

## FIRST GRADUATES!

**Our first family to enter the program is graduating this week.** They will be moving into a three-bedroom home on the east side of Bartlesville. They could use some start-up groceries to fill the refrigerator, such as milk and apple juice. They also need some of the basics, like toilet paper, paper towels, toothpaste.



They could also use curtains. The house has 13 windows and only 2 have curtains. Mary Martha Outreach has provided much furniture. However, they could still use lamps and a dresser for 3-year-old Savannah.

If you are willing to help with any of their move-in needs, please call Director Ashley Sikes at 918-815-3457 immediately. Thanks for all your help.

## BOARD MEMBERS

At the December meeting of the Board of Trustees, the following slate of officers was elected

Bob Shell, President  
Amy Mabry, Vice President  
Jamie Carithers, Secretary  
Kathleen Hargis, Treasurer

Board members serve a 3-year term, rotating by classes. The following members are in each class.

<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Roger Alexander	Kevin Bjornen	Larry Cowan
Mili Cappelletti	Chris Lavers	Jamie Carithers
Daryl Hayes	Amy Mabry	Kathleen Hargis
Stephani Horn	Bob Shell	Rob J. Fries

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas. Lots of exciting things have been happening during the month of December. Since the last newsletter, another family joined the Family Promise Program. She is a single mother with two small children, ages one and two. We are very excited to announce that our first family has just graduated from our program and moved into their own home. Congratulations Matthew and Marie!



I want to express my sincere appreciation for the tremendous outpouring of love, caring and compassionate support from our host congregations and community members during this Christmas season. Thanks to each of you, the children had the best Christmas ever!

A special thank you to the Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise for providing coats, hats and mittens for the families in our program and to Mary Martha Outreach for providing food for the families and helping with much needed furnishings for Matthew and Marie's new house.

Thank you for giving our families hope!

Blessings, Ashley

## YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2015, we were able to raise \$82,932 toward operating budget. With an average monthly expense of \$7,380 for the 5 months of operation (August-December), we need to raise at least that same amount in 2016 to remain viable.

Your financial gifts in 2015 were essential to our program; please consider prayerfully how you will give in 2016. Thank you!

## CHRISTMAS FOR FAMILY PROMISE FAMILIES

Christmas time for our families was full of activities. We had a wreath in the [Kiwaniis Club](#) Holiday Wreaths contest. It was on display at the Painted Horse and bidding on our wreath raised funds for our programs. Family Promise also participated in the Kiwanis Hometown Holiday Market where local charities had another opportunity to raise funds.



We also had a float in the Kiwanis Bartlesville Christmas Parade. Our families participated in decorating the float and

riding in the parade. A flatbed trailer rolled up to [Adams Boulevard Church of Christ](#) and the kids draped it with strings of lights, a house structure and banners. The energy and the enthusiasm of the families was contagious. In less than an hour, our float came together.



The day of the parade, the whole troop of families walked from the [Anchor House](#) to the parade staging area where the excitement of the parade event was heightened. We loaded our float with parents and eight children plus the three children of our director, Ashley Sikes. The parade was a pretty big deal.



The [Anchor House](#) became a center of the Christmas celebration for the families including decorating the Christmas Tree.



## SECOND ROTATION

From Thanksgiving to Christmas through the season of Advent, our families started their 2<sup>nd</sup> rotation through our host congregations. [St. Luke's Episcopal Church](#), [Adams Boulevard Church of Christ](#), [Dewey United Methodist Church](#) and [Disciples Christian Church](#)



hosted the families and helped them celebrate the season. They provided home cooked meals and seasonal activities such as making ornaments for the Christmas tree and decorating cupcakes. The families even got a chance to go to the park during a mild December afternoon. [East Bartlesville Christian Church](#) invited the families into their church home during the week of Christmas as a special part of their ministry.

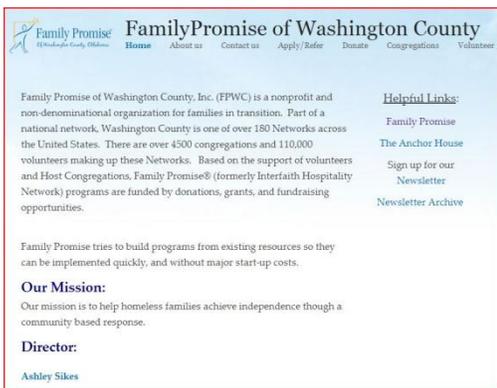


Three families living in close proximity 24-7 is not always easy. We are certain each of these families would tell you that they would have preferred to spend Christmas in their own homes. However, it is also certain that the love and hospitality they received during this December made it one they will always remember.



## WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE

Family Promise of Washington County Oklahoma has both a [website](#) and a [Facebook](#) page. Please visit both; be sure to “Like” us on Facebook, if you haven’t already.



## HOST CONGREGATIONS

**Host congregations** provide lodging, three meals a day, and caring hospitality 4 weeks a year. FPWC-OK Host congregations currently include:

- [Adams Boulevard Church of Christ](#)
- [Christ Community Church](#)
- [City Church](#)
- Comunidad Hispana
- [Dewey Christian Church](#)
- [Dewey United Methodist Church](#)
- [Disciples Christian Church](#)
- [East Bartlesville Christian Church](#)
- Harvestime Assembly of God
- Liberty Chapel of Praise
- [St. Luke’s Episcopal Church](#)

The program would not be able to exist without these host congregations. We give thanks daily for each of these congregations.

## VOLUNTEERS

A big thank you to all our volunteers who serve in churches, at the day center, drive the van, and pinch hit when needed. The heartbeat of any non-profit organization is its volunteers. Throughout the year many of you have helped get our organization up and running. Now a new need has arisen, a volunteer base which can be called upon for maintenance and special projects. Ashley, M’liss Jenkins, and I are starting a list for those volunteers who would like to make themselves available for short term projects, or for driving the families in the van. Often Ashley will have a need for a van driver for the families or a mailing that needs processing and she either gets tied up with it herself or calls on her family to help out. In order for her to be free for case management and marketing, we as volunteers, could make her load a little lighter. In the process, we could develop a base for volunteer and fund raising activities, enjoy the fellowship of likeminded people, and perhaps have some fun.

The main need at present is a van driver. At present funds do not allow the hiring of a van driver. When we get city approval to allow the families to spend the night in churches instead of paying for overnight lodging, the van driver position could become a staff position. But at present it’s a volunteer position that M’liss and her husband, Carl, have been filling a lot. If you could volunteer to assist with the van driving it would be a great help. The families need to be picked up from churches in the mornings and delivered to the churches in the evenings for dinner and sometimes dropped off at Johnstone apartments. Sometimes they have appointments during the day also. If you would reply to this link and fill out the [volunteer form](#) on our website, we will add you to our volunteer list. You can volunteer for certain days or time of day. You can volunteer for office or clerical work such as mail outs. Or you may want to volunteer for special projects.

We would also like to have at least an annual craft fair fund raiser in the fall before Christmas each year. So all you crafters start thinking about what fun that might be. M’liss and Mili Cappelletti did many crafts themselves this year for the Hometown Holiday Market as a fund raiser. Maybe next year we can add to this project with more artisans participating.

If you have questions, please call me at 918-237-7982.

Mary Shell, Volunteer Coordinator