

## **Announcement: Family Promise Emergency Shelter Program to Re-open!**

8-4-2022

To: All Family Promise Hosting/Supporting Congregations and Supporters

From: Brian Diggs, Family Promise Executive Director

Since 1995, Family Promise Salt Lake has provided emergency shelter for homeless families using a church based rotational model. More succinctly, three to four families stayed in valley churches for 1-2 weeks at a time. While in shelter, congregation members provided meals and supervision to FPSL guests. As one might imagine, the Covid-19 pandemic closed that part of our programming. I am excited to announce that the FPSL Emergency Shelter Program will restart the first week of November 2022, but with a different model.

In concert with Family Promise National's focus on trauma informed care (TIC), especially regarding children, our new model will feature two churches (Christ United Methodist Church and Hilltop United Methodist Church) that will provide longer-term emergency shelter accommodations. Each church/congregation has agreed to host families for three months at a time. This means that each church/congregation would welcome FPSL guests for six months of each year – three months on and three months off. FPSL's ever growing volunteer pool will provide all the same care previous to the pandemic but within the aforementioned distinct locations. In short, the volunteers will rotate to the families in shelter as opposed to the families rotating on a weekly basis. The staff, FPSL Church Coordinators, and the board of directors all believe this new model will have a more positive emotional impact on the families we serve.

The staff and church coordinators have spent a lot of time developing this new model and are pleased to clarify any questions you might have. In the meantime, please see the planning list below for more information.

1. Instead of FPSL guests rotating between our twelve hosting congregations, families will now stay in one facility for three months. After serving for three months, the emergency shelter location would then move to the second location for three months. Essentially then, the shelter rotation would be between our two hosting facilities (CUMC and HUMC) – three months on and three months off.
  2. Volunteers from our twelve-hosting congregations and twenty-seven supporting congregations as well as new volunteers from the community will travel to the two hosting sites to provide the same care offered pre-pandemic.
  3. Each of the twelve hosting congregations will still take a week in the schedule as if they were hosting on-site. Working with FPSL staff, those congregations will be responsible for providing all the volunteers needed for that week.
  4. The FPSL van will still provide transportation services to and from the shelter locations when needed.
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In summary, this new model will maintain the exact same structure as in the past with one exception, our volunteers will rotate to shelter sites and the guests will remain static. In the coming months, FPSL staff will continue to work with the twelve FPSL Coordinators to sure up further logistics. I am so excited to continue to move this important organization forward and to dream even bigger for the future. Without the support and commitment of the many in our congregations and in the community, we would not be able to do our work as effectively as we have in the past.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [brian@familypromisesaltlake.org](mailto:brian@familypromisesaltlake.org) or 801-961-8622.

Sincerely,

Brian Diggs, FPSL Executive Director