

Want to Get Involved?

Urgent Volunteer Needs

We are currently seeking Shelter Volunteers to help cover:

- Overnight shifts
- Evening and weekend shifts
- Meal preparation and delivery

** Background check and training are required.*

Summer is always a season of high need. If you've been looking for a meaningful way to serve, this is it.



Join our COT Team

This is an easy way to get involved with Family Promise. We have a Zoom call once a month to talk about all of the happenings with Family Promise and different ways you can help. Email us: info@familypromiseorlando.org.

www.fporlandofl.org

Spring 2025



Building Community, Strengthening Lives

Help Families Find Their Way Home – Become a Host Congregation

At Family Promise of Greater Orlando, we believe every family deserves a safe, stable place to call home. Our mission is powered by the compassion of local faith communities who open their doors to families facing homelessness.

In 2024 alone, we received over **660 calls from families** desperately seeking shelter—far more than we're currently able to serve. We urgently need **3–5 new congregations** to join our **rotational shelter program** to meet this growing demand.

As a host congregation, you'll provide a welcoming space, meals, and support for one week at a time, four times a year. This commitment creates a powerful support network that helps families regain stability—and it works: **90% of families in our program move on to secure housing.**

Hosting is more than service—it's an opportunity to live out your faith in action, strengthen community bonds, and make a lasting difference in the lives of children and parents working toward a brighter future.

New partners receive full support and mentorship from our team and experienced hosts, making it a manageable and deeply rewarding experience.

We need you. Your partnership relieves pressure on our limited shelter space and staff, and most importantly, ensures more families have a safe place to stay.

To explore how your congregation can help, contact us at info@familypromiseorlando.org or 407-951-8269.



Kathie Southern,
Executive Director



Katherine Gets a Car!

Many of you met Kat at our annual fundraising breakfast where she spoke so bravely about her journey to self-sufficiency. Part of that journey included needing transportation. Her wish was granted thanks to a generous Family Promise donor who donated her vehicle. Katherine recently received this vehicle in partnership with Charity Cars!



We Crushed It!

We're still buzzing with excitement from an incredible evening of purposeful play at our Serving Hope Pickleball Fundraiser & Silent Auction!

Thanks to your generosity, competitive spirit, and community support, we raised a total of **\$30,439** to help families in Greater Orlando secure stable housing and brighter futures.

We are so grateful to the **60 players** who joined us for a night of friendly competition and community connection. We hope the event

brought you closer to our mission and gave you a window into how we're finding *creative, engaging ways* to support families on their journey to stability.

Thank you Silent Auction Participants:

Thanks to your generous contributions, our Serving Hope Silent Auction raised over \$10,000 to support families on their journey from homelessness to housing!

Whether you donated an item, placed a bid, or helped spread the word – you made this possible.

Our Very Own Shining Star



Anne has been instrumental with St. John Lutheran Church in becoming a host church for our Shelter Program. In

addition to becoming a Circles Ally for our Stabilization Program for the second time, she has been an active member on our COT Team and has connected us with her church's ministry to providing beautiful quilts for our client families. We couldn't do this work with out people like Anne!

Home Sweet Home To A Family of Four

We're elated to share that Sandra and her four children have found a new home! As a U.S. military veteran, Sandra was struggling to make ends meet while caring for her children, and eviction seemed inevitable. Through the Serving Unhoused Veterans Program, she worked closely with her case manager, who advocated on her behalf—negotiating with her landlord, preventing an eviction record, and securing financial assistance for back rent. With support and guidance, Sandra and her children have now moved into a stable, affordable home, giving them a fresh start and a brighter future. Your generosity makes success stories like this possible!



Volunteers in Action

We're sending a big shoutout to our friends at **Grace Church** for showing up in a big way – again! This amazing volunteer team rolled up their sleeves and helped deep clean our kitchen, organize our donation closet, and even cleaned inside and out of our shelter van! These behind-the-scenes tasks may not always be glamorous, but they're essential to creating a warm, welcoming, and dignified space for the families we serve.

We're especially grateful to Grace Church for not only getting the job done—but for their willingness to learn about our mission and champion our work through service. Thank you for doing the nitty-gritty work that truly makes a difference. You've helped elevate the look, feel, and daily experience of our shelter, and we couldn't be more grateful.



What is Children's Week?

Children's Week is a powerful, week-long event that brings together organizations from across Florida to celebrate children, elevate their voices, and connect with those who care for them every day. Agencies from across the state set up tables at the Capitol to share information, exchange ideas, and advocate for solutions that strengthen families and communities.

Mary Jo also had the opportunity to meet with Representative LaVon Bracy Davis, who stepped out of session to engage in meaningful dialogue about proposed legislation—including concerns regarding a bill that would lower the legal working age for children to 14.

"It was interesting and exciting to be there!"

— Mary Jo

We believe in lifting up families not only through direct services but also through advocacy. Thank you to our Mary Jo for representing FPGO and standing up for the future of Florida's children!

Advocates at The Capitol

We're proud to share that our amazing Success Coach, Mary Jo—and Family Promise of Greater Orlando team member of two years—recently had the honor of representing our agency at the Florida State Capitol during Children's Week!



Poverty Solutions Group at the Circles table, highlighting our efforts to help families achieve long-term stability.



Good Pour

As the temps rise, this summer, refresh yourself and uplift local families by visiting one of Good Pour's locations in College Park, Longwood, or Winter Park. When you shop for wine and spirits, choose Family Promise of Greater Orlando as your charity of choice!



Thank you HGR Construction!

A huge thank you to **Kelly, Mary, and Teri** from the **HGR Construction team** for answering our newsletter call and going above and beyond for our families this Easter!

Their team lovingly assembled and delivered beautiful baskets filled with treats—and even tailored a few with stuffed animals for the youngest children. Thoughtful gestures like these make all the difference, helping our families feel seen, supported, and celebrated.

This isn't the first time HGR has stepped up in a big way. Last year, Kelly surprised our Circles Program families with a fully covered food truck dinner right outside our shelter—turning an ordinary evening into something unforgettable.

At Family Promise, housing stabilization is the foundation of what we do—but restoring dignity and creating moments of joy are how we truly support families on their journey.

To the team at HGR Construction: thank you for your continued generosity, creativity, and heart. We couldn't do this work without you.



Our Rapid Rehousing client moved into a new home the first Friday of the year! What a way to celebrate the new year. Our partners from the Mustard Seed Foundation will fully furnish their home. This family will also receive a Welcome Home Basket generously provided by our volunteers.

Follow us on Social Media!

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Stabilization Programming

Thank you to Family Promise National for awarding us a \$40,000 grant for Stabilization programming.

Family Promise of Greater Orlando began stabilization programming in June of 2021 with the addition of our Circles program, a partnership with Poverty Solutions Group. In its fourth year, we have seen the number of participants grow and have seen families successfully increase their income, decrease their debt and reach other smart goals.

This additional money for Stabilization services will allow us to dedicate more staff time to these families and engage more families in services. We are grateful for this investment in our families!

There are always volunteer opportunities available to assist with Stabilization programming, including becoming a Circles Ally, helping with children's programming and offering to share professional and practical skill sets. Interested parties are encouraged to reach out to learn more about how to get involved.



From A Van to A Home

A family of eight, led by a single mother, recently transitioned from living in their van to securing stable housing.

After connecting with our team, they entered Bridge Housing and began working toward permanent stability. Within just one month, with the support of Success Coach Victoria Brantley, the family secured a three-bedroom, two-bath home in Orlando.

The family also received essential home goods through The Mustard Seed of Central Florida, and the children are now successfully enrolled in both school and extracurricular activities.

While this milestone alone is worth celebrating, the story doesn't end there.

This is what a true community-based response looks like. At the very same time, a generous supporter visited our Family Promise office to pick up his auction prize from our Serving Hope Pickleball Tournament & Silent Auction. As he waited for his Bayou Restaurant gift card, he noticed the joyful commotion in our waiting area. Upon learning that the family had just signed their lease, without hesitation, he



donated his gift card back to the family—wanting them to have a special meal to celebrate this huge achievement.

But the kindness didn't stop there. When our Case Manager called Bayou Restaurant to explain the story and arrange delivery to the hotel where the family was staying that night, the restaurant owner was so moved that they doubled the value of the gift card to \$300—ensuring the family could enjoy two nights of delicious meals.

Moments like this show the true spirit of Family Promise: compassion, quick action, and people coming together to make stability and dignity possible for families working hard to rebuild.

Thank you to every person who makes moments like this possible—you bring warmth, hope, and motivation to everything we do.