

Family Promise of Lawton Inc. Encourager

January 2016

Box City

Registration has officially begun—come pick up your packet today from the day center! They can also be found at local high schools and all hosting churches!

SPEND A NIGHT IN A BOX TO FIGHT HOMELESSNESS!

April 1st & 2nd at Cameron University!

Claim your Spot in Box City!

Spend the night in your box, learn about Lawton's Homeless Population, and be entertained by great music from Ken Morrow and Lindsay and Dillon!

Help raise money for homeless families in need of a hand up!



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We are a proud member & supporter of United Way of Southwest Oklahoma

Transforming lives.....one family at a time!

We're on the web
www.familypromiseoflawton.org
 Facebook:
 Family Promise of Lawton Inc



Phone: 580-699-2821
 Mobile: 580-695-3542
 Fax: 580-699-2821
 Email: director.fpo@gmail.com

Lawton OK 73502
 P O Box 142
 Family Promise of Lawton Inc
 Family Promise of Lawton Inc.

Address label

We work with strong, determined families that have hope for a better future.

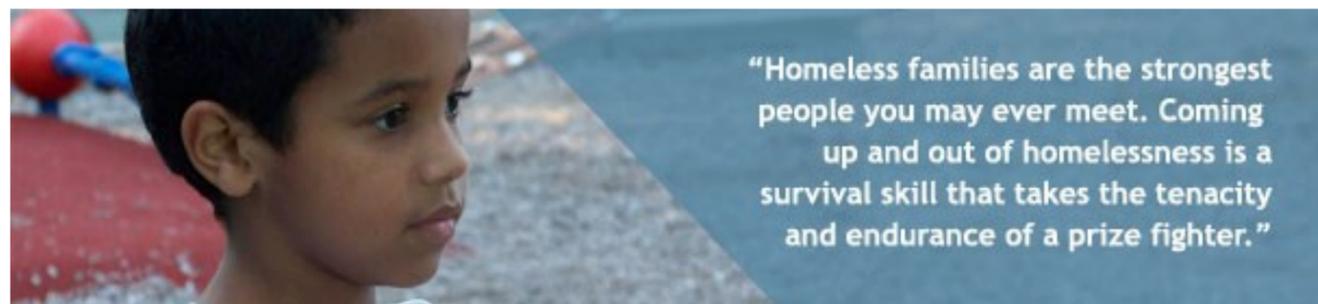
Our mission is to equip and empower homeless families with children to achieve sustainable independence.

We are continually developing our network of volunteers, supporting churches and hosting churches.

If you would like to be apart of our team please contact our office at

580.699.2821

Every child deserves a home.



Courtney's Corner



This month has been so bitter-sweet for me. I experienced many firsts with family promise this month. I was blessed to see Christmas this year from a very different perspective. The generosity and kindness from so many strangers toward our families was so overwhelming.

It was amazing to see that in the midst of crisis our families were blessed with so much love and compassion. First Christian Church went above and beyond to make this time of year so memorable for our families. I also experienced two families securing housing this month. Watching these families develop their skills and self-confidence is so motivating and reminds me exactly why family promise exists. The stories that are developed through family promise are truly special and are what make our program so unique. We all have our own stories involving the families of family promise, I encourage you this month to share these stories that are so close to our heart with a friend that has never heard about family promise.
- Courtney, Director of Family Promise

Budgeting

This month our families had a strong focus on budgeting. In one class we discussed the 8 steps to budget bliss. As our families know everyone has room to improve and learn about budgeting. As these 8 steps have been insightful for our families they might be for yours too!

1. Live within your means—buy things you need not want
2. Track your money—know your patterns
3. Prioritize Spending—Create monthly spending plan
4. Pay yourself first—identify savings before you spend
5. Build a safety net—develop a emergency fund
6. Tackle your credit card debt
7. Pay with cash—more accountable
8. Make room for Fun— everyone needs this!

Spreading the Word

How to talk to your friends, family, and the community about Family Promise

We are always looking for new ways to enhance our community involvement for Family Promise. Our goal is to have every person in Lawton and the surrounding community to know exactly how we serve and what our program provides. In order to accomplish this goal we need advocates like you telling our story! The following is a short elevator speech you can use to talk about family promise with your friends, families or anyone you meet in the community!

"Family Promise of Lawton Inc. is a hospitality program for homeless children and their families. Family Promise utilizes the local faith community to house the guests during the evening and overnight. At these locations, they are provided with an evening meal, caring & listening volunteers, breakfast and a safe environment for a week at a time. Family Promise offers shelter as well as a hand up through their case management program which helps families to secure job's and housing while learn valuable skills for a successful future. The main operations of the program are done at the day center, where guests work on their case plan daily in order to insure a solid reentry into affordable housing."

Family Promise Families



Family Promise is so excited to share that two of our families have secured sustainable housing this month! Both the Rackley's (pictured to the left) and the abbe's secured apartments. With gracious hearts they moved out of family promise and into their very own apartment! Each family was so excited at the chance to be in their own space with their family. They are so thankful for the volunteers and churches that spend countless hours to ensure their comfort and security during this transition. Although Family Promise staff and volunteers will miss their company we are so proud at the progress and success each family has achieved. We are reassured that they are now equipped with skills that will encourage their prosperity and are so excited for what the future holds.

Pictured to the left are the Rackley's on their last day at family promise holding their brand new set of keys!



Family Promise Family showing off their Christmas outfits before Christmas dinner at First Christian church.



Family Promise Children enjoying the dancing santa on Christmas.



Enjoying some quality time with the families before Christmas dinner.

Imperative Needs

We are in great need of the following:

- ⇒ **Trash bags**
- ⇒ Dish soap
- ⇒ **Laundry Detergent**
- ⇒ Air Freshener Spray
- ⇒ Bottled Water

If you can help with these items please contact the center at 699-2821 or feel free to stop by.

A Big Thank you

Christmas was such a fun-filled and busy time of year for Family Promise. We witnessed so many gracious spirits and kind hearts during this holiday season. Although each donor wanted to remain anonymous we had abundant amount of Christmas gifts and food donated! This truly made the holidays a pleasant time for a Christmas away from home. THANK YOU to everyone who donated and helped to make the holidays so special!