

April 2020

A Message From the Executive Director:

To our Family Promise North Fulton/DeKalb community,

The COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak has been trying for everyone, but it has been particularly difficult for families experiencing situational homelessness. **Families with children experiencing homelessness are more vulnerable than ever.**

Family Promise of North Fulton/DeKalb is working hard throughout this time to protect our guests, staff members and volunteers without reducing our efforts to provide temporary assistance, hospitality and case management for families with children experiencing homelessness. This has been a time of ingenuity for Family Promise, as we continue to lift up children and their families through this crisis.

In order to comply with the CDC and Georgia's guidelines, Family Promise partnered with St. Luke's Presbyterian Church to create a Shelter-In-Place for our families. This means that instead of the traditional rotation from congregation to congregation, families are staying at St. Luke's for the weeks to come.

While times have changed how we operate, they have not changed our mission. **Our mission is more important now than ever.**

We so appreciate our congregations and their support during this time. Congregations who would normally be hosting our families for the week are instead donating grocery gift cards and items to St. Luke's for the families, as well as supplying nightly overnight hosts. We've received blankets, games, art supplies, Kroger gift cards, cleaning supplies, toiletries, and much more. Our families are extremely grateful for the outpouring of love and support they've received during this trying time.

Moms in our program have been living paycheck to paycheck. **Only one of our moms is currently able to work.** The others are currently unable to work during this crisis. Their food and shelter are currently taken care of, but many have bills and debts outside of those. Medical bills, storage bills, student debt. Those bills continue to come. Our families are afraid of what falling even further behind will mean for them. While we help them navigate this situation and the new resources available, we at Family Promise are stepping up our programming to fit with the needs of our families in this emergency situation.

Family Promise of North Fulton/DeKalb will be expanding our assistance programs for families within our program, as well as providing resources for families in need within our community.

As this crisis continues to develop, we will continue to adapt in the best ways to help our community. We at FP are always blown away by how this community comes together to help each other. As volunteer opportunities or specific supply needs become available, we will continue to keep you informed.

Thank you for your continued support, love, and generosity during these times.

Andrea Brantley



Coronavirus Emergency Relief

If you would like to help Family Promise's Emergency Relief Fund, please [click here](#).

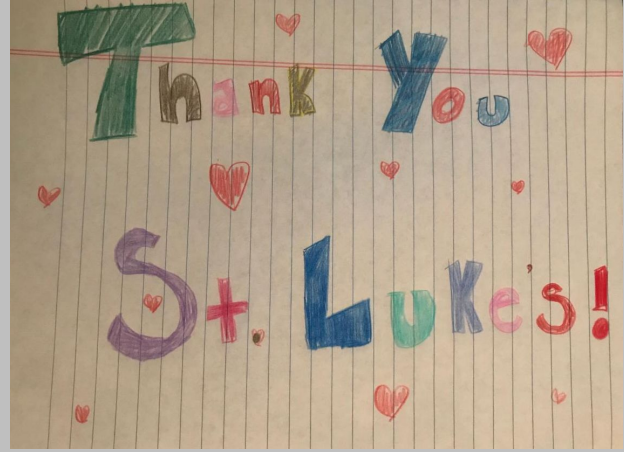
Or visit our website: www.familypromisefund.org/emergency-relief-fund.html

Volunteer Spotlight: St. Luke's Presbyterian Church

We at Family Promise want to **thank** and **celebrate** St. Luke's Presbyterian Church for stepping up during these difficult and uncertain times.

As the Georgia leadership declared a State of Emergency and issued the Shelter In Place order, Family Promise could no longer operate in the traditional rotational model.

Beginning March 29th, St. Luke's Presbyterian Church opened their doors to become the Family Promise Static Site.



The St. Luke's Leadership team recognized what a critical time this was for Family Promise and the families that we serve. They worked long and hard with the FP staff to find the best and safest ways to make sure our families were taken care of.

St. Luke's has become a safe haven for our families. Moms have repeatedly given feedback to staff that this facility has truly felt like a home during this scary and uncertain time. Our moms know that they will have a safe place for their children. The kids have access to computers, wifi, and quiet areas to work on their school work throughout the day. They also have access to the gymnasium located in St. Luke's. The kids have been able to take breaks throughout the day, running around, playing basketball, and getting some of their energy out in the gym.

St. Luke's has allowed the families to cook in a small kitchen in the building. This has made it possible for our moms to make their own meals for their family. What a blessing this has been!

In an abundance of caution, Family Promise has opted to have volunteers drop off groceries or grocery gift cards instead of cooking meals. This has given families the opportunity to cook together, moms with their children, and families together. Many have commented that getting to cook with their children has been a blessing, as that isn't something they have been able to do together, many for a long time.

The Family Promise Day Center and offices are located in St. Luke's, so families have been able to spend time there as well. This has also been wonderful for the FP staff to be able to safely work, while able to be present if the families need anything.

This is just a snippet of the ways St. Luke's has been helping to provide for our families during this crisis. St. Luke's has gone above and beyond to support Family Promise and our mission during this time. They graciously opened their doors for those who needed them most.

We cannot express our overwhelming, heartfelt gratitude to them.

We love you St. Luke's!

Thank You
for helping to make the 2020
Meals With Meaning a *huge* success!



On Thursday March 12th, we held the second annual Meals With Meaning fundraising dinner at Roswell Historic Cottage, raising over \$35,000 for the important work that Family Promise North Fulton/DeKalb is doing.

Our keynote speaker this year was Roswell Mayor Lori Henry. As a leader in our community, she spoke about the importance of communities coming together in times of need. She reminded all of us that working together is key to lifting our entire community up.

The theme of the evening was **community.**



Nina, a graduated guest of Family Promise, shared her emotional personal testimonial of finding Family Promise when she most needed a community. The support, love, and encouragement she found in the community of volunteers, staff, and follow guests of Family Promise helped her take her life from crisis to stabilization.

We appreciate everyone who bought tickets, sponsorships, donated from their hearts, and shared this special evening with us. We couldn't have done it without the generosity of all of you. With your help we will continue to provide the support, encouragement, and resources our guest families need.

Thank you!



Graduation Celebration!

We are so excited to announce the graduation of one of our families!

Catherine came to Family Promise in need of help after a series of events left her unable to pay rent. Only working part time, and having to pay high childcare costs, Catherine was struggling to find a way to make ends meet.

That's when she found Family Promise.



During her time at Family Promise, Catherine was able to work through getting her hours increased to fulltime. She was even named employee of the month! With help in financial literacy, life skills, and job training, Catherine was able to move from crisis to stability.

On March 29th, Catherine graduated from the Family Promise program! She and her son transitioned to the Drake House Transitional Housing Program which is the next phase of our homeless continuum to achieve self-sufficiency.

We are so happy that Catherine and her son were able to move into their own apartment last month. The Drake House provides fully furnished apartments so between what they had and their new support, they got everything they needed.

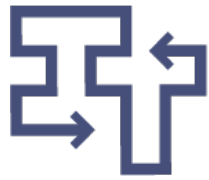
The Drake House is helping to close the gap during this crisis time, and while Catherine is still able to work, the crisis impacts us all. Food needs, as well as case management needs are all being met through the Drake House. FP staff will continue to walk alongside Catherine on her journey to full self-sufficiency. We are so grateful for partners like the Drake House!

Catherine is working on continuing to save her money, as well as continuing her medical education and training, so she can move up in her field.

It has been such a joy to have this family in the program! We

cannot wait to continue to love and support them in their next steps!

Thank you to our 2020 Meals With Meaning: Gracious Host Sponsor!



HEALTHCARE IT LEADERS

Healthcare IT Leaders is an Alpharetta-based consulting and staffing company supporting the enterprise IT workforce needs of health systems and hospitals across the U.S. Giving back is an important component of our company culture. Through our Cares program, we support a wide range of non-profits. Two causes especially important to us are The Christmas Tree Santas, an organization that spreads holiday hope and joy by giving away Christmas trees, and the Cristo Rey Work-Study program, providing practical work experience to low-income high school students.

We are so grateful for our 2020 sponsors!

Going forward we will continue to highlight our fantastic sponsors by sharing their stories with you!

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