



# Family Promise of Coastal Alabama

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## HOST CONGREGATIONS

- Dauphin Way United Methodist
- Government Street Presbyterian
- First Baptist of Mobile
- Overlook Presbyterian
- Mount Hebron Church Ministries
- New Life Holiness
- West Mobile Baptist
- Central Presbyterian
- All Saints Episcopal
- Day Spring Baptist
- Westminster Presbyterian
- Spanish Fort Presbyterian

- Port City Church of Christ
- Redeemer Episcopal

## SUPPORT CHURCHES

- Our Savior Lutheran
- Trinity Episcopal
- Forest Hill United Methodist
- St. Luke's Episcopal
- St. Mark's United Methodist
- Providence Presbyterian



SAVE THE DATE and SAVE THE BOX!  
OCTOBER 29, 2011

## CARDBOARD CITY

Mark your calendars for our most colorful fundraising event of the year. Gather your family and friends talk to your boss or co-workers and get creative. For \$100.00, your team can pay "rent" to spend the night in their self-designed cardboard home to help raise money and awareness for homeless families. Monies raised will go to Family Promise, Mobile's only homeless program allowing single fathers and families with fathers and teen males to stay together, and to Sybil Smith Family Village. "This is our biggest fundraiser of the year" says Executive Director Tereasa Ramsey. It's an opportunity for folks to experience what it is like to be homeless. A homeless family cannot choose the weather; they do not get the comfort of climate control.

Watch the Family Promise website at [www.familypromisemobile.org](http://www.familypromisemobile.org) for more information and how to register your team or make a contribution! Don't miss out on the fun while doing something very important for your community. *Corporate sponsorship opportunities are still available.*

Thank you, once again to St. Paul's Episcopal School first grade classes and to Christ United Methodist Church for donating much needed Day Center supplies. Because of these generous donations in January, we did not have to restock supplies again until July! **THANK YOU!!!**

*toothpaste \* soap \* deodorant \* shampoo \* lotion \* diapers \* wipes \* cleaning supplies \* laundry detergent \* paper towels \* toilet paper \* tooth brush*

**HPRP** was able to assist two households, one of which was a family of six; the other was a recertification for homeless prevention for a household of one. The family of six that received assistance being rehoused, but had several obstacles. This family has four teenage boys and there were no other shelter options for them without this assistance. (Family Promise's program was full at the time) Also, the father of this family was in the process of exiting a substance abuse program, and would have had a hard time finding other options as he would be separated from his family longer. HPRP assisted with moving expenses and hotel arrangements in addition to rental and utility deposits and rental payments for the next two months for this family.

– Marjorie Ann Kennedy, MSW, LGSW, HPRP Case Manager

\*Family Promise began providing case management for the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing in 2009.

**Family Promise of Coastal Alabama** began providing supportive services in the 2006-2007 grant period. With HUD's Supportive Housing Program grant, we were able to hire a full time case manager.

**During that initial year**, we served: 23 families -24 adults and 77 children

**2007-2008** we served:

*A record setting 110 families- 302 children and 128 adults.*

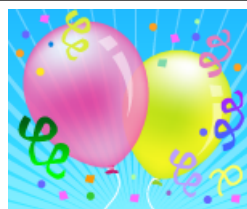
**(We also received several other financial grants that assisted us in serving so many clients.)**

**2009-2009** we served: 56 families - 126 children and 61 adults.

**2009-2010** we served: 62 families -152 children and 68 adults.

**2010-2011** – To date, we have served over 50 families - 110 children and 52 adults.

**Thank you - your donations and volunteer hours make this service possible!**



July marks our eighth anniversary! On July 13th of 2003, we accepted our first families into our newly developed Interfaith Hospitality Network. Many of you were there and may recall that Mary and Joseph (and yes, their baby) were one of the first families that came into our care. It took the effort of many to realize

the dream of having a shelter in Mobile that could receive an entire family and keep them intact during their homeless crisis.

At that time, our agency was part of a ten year plan to end homelessness. However, no one could have predicted the tumultuous economic times that we now find ourselves. This past year, over 4,000 students in the Mobile Public School System were identified as homeless.

The need for volunteers to stay overnight with our families, cook nutritious meals, and provide compassionate care is greater now than ever. Truly, without such volunteers these families would not have a safe, secure place to stay for the night. Thank you all - for giving of your time and making personal sacrifices for the benefit of others.

The families we serve in our Interfaith Hospitality Network not only receive excellent care in a safe setting - they receive assurance - that other people truly do care about their situation - and they receive hope for tomorrow - that their situation will improve. Our agency has witnessed hundreds of success stories over the past eight years - and our volunteers and donors have played a pivotal role. Thank you, volunteers and financial donors, for ensuring that Family Promise of Coastal Alabama continues to be a *community response to homelessness in the Mobile area. Your giving makes a difference.*

Blessings,

*Teresa Ramsey, Executive Director*

### What families say about their Family Promise experience... from India Kidd, Case Worker

Family Promise has been a huge asset and blessing to me and my daughter. The staff has stood beside me and helped me through obstacles I thought I couldn't overcome, but with their help I have moved into an apartment and I work full time....I am thankful for everything! ... former IHN guest

Family Promise has helped me to become confident in myself and help me to make better judgment for me and my kids... current IHN guest

With the help of the staff and volunteers, I am learning that no matter the situation or what's going on around me that God is the answer and just hold on and my day of victory is coming....current IHN guest.

### Why Are People Homeless?

Below is a list of situations that over the past 20-25 years have been contributing factors to today's homeless population. The statistics were taken in 2009 and some of these situations have escalated in various areas of the nation. Here in Mobile, the request for family placement and supportive services has risen. Currently, our program, like many others, is filled to capacity. Situations these families are experiencing include:

**FORECLOSURE** - The number of foreclosures in southern Alabama have risen dramatically over the past two years. In Mobile County alone, there have been over 900 foreclosure filings this year to date (Realty Trac).

**POVERTY** - Difficult choices must be made when limited resources cover only some of these necessities. Often it is housing, which absorbs a high proportion of income that must be dropped. If you are poor, you are essentially an illness, an accident, or a paycheck away from living on the streets.

**ERODING WORK OPPORTUNITIES** - Reasons why homelessness persists include stagnant or falling incomes and less secure jobs which offer fewer benefits.

**DECLINE IN PUBLIC ASSISTANCE** - Many resources have been scaled back, demand is higher than ever and back-logged cases result in delayed benefit processing. As a result of loss of benefits, low wages, and unstable employment, many families leaving welfare struggle to get medical care, food, and housing.

**HOUSING** - A lack of affordable housing, transitional housing and the limited scale of housing assistance programs have contributed to the current housing crisis and to homelessness.

**OTHER FACTORS** Particularly within the context of poverty and the lack of affordable housing, certain additional factors may push people into homelessness. Other major factors, which can contribute to homelessness, include the following: lack of affordable health care, domestic violence, mental illness, and addiction disorders.

Homelessness results from a complex set of circumstances that require people to choose between food, shelter, and other basic needs. Only a concerted effort to ensure jobs that pay a living wage, adequate support for those who cannot work, affordable housing, and access to health care will bring an end to homelessness. Until then, getting involved and supporting outreach programs like Family Promise, can keep hope in hearts and families from sleeping in the streets.

Resources:

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

[www.realtytrac.com](http://www.realtytrac.com)

**Congratulations** to our Raffle Winner: Barbara Caddell! Barbara won two front row tickets to Steve Earle and the Dukes at Seanger Theater, one night at Hampton Inn plus dinner for two at Royal Scam. **Thank you to all who supported the raffle.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Family Promise of Coastal Alabama will conduct its first annual "**Serving YOU! for Family Promise**" events throughout September. Local "celebrity" servers will serve at various restaurants throughout the city of Mobile for tips and donations to Family Promise of Coastal Alabama.

Participating Restaurants include: True Midtown, Atlanta Bread Mobile, Dew Drop Inn, Wintzell's Oyster House, and Cafe 615. Scheduled celebrity servers and dates will be announced soon. Please check [www.FamilyPromiseMobile.org](http://www.FamilyPromiseMobile.org) for up-to-date information.