

## Want to Get Involved?

### Volunteers for the Shelter Program

We are looking for a list of volunteers who we can call on when a local congregation is hosting the families (hopefully soon!) and needs extra hands. Assignments could include hanging out with the families, cooking a meal, etc. Email us at [info@familypromiseorlando.org](mailto:info@familypromiseorlando.org).

### Gift Card Donations

We always have a need for gift cards for our families from Walmart, CVS or any gas station. Please send gift cards to our Resource Center at 1000 Clay Street Winter Park, FL. 32789.

### Amazon Smile

Choosing Family Promise of Greater Orlando as your charity on Amazon Smile is an easy way to make a difference.



### Donating Meals

Would you consider cooking for the shelter families living in hotels? Provide four separately packaged meals for four families. Interested? Email Vereuch Simmons at [vsimmons@familypromiseorlando.org](mailto:vsimmons@familypromiseorlando.org).

[www.fporlandofl.org](http://www.fporlandofl.org)

 Family Promise  
of Greater Orlando  
1000 Clay Street  
Winter Park, FL 32789

Spring 2022



## Building Community, Strengthening Lives

### A Letter from Our Executive Director



Greetings Family Promise of Greater Orlando Friends!

We have quickly moved into 2022 with a vigor and commitment to finding ways to continue to expand what we offer to families facing the crisis of homelessness. Each year, we have been able to increase the number of families we serve and 2021 was no different. We ended the year having guided 202 families toward safety, stability, hope and a new beginning! When I say “we”, that includes all of you. Family Promise of Greater Orlando achieves success each year because of the collaborative partnerships of so many individuals, businesses and organizations that share a commitment to offering a hand up to families facing the trauma and uncertainty of homelessness. A commitment to making sure that every child in our community has a safe and stable place to call home to assure they thrive and know how much they are valued. Together, we provided this value to 420 children in 2021 and we hope to increase our impact in 2022 with your support!

We have recently received news that we have a new partner in our mission, the Devos Family Foundation, who has selected Family Promise of Greater Orlando to be a part of their “30 Grants for 30 years” initiative. As part of this initiative, we will receive a \$30,000 check and will be featured at a local Orlando Magic game as well as through a video and the use of the Magic’s impactful media presence.

We hope you will join us in this celebration as well as in the countless opportunities this year where you will be able to show the families we serve how much they are valued and how much we believe in their potential for long term success!

Thank you for your continued support!

**With Gratitude,**  
Kathie



### Taking Strokes for Homeless Families Golf Tournament

We had a ball at this year’s Taking Strokes for Homeless Families! Father/son combos Matthew & Scott Rose & Michael and Mike Townley were the big winners.

Lisa Portelli, last year’s Ball Drop Winner, flew in the helicopter to drop this year’s golf balls! Larry & Jean Brown were the big winners in 2021.







### A Family Promise Legacy

Congratulations to Teresa Scott for her amazing tenure on the Board of Directors. The Teresa Scott Award of Excellence will become an annual award given to someone who goes above and beyond.



### Rotary Club of Winter Park

We were thrilled to speak to the Rotary this past month! They are great supporters of our mission.



### New Wheels Change A Life

Thanks to a generous donor and Charity Cars — one of the clients in our shelter program has a car of their very own.

# Community Supporters

## DeVos Family Foundation

\$30,000 grant as part of their “30 Grants for 30 Years” initiative!



\$10,000 matching grant for the Circles Stabilization Fund



A big thanks to the City of Orlando and Orange County for their ongoing governmental contracts.



\$10,000 for our Transportation Program

## Realty Medics

Provided gifts and gift cards for our families over the holidays.



Funded our Circles Program for another year. We are so grateful!

## Masonic Riders Motorcycle Club

Donated 20 meals for our families.

# Circles Program



Looking to get involved in a meaningful way? This group meets on Monday evenings from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. We are looking for volunteers to help with hospitality, meals, or becoming a Circle Ally and walking alongside our families. Email [info@familypromiseorlando.org](mailto:info@familypromiseorlando.org) to receive more information.

# Family Story

Katrina felt like life was stacked against her. She just received a text notifying her that she tested positive for COVID, for the second time. Not only was she sick from the virus, but her situation was making her feel even more sick. She and her, at that time, 5-year-old son, were living in their car. Sam was supposed to be in Kindergarten, but he wasn’t. Katrina was supposed to be at her job at Walmart, but she had to call in sick...again.

## Finding Assistance

Sam’s grandmother would keep him overnight sometimes and when Katrina had to work but that wasn’t as regular as it should have been. Katrina decided to call 2-1-1 again for the fourth time. Maybe this time would be the lucky charm. Later that day, she received a call back asking her to complete an assessment of her situation. She filled it out quickly and submitted it. Two days later the phone rang while they were sleeping in their car. The voice on the other end of the line told her that they would be referred to Family Promise.

Katrina was paired up with Hary, one of Family Promise’s case managers. Hary recognized the importance of finding Katrina housing as quickly as possible, **“Katrina and her son needed the stability of a home. The quicker we could get them housed, the better off they would be,”** he commented. Katrina was on it. She began researching different locations in Orlando and found an apartment on the west side of town. She immediately submitted an application and received word that they had been approved. She hugged Sam telling him how fortunate they were to find an apartment. Sam was excited but he was most excited about the two pools that were located in the complex!

## A Life of Stability

Katrina continues to work at Walmart. She advocated for herself and was given a raise. Hary and Katrina still meet regularly to discuss



her budget and meeting her long-term financial goals. Sam is a happy first grader with math tests and spelling tests on Fridays. Life is feeling normal again. Katrina hopes to continue to improve her financial situation and has her eye on getting a certificate for truck driving, “I’m not scared of those trucks!” she says. “I could drive them on the weekends to help with the bills we owe.” Katrina and Sam can rest easy and begin to dream again now that they have found a place to call home.

## Follow us on Social Media!

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