



# Great River Family Promise®

Building community, strengthening lives.

---

## NEWSLETTER

### **Our Mission:**

**Building partnerships throughout our communities in support of children and families experiencing homelessness to help them achieve sustainable independence.**

### **NOTES FROM OUR DIRECTOR, Jess Hartfiel:**

We are so fortunate that 2014 was a busy and blessed year for us and the families that we served.

Number of Families Served: 15  
Number of Individuals: 50  
Number of Children under 18: 28  
Number of Children 5 & under: 10

Number of Families securing permanent housing: 13  
Number of Families who moved in with relatives or friends: 1  
(One Family was still in the program as of 12-31-14.)

Thank you to all of our congregations and volunteers. Without you none of this would be possible. In 2015 we are excited to announce two new host churches: The Crossing Church in Zimmerman and NorthRidge Fellowship in Rogers. We welcome these churches and are so excited to be partnering with them.

We do need your on going support. Please follow us on Facebook for upcoming events and check out our website for our wish list and ways to donate. [www.greatriverfamilypromise.org](http://www.greatriverfamilypromise.org).

- Jess

## FEBRUARY 2015

### **Day Center Volunteer Shift Hours**

7:30am-10:00am

3:00pm-5:00pm

### **(Monday - Friday)**

Could you volunteer just once a month to open or close the Day Center? One to two hours? If you'd like more information on how to get involved, call 763-441-9093.

### **NEEDS LIST**

- Kitchen paper products (bowls, cups, paper towel, utensils, napkins)
- Kitchen/Bathroom cleaning supplies
- Towels and Washcloths
- Office Supplies
- Gas/Gift cards
- Rubbermaid Totes

## Save the Date.....

Save the following dates for some of the Great River Family Promise Events!

April 8<sup>th</sup> – Pizza Ranch Community night in Monticello

May 16<sup>th</sup> – Great River Family Promise 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday Party and P  
Sale

June 20<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Band together To Beat Homelessness ever

## Shiver Plunge 2015 by Amber Hasslen

As a board member, I strive to represent Great River Family Promise as much as possible in my daily endeavors. When I heard that Jess was challenging us to raise \$3,500 to get her to jump, I thought “game on” and started asking friends and family to donate. What I discovered was that people wanted to see ME jump into frigid waters and were happy to raise their donation amount to see it happen.

As a contestant, I stood in a special sectioned off area waiting for my team to jump. There were three of us that were brave enough to take the plunge, myself and our executive director Jess’s husband and friend. We were each dressed in super hero costume and our team name was “Heroes for Homeless.” I believe it was in the high 20s that day so the overall experience was quite cold. The hole we carved out of the ice and the ice itself was quite thick which made the water about 3 feet deep.

As the last people in line, we got to experience the entire program which included lots of screaming and wet, cold people running by us to get to the toasty changing tent. There was a scrub team in the water the entire time (as a safety measure) which of course made me question the intelligence of signing up to jump in a cold lake in February.

The jump itself was less uncomfortable than expected. I made a mistake of using a robe as part of my costume which soaked up quite a bit of water and made my exit extra heavy and slow. My husband, niece, mom and parent in laws all came out to watch. Overall, it was a great experience. I’d much rather be jumping into a lake in the summer but I’d do it again. Thank you to all of you that donated and came out to support us in our crazy endeavor!

w/Lids

- Diapers/Wipes
- Personal Care items (razors/shaving cream, feminine hygiene products, combs, hair ties, Kleenex, hair spray)
- Digital Camera for Day Center
- A Mini-Van (please contact Day Center for details)

## **Computers**

The 2 computers our families were using recently broke down and are not repairable. Families use the computers for job search, housing search, homework and emails to keep in touch and conduct business. Do you have a computer you could donate? Please see the criteria below. We can use a laptop or desktop but need it to be relatively current.

1. Windows 7 or Apple OS 10.7 or newer (No to XP, VISTA, LINUX, UBUUNTU or any other obscure operating system)
2. At least 6GB RAM
3. Hard Drive 250 GB minimum



### Gas Cards

Occasionally our families need help with gas money for their vehicles. Gas card donations in \$20 increments would be greatly appreciated!



### Have You Made Your \$180 Annual Pledge Yet?

Could you support us with a \$500 Family Champion pledge this year

Or, could you make a \$1500 Family Hero pledge?

**TO DONATE NOW click  
on: <https://ipn.intuit.com/pay/GreatRiverFamilyPromise>**

**Help Homeless Children and Their Families turn their lives around!**

- Join **Club 180** and donate \$180 per year to provide a family of 3 with 5 days of a safe place to sleep, good and nutritious meals, transportation and intensive case management. (A hotel stay for that time would cost about \$360 and cover room and maybe breakfast.)
- Club 180 also has a level of giving of \$500 per year to be part of Family Champions or \$1500 per year to be part of Family Heroes. All contributions, no matter what amount are appreciated! Great River Family Promise is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization.

### PAIN FREE, STRESS FREE GIVING!

Go to [Smile.Amazon.Com](https://smile.amazon.com) and sign in with your regular [amazon.com](https://amazon.com) login and it will recognize you. Choose Great River Family Promise as your charity and everything you order on [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) will give a percentage back to GRFP. Thanks for your support!



We ask you to join us in two specific prayers at this mid year time:

**1. Pray that Great River Family Promise continues to serve families giving all the glory to God.**

**2. Pray for the release of resources needed to keep this ministry alive and well.**

\ HOST CONGREGATIONS  
Elk River United Methodist  
Central Lutheran  
Christ Church  
Emmanuel Lutheran  
Christ Our Light Catholic

*If you do not want to receive these newsletters,  
please reply to this email. Thank you.*

Riverside Church  
Resurrection  
Lutheran  
St. John Lutheran  
St. Henry Catholic  
River of Life  
Lord of Glory  
Lutheran  
Freshwaters United  
Methodist  
The Crossing -  
Zimmerman  
NorthRidge Fellowship

**OUR SUPPORT  
CONGREGATIONS**  
Holy Trinity Episcopal  
Living Waters  
Trinity Lutheran  
New Day Methodist  
The Quarry  
Mary of the Visitation  
Twin Lakes Christian  
The Crossing, ER  
Zimmerman Community  
Church  
Elk River Lutheran



---

Great River Family Promise  
P.O. Box 592  
Elk River, MN 55330