Highlighting Community Responses to Family Homelessness

January 16, 2020
Today’s Presenters

Christine Love
Executive Director
Family Promise of Monmouth County

Claas Ehlers
CEO
Family Promise National

Joann Bjornson
Executive Director
Family Promise of Morris County

Carolyn Gordon
Northeast Regional Director
Family Promise National

Christine Love
Executive Director
Family Promise of Monmouth County
What You’ll Learn Today

• How Family Promise Affiliates in urban, suburban, and rural localities use existing local resources to support families experiencing homelessness.

• Examine the challenges and opportunities to create unique solutions.
Family Promise: Our Mission

Help families experiencing homelessness and low-income families achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response.
Family Promise: Our Model

**Changing the future for children**

**PREVENTION**
- **SHELTER DIVERSION**
  Keeping families out of shelter is good public policy and good fiscal policy.
- **RENTAL ASSISTANCE**
  With HUMI, we have helped 1,000 families, including 2,500 children, since 2016.
- **TRANSPORTATION**
  Gas cards, bus passes, & car donations help families get to jobs and school.

**SHELTER**
- **HOSPITALITY**
  200,000 volunteers create a temporary home for the families we serve.
- **CASE MANAGEMENT**
  Our 200+ Affiliates provide comprehensive guidance and resources.
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
  6,000 congregations & organizations serve families at 1/3 traditional shelter cost.

**STABILIZATION**
- **HOUSING**
  Innovative solutions like tenancy training, rapid-rehousing, & home ownership.
- **FINANCIAL CAPABILITY**
  Creating the foundation for sustainable financial independence.
- **CAREER PATHWAY**
  Preparing families for professional success in a rapidly changing economy.

A holistic solution to family homelessness.
Family Promise: Our Locations

Family Promise Affiliates

2018 Affiliate Openings

Whatcom County, WA © Beaverton, OR © Grayson County, TX © Hudson County, NJ © Tulsa County, OK © Ontario County, NY © Albany County, WY
Challenges

- Cost of housing
- Housing stock
  - Paradigm shift from "lack" and "no" to possibilities
- Related: Employment, education, transportation, health and wellness, childcare
Housing

• Manufactured Housing
• Shared Housing
• Master Leasing
• Public Housing Authorities
• Landlord/Tenant Programs
Prevention

• HUMI Program
• Weekly Resource Navigation
• Connection to Programs
• Eviction Court
Diversion

• Resource Navigation
• Creative Solutions
• Coordinated Entry “Voucher Ready” focus
Other Creative Approaches

Mobile Outreach

• Hope One - Mobile Peer Recovery
• Navigating Hope - connection to resources
Other Creative Approaches

Navigating Hope Van
- In-home and community
- Libraries
- County Colleges and Universities
- Other Partners
- Event Days
Other Creative Approaches

• Single Stop Benefits Enrollment

Single Stop Program Model

Single Stop provides technology, training and technical assistance to help community organizations and colleges build the infrastructure and the expertise they need to better connect low-income struggling families and students to untapped underutilized resources and services.

- Single Stop Program Development
  - Planning & Advisory Services
  - Technology
  - Program Launch & Ongoing Support
  - Learning & Community
  - Performance Analytics & Reporting

- Partners
  - Assess Eligibility and Need
  - Facilitate Access
  - Advocate and Support
  - Connection to Community Resources

- Success!
Other Creative Approaches

• Code Blue
• Drop in Centers
• Education Partnerships
• Homeless Trust Fund
• Peer Youth Partnership
Other Creative Approaches

- School Transportation - McKinney Vento Act
- Guest Advisory Council
- Goal of Homeownership
- Habitat for Humanity
- Partners in Housing
Community Leadership

• Family Promise Model: Community-Based Innovation
• Leadership Role in Creating Paradigm Shift
  o Bring people together
  o Solution oriented
  o Change friendly rather than change averse
  o Proactive engagement
Best Practices

• Housing First *but not housing only*
• Trauma-informed practices
• Collaboration & Partnership
• Creativity
• Family Centered Approach
For More Information

Resources

• www.familypromise.org
• Monmouth County: https://familypromisemc.org/
• Morris County: www.familypromisemorris.com

Contact Us

• Family Promise National
  • info@familypromise.org
  • 908-273-1100
  • Carolyn Gordon, Northeast Regional Director: cgordon@familypromise.org

• Affiliate Directors
  • Christine Love: christinelove@familypromisemc.org
  • Joann Bjornson: j.bjornson@familypromisemorris.org