



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

Dear Friends and supporters,

I want to thank all of you for your ongoing support and love that you show to our families. The work we do to bring the community together leaves a long lasting impact on so many of you and also our families. Our goal when families come to us for shelter is first and foremost to get them back into stable affordable housing. I want to highlight the success of two of our families this last year.



One of our families faced many major changes and trials while in our program, but with the support of many was able to move out and begin to rebuild her life. She was working while in shelter, but was laid off just weeks after getting an apartment. She persevered with courage and hope and quickly landed a new and better job. She is doing great now, stable in her job and

AUGUST 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.

Pizza Ranch, Elk River

We raised over \$829 on August 10! Thank you to all of you who enjoyed lots of great food and generously donated tips!

NEEDS LIST

- Kitchen paper

housing and visits us often to keep us up to date on her progress.



I don't know if I will ever forget taking the call from another one of our moms. She was filled with despair and fear. She cried a lot as she told us of sleeping in places where no human should have to sleep. As we assessed her situation, we knew that finding housing would be a challenge for her.

But our case manager was already networking with a housing partner and aware of a housing opportunity that would likely be perfect for her. We took her in , and she and her daughter immediately started receiving much needed services. She excelled in our program and went above and beyond what we ask of our guests. She took it upon herself to clean up the debris of a tree that had come down in our yard over the winter. Kara (our case manager) worked hard to push through the process to get her housed. After 5 weeks in our program, she was approved and a move in date scheduled. She and her daughter are now living in a beautiful townhome.

Our work is important to the families we serve and I look forward to sharing with you more success stories.

-Jess

Great River Family Promise Needs You!

Great River Family Promise is proud of the work we are performing throughout our communities to help families get back on their feet and return to productive lives. Over the past two plus years we have assisted over 36 families to obtain the resources they needed through our services and volunteer network to keep their families together through a variety of challenges. We have been blessed with the support and volunteers who have donated their time, talent, and prayers over the past two years, but, we now need your financial help to continue our mission.

We need to raise \$10,000 by the end of September, 2015 and a total of \$50,000 by December 31, 2015 in order to continue our work for the families throughout our communities. As we all know, these have been challenging economic times for

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, combs, hair ties, Kleenex, hair spray)
- Digital Camera for Day Center
- A Mini-Van (please contact Day Center for details)

Gas Cards

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:

many and the services and programming provided through Great River Family Promise are needed more than ever before. Any contribution you can make (large or small) would be appreciated and allow us to continue the important work we do for those most in need and for the broader good of the communities we serve.

Donating is possible in a variety of ways. You can mail a check to PO Box 592, Elk River, MN 55330, go to our website www.greatriverfamilypromise.org or look into the possibilities that follow. Thank You!



Help Turn Families Lives Around!

- **TO DONATE NOW** click on: <https://ipn.intuit.com/pay/GreatRiverFamilyPromise>
- **Join Club 180 for \$180 a year.**
- **\$500 per year to be a Family Champion**
- **\$1500 per year for a Family Hero**

GiveMN.org

Something New! - Recurring donations are now available. on GiveMN.org. You can select the frequency of donations: weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually to fit within your own budget.

Trick or Treat for Homelessness

Looking for a fun way to raise money for GRFP? On Halloween, dress up in your spookiest outfit and go door -to-door raising funds. Collect coins and cash instead of candy and let people know about our organization. Get a group of friends together and stay safe. Make it fun- start a competition, dress up in group outfits. After Halloween, send the proceeds to GRFP at PO Box 592 Elk River, MN 55330.

Shop on AmazonSmile and Amazon will donate to Great River Family Promise!

Shop for household goods, jewelry, Christmas gifts, or anything else

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 Church
Christ Church
Emmanuel Lutheran
Christ Our Light Catholic
Riverside Church
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



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- Visit smile.amazon.com and sign-in to your Amazon account.
- Search for “ Great River Family Promise” in the search box. A list of organizations will appear, select Great River Family Promise.
- Start Shopping! Your shopping experience will be the same as before- there’ s no cost associated with using AmazonSmile. Just start shopping using smile.amazon.com and Amazon will send 0.5% of your purchase to Great River Family Promise.
- Please spread the word! Let your friends and family know about AmazonSmile.

Board Member & Committee Member Openings

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.

Board Member/Treasurer- Accounting Experience

Needed. Help manage day-to-day finances, pull reports for board meetings using Quickbooks, attend board meetings once per month. Time commitment is approximately 10 hours per month. Please contact GRFP at info@greatriverfamilypromise.org for more information.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Please follow us on Facebook for upcoming events and also check out our website:

www.greatriverfamilypromise.org

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

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