



# FAMILY *Matters*

The newsletter of Family Promise® of Monmouth County\_

Spring 2010

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On any given day in  
Monmouth County,

**242 children**  
**are without homes.**

A recent report by the  
National Center on Family  
Homelessness estimates  
that New Jersey has  
7,557 homeless children.

## FPMC's 1st Annual Cardboard Box City

# Experience Homelessness for a Night

This fall, when Cardboard Box City comes to Monmouth county, friends of FPMC will spend the night outdoors together.

But we're not just camping out.

By sleeping on the ground with only a cardboard box for shelter and dining from a soup line, we hope to identify with those who must live this way every day. And we'll raise funds and improve public awareness about homelessness.

"While participants experience a small taste of homelessness," says FPMC Director Shanna Goldstein, "for some local families, it is an ongoing struggle."

CBC "residents" raise a minimum of \$100 in pledges and contributions to assist Family Promise of Monmouth County in helping families get

### Not Your Usual "Campout"



back on their feet. They'll decorate boxes and sleep overnight in their cardboard creations. **Rain or Shine!!!!**

Activities, entertainment and food will be provided. Awards will be given to those who raise the most money and for the most creative dwelling.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Cardboard Box City Fundraiser and Awareness Event

**When:** September 24, 2010  
**Where:** Monmouth Church of Christ  
312 Hance Avenue  
Tinton Falls, NJ 07724

**Who:** Scout troops, and youth groups with adult supervision, families, adults

**How:** Participants will raise \$100 or more in pledges and contributions and provide their own dwellings. (Appliance stores can provide large boxes)



**Bad back? Allergies?**

**Be a Virtual Resident: Raise pledges and sleep at home!!**

For more information and to register,  
go to our website [www.familypromisemc.org](http://www.familypromisemc.org)

## FPMC Staff

Shanna Goldstein  
*Executive Director*

Michael Siciliano  
*Transportation  
Coordinator*

Jeri Held  
*Bookkeeper*

## Board of Trustees

Carol Barnett  
*President*

Loryn Lawson  
*Vice President*

Jill Niehaus  
*Secretary*

Jennifer Jaghab  
*Treasurer*

Laurie Kraus  
Elaine Young

# Board of Trustees Seeks New Members

When you think about the volunteers for FPMC, the Board of Trustees may not be the first thing that comes to mind.

The Board oversees the business of the agency - finances, fundraising, expanding services and networking in the community. Other volunteers staff our administrative committees, including personnel, public relations, financial, congregational care, event coordination and fundraising and advocacy. All are crucial to keeping money coming in and the center operating.

Our newest member, Laurie Kraus, served as event coordinator for our Fall Dinner Dance at McLoones. A government project leader for the U.S. Army at Fort Monmouth, Laurie studied computer science at Princeton and holds a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University. She lives in Old Bridge with her husband Jay, two sons and two dogs. Laurie will coordinate the upcoming N.J. Marathon (see p. 4) and co-chairing the Cardboard Box City event (p. 1).

With only six slots filled on our 10-12 member board, we are actively seeking new members.

Longtime board members Chuck Payette and Mark Bueide recently resigned. They will be greatly missed.

If you or someone you know is willing to step up and serve on the Board of Trustees, please contact our board president, Carol Barnett, at [carol@familypromisemc.org](mailto:carol@familypromisemc.org).

A passion for our mission is the most important criterion but experience in one of the following is a plus:

- public relations or marketing,
- finance/accounting,
- event planning
- project management
- pastoral care
- real estate,
- fundraising
- personnel
- business planning

We provide wonderful opportunities to make a difference and the rewards are many.

## Briefly . . .

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- **2009 Summary:** Last year Family Promise of Monmouth County provided shelter and opportunities to 16 families comprised of 18 adults and 26 children. Since we opened our doors in 2001, we have served 132 families. Without the generous support of so many individuals, this would not be possible.
- **Family Promise In the News:** Two of Family Promise's outstanding graduates, **Jamillah Johnson** and **Naomi Torres**, were featured last month in the *Asbury Park Press* (and its local weekly edition *Community Reporter*). We are grateful to them for graciously agreeing to share their stories. Articles have appeared featuring our Fall Fund-raiser at McLoone's Pier House (*Atlanticville – Oct. 09*), and hosting for Family Promise guests by Ocean Place Resort for Christmas (*Bayshore Courier*).

- **New—Weekly Facebook Updates:** Executive Director **Shanna Goldstein** will keep you informed and answer your questions about our programs with weekly posts on our Facebook page. Just go to our website and click on the link for Facebook (left side of the screen). You can even follow us on Twitter and leave your comments. We look forward to hearing from you!



**See you online!**

## Warm Up the Ovens For May Bake Sales!

We are asking all of our host and support congregations to hold a bake sale in May for Family Promise. Last year three congregations participated and we made approximately \$500, so think what we can do if everyone gets involved!

This is a great opportunity to get new groups in your congregation involved and to raise awareness of our mission. Please contact board member Elaine Young, at [ladya13@aol.com](mailto:ladya13@aol.com) or 732-213-3536.





## Reluctant Coordinators Love Serving at St. George's-by-the-River

Four years ago **John and Lynn Imperatore** were asked by their minister, Ophelia Laughlin, to serve as the new coordinators for Family Promise at their church, **St. George's-by-the-River Episcopal Church** in Rumson.

At first, they hesitated. "We agreed to commit to one year," remembers Lynn. But after a year, the Imperatores, who have two daughters and live in Fair Haven, had no interest in stopping.

"We get so much back," says John. "We learn about our guests and try to understand what they're going through."

They also like deploying the skills of the people in their parish who cook, sleep overnight and spend time with the families. A baby was born while staying there and guests have been helped with job interviews.

"We're fortunate to have great volunteers," he adds.

St. Georges, one of the original host congregations for Family Promise, has no trouble finding volunteers from its membership of nearly 2,000 to fill its slots, who have discovered, like the Imperatores, that doing good is not only rewarding but fun.

"People love to get their kids involved," says Lynn. "They run around and play with the kids from Family Promise. They're so cute together."

"The kids go off to school with their backpacks and they're just like any other kids," John observes. Ultimately it's about the kids."

Lynn admits that her stereotypes about the homeless imploded shortly after getting to know them.

"I imagined an older man, unshowered, with a bottle in his hand. But these are families just like us."

"Each story has its own root," explains John. "Usually a series of unfortunate events. Most guests are eager to work and to do the right thing."

John and Lynn have noticed that many guests have already been wounded by their life circumstances and by family members. They hope the love and caring the clients experience in the program will "restore some of their faith in people."

An immediate goal the Imperatores have is to codify the rules and policies for guests so that they're similar in each host congregation. But the families are more than guests to them.

"In the seven days they're here you get very close," John says. "We feel they're our friends."

"It's a nice feeling," says Lynn.



## FPMC Special Supporters

Mansion Donors

*Church World Services, Inc.*

*Phoebe Edwards*

*Michael & Britt Garrison*

*Carol Barnett*

House Donors

*The Church of St. Anselm*

*Greg & Jeri Held*

Condo Donors

*First Presbyterian Church  
of Freehold*

*Patrick Hughes*

*William & Marie Burke*

*Jeffrey Tyler*

*Howard & Karen Lang*

## Thank You for Your Support!

*For information on our donor recognition program see our website*

### Mark your Calendar Upcoming Events at FPMC

**NJ Marathon – May 1-2 Long Branch NJ**

**Host and Support Congregations  
to hold Bake Sales during the month of May**

**1st Annual Cardboard Box City  
Friday September 24, 2010 5pm  
Monmouth Church of Christ Tinton Falls**

[www.familypromisemc.org](http://www.familypromisemc.org)

# Help Needed at NJ Marathon Family Fun Races



As part of the NJ Marathon Festival weekend of events on May 1-2, 2010 Family Promise will provide 30 volunteers from 8 to 11 a.m. on Saturday to assist with the Family Fun Races. The NJ Marathon is a generous supporter of FPMC.

Our volunteers will be helping with setup and staffing for the food tent, running the games and staffing the prize tables, manning the water station and directing runners in the 3 and 1.2 mile races, handing out medals and organizing the Kids' races, and assisting with take down and clean up.

This is a great volunteer activity, and a great jumpstart to the summer season.

We encourage all walkers and runners to raise funds for FPMC by obtaining sponsorship. You can download a registration form if you want to run (or walk) in one of the races and obtain sponsors for donations to Family Promise: <http://www.familypromisemc.org/> and click on "Kids Races Application" on the left side.

Bring your family and participate in the Family Fun events including:

A three mile Fun Walk/Run  
Bubbles the Clown

"Kids" 8-adult - 1.2 Mile Marathon  
The "Fun Bus"

Races for Kids (ages 2-12)  
Mr. Scott the Music Man

In addition to these events there will be face painting, music, carnival games, crafts, refreshments, awards, medals and T-shirts. It is a great festival for the entire family! The fun starts at 8:30 a.m. and goes until noon, on the Great Lawn at the Ocean Promenade in Long Branch. For information on NJ Marathon go to [http://www.njmarathon.org/Saturday\\_Events.html](http://www.njmarathon.org/Saturday_Events.html).

**To volunteer your services contact Laurie Kraus 732-261-4657 or [lauriekraus@gmail.com](mailto:lauriekraus@gmail.com)**

**Thank you in advance for your support! See you on May 1.**

Building Community, Strengthening Lives

