



# Family Promise®

Building communities, strengthening lives.

Family Promise is a national organization with networks of churches uniting congregations, day centers and social service agencies to provide homeless families (must have children in order to qualify) with basic human needs – shelter, safety and sustenance. Family Promise programs vary from community to community, however there are five basic components to the program:

**Host Congregations:** About five times a year – for one week at a time Host Congregations provide overnight lodging at the church, meals and hospitality. Hosting rotates among the 13 Host Congregations, providing lodging for three to five families (up to fourteen people) from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. the next morning.

**Volunteers:** Volunteers are the heart of the Network, without them, it cannot exist. Volunteers provide a variety of services: cooking and serving meals, playing with children or helping them with homework, and staying overnight. Volunteers interact with the guests, treating them with respect and responding with compassion.

**Social Service Agencies:** Local social service agencies screen guests and refer families to the Network. The agencies may also help guests find housing, jobs and government entitlements.

4. **Day Center:** Guests use a local day center, such as a YMCA, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to shower, care for pre-school children, and seek employment. The day center provides guests with a mailing address and a home base from which to conduct their housing search.
5. **Transportation:** A van purchased by the Network transports guests to and from the day center. The van also carries bedding and luggage to the next Host Congregation.

Our church has joined Family Promise of Clear Creek (FPCC) in the establishment of a network of 13 interfaith Host Congregations in Pearland, Friendswood, Alvin, and Clear Lake. Each Network establishes a 501(c) 3 corporation, has a Board of Directors and hires a salaried Network Director. The Network Director, who has professional social work experience, works with the guest families, Host Congregation Coordinators and social service agencies. The Board of Directors oversees the management of the Network.

The goal of the FPCC Board is to open doors to the first homeless families in January, 2010. The FPCC Board is in the process of working on the five basic components listed above, with priority placed on recruitment of the thirteen Host Congregations.

**For more information on Family Promise go to [www.familypromise.org](http://www.familypromise.org) or Contact Debbie Gilbert, 281-996-6996, [dbqilbert1@aol.com](mailto:dbqilbert1@aol.com) for info on FPCC.**