



Family Promise is a nonprofit 501(C)(3), non-denominational organization for families in transition. There are over 136 Networks in 39 states. There are over 4500 congregations and 110,000 volunteers making up these Networks. Additionally there are 53 more Networks developing.

The Family Promise Network Program brings shelter, meals, and support services to families without homes. Family Promise Networks are a cost-efficient, effective, and replicable community response to family homelessness. Because they make use of existing community resources, they can be implemented quickly, without major start-up costs. There are **six basic** components to a Network Program.

1. Host/Support Congregations: The hosting of families rotates weekly among the Host Congregations in the Network. In turn, each host congregation provides lodging, three meals a day, and caring hospitality 3-4 times a year. The Support Congregations provide much needed volunteers, supplies and finances when needed.

2. Day Center: Guests use a local Day Center from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, where the Family Promise Network Director, a professional social worker, provides case management services. There, guests pursue employment, tend pre-school children, shower, and do laundry. The day center provides guests with a mailing address and a base for housing and employment searches. Many guests are employed during the day, while older children attend school.

3. Transportation: The Family Promise Network van transports guests to and from the Day Center. The Network also uses a truck to carry bedding and luggage to the next Host Congregation. The truck is also used to collect any donations made to the Network.

4. Fundraising: The organization is financed through donations, grants and fundraising.

5. Volunteers: Volunteers are essential to our success and provide a wide range of services like cooking and serving meals, playing with children or helping them with homework, interacting with guests with respect and compassion, and providing overnight security.

6. Social Service Agencies: Local social service agencies refer families to the Network and may also help guests find or provide housing, jobs, and other needed services.



Family Promise Fact Sheet

Since its inception in 1986, **Family Promise**, (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network) has:

- 1 Established and supported 124 Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality Network affiliates (136 Network programs) in 39 states and the District of Columbia, and is currently developing 53 others across the United States.
- 2 Enabled over 4,500 congregations of all denominations to work together in outreach ministry each year.
- 3 Enabled over 110,000 people to volunteer in Network programs annually.
- 4 Provided shelter, meals, and comprehensive assistance to over 15,000 homeless family members in 2003, 60% of who are children and one half of those were age 6 or younger.
- 5 Helped approximately 70+% of the quests families find permanent housing.
- 6 Assisted more than 6,000 adults in job search or job training programs annually
- 7 Received the 1988 New Jersey Pride Award in Social Services from then Governor Kean.
- 8 Received the 1988 President's Annual Points of Light Award, the country's highest recognition fro volunteerism. Family Promise was one of 21 recipients chosen from over 4500 nominees.
- 9 Selected by the United States Information Agency as a model program to represent American volunteerism to representatives from 12 foreign countries
- 10 Demonstrated through its many thousands of volunteers that Americans do care about the homeless. The Interfaith Hospitality Network program gives people who want to help, a *way* to help.

Summary of Program Benefits

For Guests

- Safe, homelike shelter where families can stay together.
- Guests cite the caring of volunteers as one of the most important benefits; "I never knew so many people cared."
- Intensive case management by Network director to assist in finding housing and jobs and meeting other needs.
- Guest families secure long-term housing.

For Volunteers

- Opportunity to help homeless families directly; to make a difference.
- Opportunity to do outreach within their own congregation or a nearby location.
- Wide range of volunteer activities to vary schedules and levels of commitment.
- Opportunity for families to volunteer together.

For Congregations

- Opportunity for outreach (within the congregation's own facilities) focusing on the needs of people in the community.
- Opportunity for participation in the community interfaith project.
- Increased sense of community among members as they share the effort.

For Community

- Cost-efficient mobilization of community resources.
- Does not duplicate services already in the community; works with social service agencies to provide counseling, job training, help with housing search, etc.
- Does not institutionalize shelter as a solution to homelessness.
- Becomes a catalyst for other community initiatives, such as job counseling, parenting workshops, transitional housing, etc.

2006 National Program Services Report

Total individuals served	24,766
Percent of guests who are children	57% (50% are age 5 or under)
Average length of stay (days)	53
<u>Housing Status at Exit</u>	
Percent of families securing permanent housing	61%
Percent of families securing transitional housing	19%
<u>Family Composition</u>	
Two-Parent Families	28%
Female Headed Single Parent Families	62%
Male Headed Single Parent Families	5%
Other Family Composition/not reported	5%

FAMILY PROMISE AFFILIATES

ALABAMA

Birmingham
Huntsville
Mobile
Montgomery

ALASKA

Wasilla

ARIZONA

Phoenix

ARKANSAS

Little Rock

CALIFORNIA

Modesto
Sacramento
San Mateo

COLORADO

Adams County
Colorado Springs
Denver
Greeley
Loveland
Pueblo

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington

FLORIDA

Gainesville
Orlando
Jacksonville
Santa Rosa County
Sarasota

GEORGIA

Athens
Augusta
Columbus
Gwinnett County
Savannah

HAWAII

Honolulu
Kailua

INDIANA

Ft. Wayne
Goshen
Indianapolis

IOWA

Des Moines

KANSAS

Johnson County

KENTUCKY

Covington

LOUISIANA

Lafayette

MARYLAND

Baltimore

MASSACHUSETTS

Leominster
Southbridge
Worcester

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor
Coldwater
Grand Rapids

MINNESOTA

Brainerd
Cambridge
Minneapolis
Rochester

MISSISSIPPI

Biloxi

MONTANA

Billings
Bozeman

NEVADA

Las Vegas
Reno

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Seacoast
Nashua

NEW JERSEY

Burlington County
Essex County
Gloucester County
Hunterdon County
Mercer County
Middlesex County
Monmouth County
Morris County
Ocean County
Passaic County
Somerset County
Sussex County
Union County

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque

NEW YORK

Buffalo
Plattsburgh
Rochester

NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte
Durham
Fayetteville
Gastonia
Greensboro
High Point
Moore County
Raleigh
Wilmington

OHIO

Akron
Cincinnati
Cleveland
Greene County
Lebanon
Springfield
Toledo

OKLAHOMA

Shawnee

OREGON

Hillsboro
Portland
Salem

PENNSYLVANIA

Ambler
Berks County
Indian Valley
Main Line
Natrona Heights
NW Philadelphia
Pittsburgh

SOUTH CAROLINA

Greenville
York County
Spartanburg

TENNESSEE

Chattanooga
Johnson City
Kingsport
Knoxville
Memphis

TEXAS

Austin
Conroe
Fort Bend
Houston
Humble
Longview
Lubbock
Pasadena
Temple

UTAH

Salt Lake City

VIRGINIA

Roanoke

WASHINGTON

Seattle
Spokane

WISCONSIN

Beloit
Eau Claire
Madison
Manitowoc

WYOMING

Cheyenne

TYPICAL HOST WEEK

During the week there are approximately 50 slots for volunteers. Some congregations have a different member for each slot; others have volunteers take on multiple roles. Volunteers come from the host and support congregations and are assigned duties by the *Volunteer Coordinators*—members of the host congregation who oversee the week.

Sunday:

▶ A Network truck or van arrives in the afternoon with cots and the families' personal belongings to be set up in designated space.

▶ Guest families arrive at the Host congregation Sunday evening. The rooms for the families and the common area have been set up prior to the arrival.



Each night of hosting:

▶ Families settle in, relax and meet the coordinators and the evening volunteers. At 6:00 PM dinner is served family style. Guests and volunteers share the meal together. Families are responsible for their children and help with clean up and chores.

▶ After dinner, volunteers fellowship with families. Hosts and their families play games, help with homework, watch videos, or just talk.

▶ Food for lunch is available in the kitchen area and parents make sack lunches for their families for the following day.

▶ Adults turn in around 10:00 PM; children at appropriate earlier bedtimes. Wake up is around 6:00 AM. 2 Volunteers will spend the night at the congregation.



▶ Breakfast is served around 6:30 AM during the week; typically cereal and other convenient foods. The Network van picks the families up at 7:00 AM.

During the day (Families are not at the congregation):



▶ The Driver takes guests to the Day Center. From there, children will go to school and the parents to their jobs. In the afternoon the reverse is done.

▶ If the parents do not have a job, they work with the Director at the Day Center to seek employment, housing, and other resources to help them regain their independence. The Day Center has bathrooms with showers and other necessities to prepare for the day.

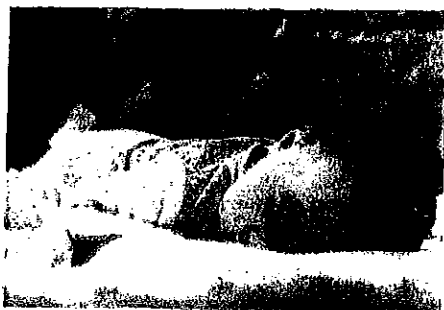
▶ Everyone returns to the Host Congregation around 5:30 PM and the cycle repeats.



Saturday:

▶ On Saturday the families can sleep in and enjoy a hot breakfast (pancakes or bacon and eggs). Families go back to the Day Center and do what families typically do on weekends—see friends and relatives, take children to activities, etc.

The next Sunday:



▶ On Sunday the families are packed up and out of the facilities prior to Sunday services. They are taken to the Day Center for the day until it is time to move on to the next congregation. Families that want to attend services will usually do so at their own congregations; some may choose to worship at a host congregation.

...and the next host congregation begins its week.



What Is Needed for a Congregation to Host?

Hosting families speaks to the scripture of all faiths and provides families who have lost their homes with safe, secure lodging and a sense of community. It gives volunteers the opportunity to provide hands-on outreach in their own congregational facility. The following are the basic elements needed for a congregation to be a host in its local Interfaith Hospitality Network:

- * Space for up to 5 families, 14 individuals, to stay for a week at a time, once every 2 or 3 months. The space used can be classrooms, offices or a large hall with dividers. Since a host congregation is providing hospitality to families for the week, the guests' areas are not broken down during the day. (Usually, congregations host 2 to 4 families at a time.)
- * A common area for meals, homework, relaxation and fellowship.
- * Two bathrooms: one for women; one for men. (The day center provides showers.)
- * Space for volunteers to sleepover (any available space at the congregation can be used, e.g. offices, hallway, etc.).
- * A kitchen for meal preparation (dinners may be cooked at the congregation or brought in and heated there), a refrigerator, food staples and necessary clean up items.
- * The congregation is responsible for all meals (nutritious cooked dinners, simple breakfasts and supplies for sack lunches), utilities (heat/cooling, water and electricity), linens, and various basic items such as toys, soap, etc. The network supplies the beds.
- * Volunteers: A congregation should always have at least 2 volunteers present and generally not more than 4 at a time. Volunteers can come from other congregations and organizations; all volunteers undergo orientation before they begin.

Frequently Asked Questions About IHN and Hosting

How many host congregations are needed to form a Network? A Network needs 8 to 13 host congregations; most Networks have 10. Fewer than 8 could overtax some congregations, jeopardizing their participation. More than 13 would dilute the experience for congregations, resulting in a loss of continuity and focus. With less experienced volunteers, a network would be harder to operate, and recruitment of volunteers would be more difficult.

We don't have a day center in our community. How should we go about finding one? Actually, most operating day centers for homeless people are not appropriate for the Network program; they are drop-in centers that serve a mixed population, often including single men who live on the streets. These day centers are not suitable for homeless families.

More than likely, you will be looking for space for a day center, rather than an operating day center. Most networks find space for a day center in downtown churches, "Y"s, or social service agencies. Some Networks use one large room, while others find a place with access to several rooms. Essential facilities are a lounge area for families, a play area for children, a small room or cubicle for the Network director (who will provide most of the supervision of the day center), and showers. If showers are not available, the Network needs to install them.

How do we handle transportation? Networks usually purchase a van, or a van is loaned or donated to the Network. Some Networks contract with a transportation company that takes care of the van, driver, insurance, and maintenance. Networks that purchase a van usually get the money from foundations that fund capital expenditures.

Can we use volunteer van drivers? Family Promise does not recommend using volunteer drivers. For safety and reliability, it's best to use paid drivers with verified driving experience and safety records. Scheduling problems, which can be time-consuming when volunteer drivers are used, can usually be avoided or minimized by using paid drivers.

What facilities do host congregations need to have for guests? Facilities must include a lounge area (with sofa, chairs, tables, TV), a dining area, a kitchen, bathrooms, and sleeping accommodations. Ideally, congregations provide a separate room, such as a classroom, for each family. If that isn't possible, a fellowship hall or other large room can be divided by partitions to provide privacy.

Our building is in use almost all the time. How will we find the space? Churches and synagogues are busy places with many demands on their space. Rarely does a perfect space exist. Hosting almost always means making some scheduling adjustments for activities and meetings. For example, four or five times a year, AA or the Bible Study Group may need to move their Tuesday night meeting to another room.

Can families' belongings be moved in the morning and moved back in the evening to permit the congregation to use the space during the day? No. The sleeping accommodations need to be dedicated to the families for the entire host week. The beds and the guests' belongings must not be moved in the morning and put back in the evening. Besides being cumbersome, moving the beds and the guests' belongings would be difficult for guests. When guests arrive on Sunday, they come with their belongings and perhaps a few of their children's favorite toys. They want to arrange their space as if it were their home.

How long do families stay in the Network? The Guest Guidelines call for a maximum stay of 30 days. However, Network directors often extend the stay as long as families are making good-faith efforts to find housing. In some communities, families can find housing within 30 days. In other communities—where there is a severe shortage of low-income housing, and waiting lists for public housing and Section 8 are closed—finding a home can take 60 days or more.

Where do guest families stay during the day on weekends? In most Networks, families stay at the day center. If the day center space is used for other purposes on weekends, a second day center site for weekends must be secured.

How are families referred to the Network? Two weeks before the Network opens, the Network director meets with potential referring agencies—shelters, public assistance offices, the Red Cross, and the Salvation Army. The director describes the program and provides printed material on how to make referrals.

When a homeless family seeks shelter through an agency, a social worker conducts a brief interview and may contact the Network director to find out if space is available. If the answer is yes, and if the family seems appropriate for the Network, the agency refers the family to the day center. At the day center, the Network director conducts an in-depth interview before accepting the family into the Network.

(- over -)

Isn't it difficult for families to move week to week? Moving every week isn't ideal, but most families say that the homelike setting and the support of volunteers more than compensate for the moving. While host congregations change every week or two, the day center remains the same, providing continuity and a home base for families as they look for housing and jobs. The day center also provides a permanent address that families can use in their housing and job searches.

Will the children miss school because their families are staying in different congregations every week or two? No. The Network director works with the school system to ensure that all children attend school. The day center is the permanent address of the Network. Children go to the school they have been attending or to the school nearest the day center. Arrangements are made locally with the school system.

In 1987, Congress passed the McKinney Act, legislation that requires all states and school districts to provide for the education of homeless youth. Each state has developed a plan to implement the Act. Most of the state plans are flexible and allow children to attend the school they last attended or the school closest to the shelter (day center).

What are the insurance implications of participating in the Network? Does the congregation have to amend its policy? Each local Network must carry general liability insurance. Congregations are usually covered by their own property and liability policies because IHN is considered to be an outreach ministry, a regular activity of the church like a youth sleepover or Friday night supper. Most congregations find they do not need extra insurance to be hosts. To be certain, each congregation must contact its insurance agent.

How much money is needed to start a Network? First-year budgets can range from \$100,000 to \$85,000, depending on whether a van is purchased and whether rent must be paid for the day center. Most Networks find that first-year operating budgets are about \$90,000. NIHN recommends that Networks have at least one third of this amount on hand before opening.

How do we raise the money? Funds are raised locally from individuals, congregations, foundations, and corporations. Religious judicatories (regional denominational offices, such as the Presbytery, Methodist Conference, and Episcopal Diocese) often provide seed money, as well as ongoing funds. Local foundations within your county or state may also provide seed money.

How long does it take to develop a Network? Some Networks have developed in 10 months, while others have taken a year and a half, or longer. Usually a Network becomes operational about 12 to 18 months after the Community Meeting. The most important and time-consuming part of forming a Network is recruiting the host congregations. Networks that plan for and emphasize recruitment get there faster.

Do we really need to hire a full-time Network director? Can't a staff member from another agency manage the Network on a part-time basis? You will need to hire a full-time Network director. A unique strength of the Network program is the intensive case management that a full-time director provides to homeless families. In addition to case management, the director coordinates and trains volunteers and is responsible for the overall management of the program. Without a dedicated professional in the Network, families would not receive the services that help make the program so successful.

What are some advantages of the Network program over a more traditional shelter? An Interfaith Hospitality Network has these advantages:

- A Network can be developed quickly.
- A Network is cost-effective because it utilizes existing community resources.
- A Network program doesn't institutionalize shelter as a solution to homelessness.
- In Networks, about 70 percent of the guest families find permanent housing, often with volunteers' help.
- For congregations, the Network is a vital outreach ministry within the walls of the members' own church or synagogue.
- A Network is a catalyst for other community initiatives. Many active Networks go on to create new programs in areas such as parenting and mentoring, transitional housing, and housing renovation.

Family Promise Contact Sheet

Host Congregations:

1. Christ Church Episcopal-Oyster Bay, Rev. Peter Casparian peter-casparian@yahoo.com
2. Community Reform Synagogue of P. Washington, Miriam Caslow, 516 883-5733
3. First Presbyterian in Mineola, Rev. Chet Easton, 516 746-7886
4. St. Paul's Gr. Orthodox Cathedral, Fr. Luke Melackrinos, lukemel@yahoo.com
5. Hillside United Methodist Church, N. Hyde Park, Ms. Georgette Baker 746-7038
6. Massapequa Reform, Jones Wong, jones.wong@gracewaypharma.com
7. New Hyde Park Baptist, Rev. Dan Olson, 516 238-2818
8. Oceanside Interfaith Clergy Group, Rev. Randall Broger.
9. Our Savior Lutheran in Mineola, Ms. Susan Russo, slmrusso@aol.com
10. Plainview Reform Church, Rev. Kent Huyck, kenthuyck@plainviewreform@optonline.net
11. Shelter Rock Church, Manhasset & Syosset, Barbara Costello, gangel9@aol.com
12. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Shelter Rock, Claire Deroche 516 627-6560x177

Support Congregations:

1. All Saints Episcopal, Great Neck, Fr. Mauricio Wilson, fatherwilson@optonline.net 516 482-5392
2. Ascension Lutheran, Franklin Square, Rev. H. Behrens, asc145@aol.com, Ginni Hart, hartv@ujafedny.org,
3. Christ Episcopal Church, Garden City, Rev. Debra Low-Skinner, 516 775-2626
4. Christ Episcopal Church, Manhasset, Rev. David Lowry, dlowry@aol.com,
5. Church of the Resurrection, Gr. Orthodox, Brooksville, Tina Conway, Pres. Of St. Catherine's Philoptochos, 516 354-8687, conwaysoy@optonline.net
6. Community Reform Temple, Rabbi Judith Cohen-Rosenberg, Westbury, Howard Wasserman, 516 333-6977 upasaka@aol.com
7. Friedberg Jewish Community Centers, Oceanside & Long Beach, Sheryl Smith. 516 766-4341
8. Holy Trinity Episcopal, Hicksville, Mother Joan Grimm-Fraser, frasi6@aol.com, 516 931-1920
9. Holy Trinity Lutheran, Rockville Centre, Rev. Jeffrey Lausten, Erin King irisheyes126@optonline.net
10. Holy Trinity Orthodox, East Meadow, Fr. Martin Kraus, Ms. Jan Haleiko, 516 608-2979, okielah@aol.com.
11. New Hyde Park Korean United Methodist Church, Rev. Young Cho, choyoung@aol.com
12. St. Elisabeth's Episcopal, Floral Park, Mother Abigail Murphy, 516 354-6867

13. St. Stephens Lutheran, Hicksville, Rev. Stephanie Pope,
stephaniepop@gmail.com, 516 931-0710
14. St. Thomas Episcopal of Bellerose Village, Mother A. Murphy
516 354-6867
15. Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is in Oyster Bay, Ms. Jean Wang
oysterbaybahais@gmail.com
15. Temple Avodah, Oceanside Rabbi Uri Goren, Robert Epstein,
epsrr@aol.com, 516 536-7911
16. Temple Beth El, Great Neck, Rabbi R. Schapiro

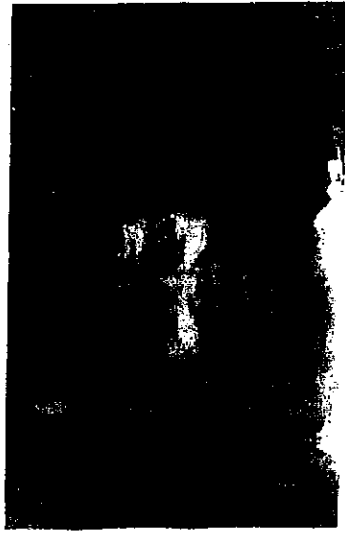
Why We're Here

Families are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population.

Over 40% of the U.S. homeless population are families with children.

One out of every five children live in poverty.

Twelve percent of families in the United States are only two paychecks away from becoming homeless. That is one in nine adults, and one in six children.



The average age of a homeless person in the United States is 9 years old.

Half the guests at Family Promise networks are children, most are under six.

Family Promise Participation

There are five parts to Family Promise:

1. Host Congregations

About five times a year – for a week at a time – host congregations provide overnight lodging, meals (supper, breakfast and bag lunch) and hospitality. Hosting rotates among congregations, which provide lodging for three to five families (up to 14 individuals) from 6 pm to 7 am the next morning.

2. Volunteers

Volunteers cook, serve meals, play with children, help with homework and stay overnight. They interact with guests, treating them with respect and responding with compassion.

3. Social Services

Local agencies screen guests and refer families to the network. They may help guests find housing, jobs and government assistance. Guests are screened for active substance abuse and psychiatric problems.

4. Day Center

Guests use the local day center from 8 am to 5 pm to shower, care for pre-school children, and seek employment. Many guests are employed and go to work during the day. During the school year, children go to school.

The day center provides guests with a mailing address and a home base from which to conduct their housing search.

5. Transportation

A van transports guests to and from the day center. The van also carries beds and luggage to the next host congregation.

Congregations Involved

As

HOSTS

- (1) Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St. Paul
- (2) Massapequa Reformed Church
- (3) New Hyde Park Baptist Church
- (4) Shelter Rock Church – Manhasset & Syosse
- (5) Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Shelter Rock
- (6) COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OF PORT WASHINGTON
- (7) HILLSIDE UNITED METHODIST OF NEW HYDE PARK

Our Mission

Family Promise of Nassau County – people of faith working together to provide homeless families with HELP for today and HOPE for tomorrow!

Who We Are

Family Promise brings shelter, meals and support to families without homes.

Family Promise serves family with children without regard to race, religion or age. Families may stay in the network 45 – 90 days providing they are adhering to guest guidelines and making progress in their own efforts toward self-sufficiency.



When we choose to step up in faithful service, we can make a difference in the lives of families.

About Family Promise

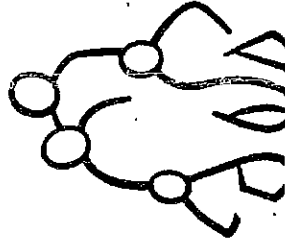
Family Promise of Nassau Co. Inc. is network affiliated with National Family Promise (see www.familypromise.org).

Family Promise has:

- Over 120 networks in 39 states and the District of Columbia.
- Over 60 new networks are currently forming in four additional states.
- More than 4,500 congregations and 110,000 volunteers are involved in Family Promise programs.
- In 2004, 80% of guest families found housing.
- More than 130,000 guests have been assisted by Family Promise.

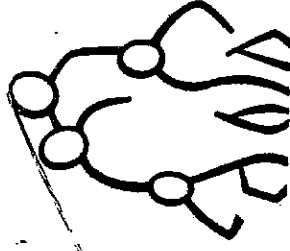
For more information, contact

Family Promise of Nassau County at 516/684-9833.



Family Promise®
of Nassau County

Building Community, Strengthening Lives



Family Promise of Nassau Co. Inc.

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