time. Thank you all so much for your kind words, your generous gifts, and most of all, your prayers through this trying time. Words can not express the emotion I felt when I knew people were really there for me and supporting me. I was in fear of being homeless again. Through everyone's help and support I was able to grieve my loss and not have to worry about homelessness.

Love, Jermain

Letter of Success!

Dear Family Promise,

I'd like to take time to say Thank You to Family Promise and its volunteers. Last winter, after my husband left, I wasn't sure what to do for myself and my two children. I have never met such wonderful people in my life. Everyone was helpful and encouraging. Through this encouragement, I was able to build confidence and go to college. I never expected to do this well for myself. I am not only earning a college degree, but I am working as well. I realize now by juggling school, work, and family there will be a rainbow at the end of my tunnel. My children are happy and grounded in their home. We are all very happy and continue to feel loved by Family Promise and its volunteers, thank you for all that you do for my family and the community. I wish everyone a Happy upcoming Holiday Season!

Love, Alice & family

President's Corner

Greetings; Neighbors, Friends, Supporters and Sponsors,

The past 7 months has been both exciting and challenging. It has been my honor and pleasure to Chair the Board of Trustees for Family Promise of Monroe County. Since assuming this position back in March, we have had many challenges and changes over the past 7 months, however, we have also celebrated many successes.

We have made significant strides, been awarded several grants, and have hosted many successful fundraisers and I owe it all to your continued support of the program. We have lost several key positioned board members due to their longevity of service, as they have spent the last five years preparing for our operation. Fortunately, for us they have all chosen to stay on and serve on various committees within the agency. More fortunate is that we were able to start rebuilding our board with two new board members.

Annually, the Board of Directors hosts two major events, Family Night of Clean Comedy and an Annual Gala. I am happy to report that on September 26, 2009 we had a very successful Clean Comedy Night event. We look forward to seeing you at our Annual Gala on April 10, 2010.

Thank you for your continued support of the Family Promise of Monroe County.
Sincerely, Darlene Winston



Calendar of Events

Empty Plate Pasta Supper

Friday, November 6th, 2009 (5:00-7:00 p.m.)

East Stroudsburg United Methodist Church

Unlimited Pasta with choice of Chef's Toppings (Unlimited pasta, salad, bread, desserts, and beverages)

Tickets adults are \$15.00 and \$5.00 for children under 12.

Tickets are available at Family Promise Day Center

901 N. 5th St. Stroudsburg or by calling 570-420-8589

Drive-thru Bethlehem

Faith United Methodist Church (1030 Hill St. -off Chipperfield Dr.) is holding a Drive Thru Bethlehem on Sat. Dec. 5th in church's parking lot just as it gets dark (4:30-7:30p.m.). Please follow the signs on Chipperfield Drive in Stroudsburg. Come see the Real Christmas Story from the comfort of your own vehicle. Experience people dressed in bible garb, depicting scenes, from the Angel's visit to Mary to the Nativity. End the drive with hot chocolate, cookies, and a special gift!

Canned food donations welcome for—Follow Me Foundation and Financial donations will be donated to Family Promise.



**Drive-Thru
Christmas Play**

Calling All Angels

Holidays are coming

It's Angel time at Family Promise.

We need your help to make the holidays

special for our kids!

When shopping will you consider picking up an extra gift to help one of our families.

Some of our wish list items include: Wal-mart, Shoprite or Payless Shoes Giftcards; Men's Medium and Large shirts, Women's Large and Extra large shirts, Girl's medium and large shirts, Markers & coloring books, and Movies on DVD.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!

Up Coming Events

Save the Dates

Ned on Ninth Dec 7,2009
(Spaghetti Benefit)

Family Promise
Walk-a-thon March 6, 2010
(Inside Stroudsburg Mall)

Annual Gala
"Springtime in Paris"
April 10, 2010



The Instant Guitar Lesson

By Jim Ruckel



Through volunteering, I realized the “instant guitar lessons”. I love to teach how to play music on a guitar to children and anyone else willing to learn. There is a special way of tuning that I use so that any non-player can “eek” out a chord progression in a few minutes. It involves using ‘slides’ made of either tempered glass, steel, or brass. Kids of all types love this as it is a great ‘equalizer’. As I volunteered one evening at Zion United Church of Christ (Stroudsburg), I brought my guitar specially tuned and the kids went nuts taking turns and playing. In fact, one little girl would not let go of the brass slide without her mom coaxing her to let go of it. It’s a real joy to do and always lightens the moment. Adults are always the most surprised that they can do something like this. It’s always nice to see that people can enjoy themselves without having to plug in something or flip on a television.

Share in our Mission

*Help us conquer homelessness
one family at a time!*

Give of yourself & volunteer

- Join a Committee
- Share your talents
- Sponsor an event/family
 - Prepare a meal
- Be overnight support
- Get your missions group involved

For information call 570-420-8589

Life

By Tafiya Robinson

Life is short
 Don't ever waste it
 Life is sweet
 Take time to taste it
 Life is a journey
 Take the right path
 Life is entertaining
 Don't be afraid to laugh
 Life has it's good times
 Make them last
 Life has it's bad times
 Put them in the past
 Life is a chance
 Make sure you take it
 But most importantly
 Life is what you make it



Congratulations!



Keeley Staples of Stroudsburg, was our winner of the Basket which included a bird house, matching bird feeder and deluxe bird seed at Family Promise’s booth during StroudFest 2009. Congratulations Keeley!



Memorial & Honor Gifts

A gift in honor or in memory of a beloved friend or family member can be a most appropriate way to express a lasting tribute. To honor someone at an important milestone in his or her life, for instance a birthday or anniversary, is also an ideal way to give a special gift to that person. A contribution in someone's memory creates a lasting commemoration of that person and of your relationship.

Celebrate our Success!

(Families assisted since Jan. 2009)

Number of Families Assisted	39
Adults	44
Children	64
Meals Served	5382
Loads of Laundry	559
Hours of Case Mgt.	1290
Mileages of Transportation provided	16,989

In Memory of...

Mr. Tom VanHorn

Kathy & Rich Aira

In Honor of...

Dylan Payne

Roxanne L. Rogers

Michael Capone

Debby Tanico

Patthor Straten Mohr

Rosemary Vetter

Rev. Carol S. Brown

Birthday Honors...

Herbie Aira

Donald VanHorn

Linda Braun

Jean Mohr

Roz Evans

Love Rich and

Kathy Aira

Laurie Kozar

Love Kozar Family

Thank you to the Congregations and Coordinators involved in our Mission:

Host Congregations

Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church
 East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church
 East Stroudsburg United Methodist Church
 Faith United Methodist Church
 First Presbyterian Church of Stroudsburg
 Lighthouse World Prayer Center
 Mt. Pocono United Methodist Church
 Reformed Church of Bushkill
 Stroudsburg United Methodist Church
 Stroudsburg Wesleyan Church
 Trinity Episcopal Church
 Zion United Church of Christ
 Zion United Lutheran Church

Support Congregations

Bushkill Community Church
 Cherry Lane United Methodist Church
 Christ Episcopal Church
 Christ United Methodist Church of Poplar Valley
 Christian Life Assembly
 Christian Missionary Alliance Church
 Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
 Mountainhome United Methodist Church
 Pocono Grace Seventh Day Adventist Church
 Pocono Lake Wesleyan Church
 St. Bernadette's Catholic Church
 St. Luke's Catholic Church
 St. Matthew's Catholic Church
 St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish
 St. Paul's Lutheran Church of East Stroudsburg
 St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Tannersville
 Salem— St. Paul's Lutheran Church
 Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Poconos
 Wooddale United Methodist Church

