



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.

Band Together to Beat HOMELESSNESS

Saturday, June 20th

Lions Park, Elk River

Are you going to be the next Community Idol?

Have a unique talent? Are you in a band? Well, we are looking for you! On June 20th, we are hosting our first Community Idol, a talent competition held at our Band Together to Beat Homelessness event. Registration is \$50/act (we may have some sponsorships available) and cash prizes will be awarded to the winning acts. Take center stage at Lion's Park in Elk River.

The event is family-oriented so we are looking to keep it PG! To sign up, please find our Community Idol Entry Form on our website at www.greatriverfamilypromise.org and email it to: amberhasslen@gmail.com.

Would you give up your bed for a night if it changed a child's life?

Adults, youth and children are encouraged to decorate cars and tents or boxes and sleep overnight to raise money and awareness for Great River Family Promise. Participants pay \$50 per car or \$35 per campsite. We encourage participants to raise \$100 through pledges. Youth must be supervised by an adult (1 adult for every 5 youth). Prizes will be awarded for the most creative dwelling and most money raised. Please

MAY 2015

Day Center

Volunteer

Shift Hours

7:30-10:00a.m.

3:00-5:00p.m.

Could you volunteer just once a month to open or close the Day Center? One to two hours? To find out 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 w/Lids
- Diapers/Wipes
- Personal Care items (razors/shaving cream, feminine hygiene products,

find registration forms and more information online at: www.greatriverfamilypromise.org.

Won't be able to stay overnight?

Individuals enjoying the evening's activities, but not spending the night, will pay \$10 per person or \$25 for family.

- 5p-6p Registration & Box/Tent/Car City Set up**
- 6-7p The Hungry Games– Compete to win fun prizes!**
- 6:30-8:30p Concessions will be sold throughout the event.**
- 7-9p Community Idol– Listen to local musical acts compete to become our idol.**
- 9:15p Awards Show**
- 10:00p Quiet Time**
- 7:30-8:00AM Breakfast and Clean-up**

NOTES FROM OUR DIRECTOR, Jess Hartfiel:

Summer is (almost) here! My favorite season! I have so many plans. Trips to the lake. Fishing with my custom built Vikings colored pole. Concerts. A trip to Duluth. Vikings training camp. Camp for my kids. Yard work and gardening. I live a very blessed life. So many of us do.

In my professional life, I am passionate about providing the services that we do. If you know me at all, I don't have to tell you that. I get to see families lives after they leave our program as we provide aftercare services for one year. Sometimes, we go to their homes and other times they come to our office. While their life is not without struggle after they leave, they have the stability to focus on other things. One of our former guests recently graduated from a program she started but had to put on hold when she became homeless. Another former guest received a great employment opportunity. Yet another former guest, just would not go away. After he and his wife and 3 children left our program, they decided they wanted to volunteer. They went back to one of the churches that hosted them, and became involved there. They volunteered during

- combs, hair ties, Kleenex, hair spray)
 - digital Camera for Day Center
 - A Mini-Van (please contact Day Center for details)
- Occasionally our families need help with gas money for their vehicles. Gas card donations in \$20 increments would be greatly appreciated!



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.

OUR HOST CONGREGATIONS

Elk River United Methodist
Central Lutheran Christ Church

host weeks. They also volunteered at the Day Center and offered rides to the grocery store, clothes and household items to others in the program. Dad has been a speaker at a few of our events. All of our guests really like him and can relate as he has truly been there. After speaking with my board of directors, we decided to put money into the budget to hire an on call staff person. Someone who could help out at the Day Center when we are short staffed, or Sundays when families need to be at the Day Center. I had just the person in mind for the position. As of May 1st, we welcomed Mike Mitchell to our team, the former guest who feels just as passionately about this work as I do!



There is a part of my job that is not my favorite and that is asking for money. It is hard but necessary. We are almost entirely supported by our community. We do not receive any state or federal funding. I think some people assume that we do, so I share this as often as I can. When we decided to add money to the budget for Mike, it did not fall from the money tree. It meant we had to raise more money. When we give

out gas cards so people can get to work and medical appointments, it comes from people like you. While many of us enjoy the privilege of camping and fishing, others are camping and fishing for survival. Yes, homeless families camp in the summer months, and when they don't have enough money to even pay for their campsite anymore, they come to us.

So here is my plea to those of us living a privileged life. Please consider a monthly donation. You can set this up online so you don't even have to think about it. - Jess

GiveMN.org

Something New! - Recurring donations are now available on GiveMN.org. You can select the frequency of your donation: weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually. It's that simple!

PAIN FREE, STRESS FREE GIVING!

Go to Smile.Amazon.Com and sign in with your regular amazon.com login and it will recognize you. Choose Great River Family Promise as your charity and everything you order on smile.amazon.com will give a percentage back to GRFP.

2nd Annual Plant Sale and Birthday Party May 16

A huge thank you to everyone that came out to support GRFP by filling your gardens! We were able to raise \$1000 while meeting some of our

Emmanuel Lutheran
 Christ Our Light
 Catholic
 Riverside Church
 Resurrection Lutheran
 St. John Lutheran
 St. Henry Catholic
 River of Life
 Lord of Glory
 Lutheran
 Freshwaters United
 Methodist
 The Crossing
 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 community members. Thank you to Dan & Jerry's in Monticello for the donation of 36 hanging baskets and Mike and Debbie Nelson and everyone else that donated perennials. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!



Have you ever considered serving on a committee?

We are looking for members to serve on our special events/fundraising committee. Help plan special events for GRFP such as volunteer recognition events, fundraisers and celebrations. Time commitment varies but we generally meet about once a month (more around special events) for 2 hours. Please contact Amber at amberhasslen@gmail.com with questions or for meeting times. We look forward to hearing from you!

Pizza Ranch, Monticello

We raised over \$450 on April 8. Thank you to all of you who enjoyed lots of great food and generously donated tips!

Schwan's Cares Fundraiser

Thank you to all that supported the Schwan's Cares

Fundraiser! We raised \$291 through 15 individuals that purchased delicious food from Schwan's during April. We hope to run this event again as it's easy to participate from the comfort of your own home and at a time that is convenient for you. Next time we hope to double the number of participants and double the donations! We will keep you posted!



**Help Turn Families
Lives Around!**

- **TO DONATE NOW** click on: <https://ipn.intuit.com/pay/GreatRiverFamilyPromise>
- **Join Club 180 for \$180 a year. This provides a family of 3 with 5 days of a safe place to sleep, good and nutritious meals, transportation and extensive case management.**
- **\$500 per year to be a Family Champion**
- **\$1500 per year for a Family Hero**

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

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

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