



Family Promise®  
of Monmouth County

# News

SPRING 2008

## May 3, 2008: NJ Marathon Weekend



On May 3 we are excited to be working once again with a great organization, Sudden Unexplained Death in Children (SUDC), to partner with the NJ Marathon organization and the NJ Road Runners Club (NJRRC) to usher in the 12th annual NJ Marathon Weekend by presenting its Saturday events; sponsored by Investors Savings Bank. The events are for kids of all ages and will take place on the oceanfront at the Long Branch Promenade and Great Lawn.

The events begin at 8:30am with the start of the 3 Mile Fun Walk/Run. At the conclusion of the 3 mile journey all entrants will be treated to a light breakfast on the Great Lawn, courtesy of the Windmill Restaurant. At 9:00am the Kids Races for Kids opens— a festive event complete with a mini-fair, face painting, Bubbles the Clown, the Fun Bus (a school bus converted to a mini-gym for little ones), and the wild and zany Mr. Scott the Music Man. In the midst of all of this will



be the main event – the races for kids from ages 2-12. And at 10:00am the 'Kids' 1.2 Mile Marathon goes off; a new event that is a run for kids of all ages. The event concludes with a "toy" gift auction,

courtesy of Glenwood Dental, where every child gets a chance to win.

Also, while these events are going on, the NJ Marathon Health & Fitness Expo will be taking place under the big tent on Northern end of the Great Lawn. Come on out and soak up the atmosphere of a world class marathon and help raise money for Family Promise of Monmouth County.

The application form for all three events and the Family Promise of Monmouth County sponsorship form are available from our web site – [www.familypromisemc.org](http://www.familypromisemc.org) – or by calling Chuck or Debbi Payette at 732-542-5517. Be sure to check off FPMC on your application so that your entire entry fee will go to FPMC. We want to encourage all walkers and runners to raise funds for FPMC by obtaining sponsorship – anyone raising \$100 or more will have a choice of an embroidered FPMC golf shirt or t-shirt.



# Hope for Children Foundation Support Helps Develop New Programs

Family Promise of Monmouth County has been chosen, for the third year, as beneficiary of funds raised by the Hope for Children Foundation. This local foundation under the direction of Eric Hinds and MaryBeth Walz continues to create opportunities and new beginnings for families served by our network.

Proceeds received from the most recent gala, combined with funding from last year's gala, will help create the following programs for all graduating families:



**A Hand Up:** This program provides monies for security deposits on apartments and utility connections, moving expenses and furniture donation pickup/storage, and other moving related costs. Also within this program expenses are covered for adults to obtain job training or education, reimbursement of childcare costs and transportation while attending these programs, and childhood enrichment programs such as camp, dance classes or other opportunities for children in or recently graduated from the shelter.

**Computer & Internet:** All graduating families who are interested may obtain one computer and one year of internet service upon moving into their own apartment or home.

**Family Pride:** A unique program providing in-home stabilization/case management services to families who have graduated from the shelter, meeting with them frequently either in their home, at work or other location of their choosing. The goals of this program are to ensure that families feel supported and capable of coping and to help them learn how to manage independence on a long-term basis to prevent homelessness from recurring. Families may choose to participate in this counseling for up to one year.

**A Step Up:** Qualified single parents, who choose to obtain one to two years of education or training in an in-

demand field, may receive help with rent, utilities, child care and transportation costs if they continue to successfully attend classes and work at least part time while doing so. Case management is a mandatory component of the program to ensure success, and families are transitioned into independence upon completion of a degree or certification in their field.

An amount was also designated for support of existing programs and for development of new programs as the need arises. We are all ex-

tremely excited about these new and innovative programs and believe they will have tremendous positive impact on all the families we serve.

Thanks to funding received from Hope for Children, the length of stay for families has been cut dramatically over the past year, and the quality of life for them has increased beyond explanation. The programs we've created have given families the ability to overcome obstacles in a way they had only dreamed; the partnership between HFCF and Family Promise has changed lives for generations to come.

We encourage everyone to support the Hope for Children Foundation gala each November, and to be a part of the amazing changes here at Family Promise of Monmouth County!

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## Help Wanted

**Committee members:** A few hours each month to serve on one of 6 committees that keep our organization thriving and growing. Committee choices include: Day Center, Public Relations, Congregation Care, Development (fundraising), Board Development, and Personnel.

Our competent and capable committee heads have lots of plans for 2008; the only thing limiting us is available hands to help make these dreams a reality. Please consider sharing your time and talent with us as we work to provide hope and support for homeless families in Monmouth County. Why not consider volunteering with a friend? For more information on how you can make a difference, please email Carol Barnett at

# Gift from Hope for Children Foundation



HFCF board members how best to impact the families that are currently in the Network. During the discussion, the HFCF board members asked if there was a particular family that could be helped immediately. Tara mentioned a guest named Maria and her 2 children who were ready to leave the net-

*From left to right: Karen Hinds, Eric Hinds, Chuck Payette, MaryBeth Walz, Tara Maffei, Carol Barnett, Jeanette Muldoon, Phoebe Edwards, Dan Carluccio, and Jennifer Mendez.*

On February 26<sup>th</sup> Family Promise board members were given a check for \$85,000 from the Hope for Children Foundation. Eric Hinds and MaryBeth Walz (co-founders of HFCF) attended the meeting to make the presentation of funds.

On an annual basis HFCF identifies an established charitable organization(s) that will benefit from the annual fundraiser live auction dinner dance. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year Family Promise has been selected as a beneficiary. Hope for Children Foundation is committed to help make a significant positive difference in the lives of children in our local community. Family Promise has proven that it has the ability to use the funds to accomplish the goals of the foundation.

As Director of Family Promise, Tara Maffei outlined specifically how the funds would be spent and strategized with the

work. Maria was working two jobs and was ready to take an interview for her third job, getting up very early in the morning to get her children to day care and returning very late at night. The determination that Maria was showing to make life better for her children was all that the board members needed to hear to decide to offer to pay for an apartment for one year to help ease financial pressures for Maria so she could focus on her children and her education.

On February 13<sup>th</sup> Maria and her children were pleasantly surprised to see their apartment fully furnished and cleaned with the help of HFCF and Family Promise. The joyful expressions on their faces that night reaffirmed the importance of our organization and the impact that it can make on the many families that come through our network.

## Day Center Wish List

Congregations and community groups sometimes ask what they can do to help here at the Day Center. The "Wish List" comes to mind most often, and I try to put it into perspective by asking groups what they shop for each month to keep their own households up and running. Consider hygiene items like toothpaste, shampoo, soap, shavers, hair spray, lotion, detergent, housecleaners and general "upkeep" items. Then add to those health items such as Tylenol (for all ages), Advil, thermometers, feminine hygiene products, vitamins, diapers, wipes, medicines for stomach upset, diarrhea, minor skin irritations, insect bites or infections, band aids, and first aid. When

you have that list completed, multiply it by 5 families who live with us and you have an idea of the huge number of products we need to keep our day center running every month!

The next time a group you know is looking for a project, suggest that they create a "Wishing Well" and post the items listed above for donation. Space doesn't have to be an issue, a wishing well can be created by simply using a large box with a sign, or in the case of groups who want a more prominent focus on Family Promise, a large, fancy display can be featured. Let those creative juices flow!

We will gladly come by and pick up whatever items are collected! Call the day center at 732-495-1050 for more information or to create a pickup schedule for wishing well items. Thank you!

**FAMILY PROMISE OF MONMOUTH COUNTY**

PO Box 304  
Keansburg, NJ 07734

Phone: 732-495-1050  
Fax: 732-495-0400  
Email: [info@familypromisemc.org](mailto:info@familypromisemc.org)

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**Building community, strengthening lives.**

**We're on the web.! Visit us  
at [familypromisemc.org](http://familypromisemc.org)**

**A PDF version of this newsletter is  
available online.**

# A Holiday Season to Remember

Family Promise of Monmouth County provides emergency shelter to homeless families 365 days each year, and has consistently done so since 2001. Families are homeless year round, which means that even on major holidays like Christmas and Easter there are those who are without a permanent home of their own. Our volunteers have always been there to provide not only a comforting place for families on these holidays, but also gifts, activities and friendship.

This past year, the network wanted to try something new for the Christmas holiday, and reached out to the Ocean Place Resort & Spa located in Long Branch, New Jersey. The location was chosen because they hosted the Hope for Children gala in November and are familiar with Family Promise and our mission. Our hope was to provide an exciting alternative to families in the program for the Christmas holiday, and the staff at Ocean Place was more than eager to step up to the plate. Hotel manager Mr. Otto Svensson, his administrative assistant Lillian, and Director of Sales & Marketing Mr. Joe Jenci went above and beyond to ensure that our guests felt welcome and that plans went off without a hitch.

Four families were given luxurious accommodations for three days at Ocean Place Resort & Spa free of

charge, and each family had the opportunity to eat in the restaurants, swim and enjoy quality time alone together. Each family received bags of gifts from various "Santas" including Above All Taxi service, parishioners and friends of St. George's by-the-River in Rumson, United Way of Monmouth County and other caring individuals. The few ancillary costs for food and other expenses were picked up by Christ Episcopal Church and a group of mediation attorneys in Monmouth-Ocean County. This amazing example of community partnership translated into a magical holiday for four families. A total of seven children whose ages ranged from 3 and 10 came back after Christmas telling stories of presents left by Santa in the closets, of swimming together in the pool, of room service and of the "best Christmas ever" – until they get their very own beds.

Our deepest gratitude to Ocean Place Resort & Spa and special thanks to everyone who helped make this Christmas Season magical – including the staff at Family Promise who worked so hard at keeping the spirit alive for everyone! We're looking forward to the Christmas holiday next year and what we hope will be an extraordinary tradition with Ocean Place Resort & Spa in Long Branch.