

# Family Promise The Year in Review 2009

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, 32747 Lake Road, Avon Lake, OH 44012  
[www.celcal.org](http://www.celcal.org) celc@centurytel.net 440-933-6263

## Overview

Family Promise is a non-profit, non-denominational organization for families in transition in Lorain County. The program brings shelter, meals, and support services to families without homes. Family Promise works with social service agencies to insure that families considered for the program are not involved in drug or alcohol abuse, do not have a mental illness or are not running from an abusive situation. All guest families must involve children. The typical family may have suffered from an event such as a plant closing, the loss of a job, a foreclosure or loss of a living arrangement. For the first year, the average stay in the program has been less than 60 days.

Host churches are asked to house and feed the families, no more than 14 people, for about 4 weeks in a year in one-week at a time intervals. Our Congregation has continued to support the participation in this Outreach Ministry for our third year.

### Program Coordinators

- Chuck Heindrichs
- Mike Muir

### Greeter

- Helen Goodwin

### Meals

- Kristen Van Euwen

### Setup/Tear Down

- Bob Hlava

### Activities (Hangin' Out)

- Mike Muir

### Overnighters

- Chuck Heindrichs

### Caller

- Jean Carlson

## Program Details

Family Promise works with social service agencies to insure that families considered for the program are not involved in drug or alcohol abuse, do not have a mental illness or are not running from an abusive situation. All guest families must involve children. The typical family may have suffered from an event such as a plant closing, the loss of a job, a foreclosure or loss of a living arrangement. In Lorain County, the average stay in the program for the families has been under 60 days.

The Day Center at 709 Middle Road in Elyria is a place where the families receive mail, shower, make phonecalls, care for small children, seek employment and receive case management by the Executive Director, during the day. Transportation to and from the Day Center and church is

### Matthew 26:44

*“Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?”*

## FAMILY PROMISE – 2009

### Summary of Family Promise Activity for 2009

#### Matthew 26:45

*“I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.”*



Lisa Welch and Family

- Provided **3573** nights of shelter
- Served **10,719** meals
- Served **27** families served, **24** families exited
- **45** day average length of stay
- **88%** of exited families to housing
- Served **44** children
- Served **31** adults
- **First Lutheran Church** in Lorain and **Church of the Redeemer** in Lorain were welcomed as new host congregations in 2010!
- During the New Year’s week at Sunset Shores 8 different congregations came together to provide meals, hospitality and overnight security for the families. It truly takes a dedicated volunteer to give their time during the holiday season, it means alot to our families and it means a lot to our staff who were able to enjoy some time off. Our church was one of the 8 congregations helping out during the holidays.
- Our church supported Lisa and her family as shown in the photograph. Lisa has excited the program having been provided housing. Many families commented that this was the best Christmas their children ever had!
- Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church will host 5 weeks in 2010:

February 28 - March 6

June 20 - June 26

August 15 - August 21

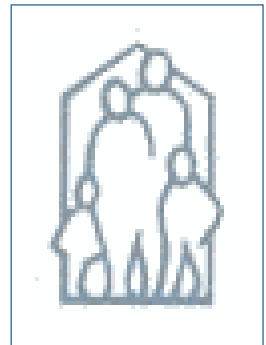
October 31 - November 6

December 5 - December 11

## Opportunities To Help

The program needs a few volunteers to do the following:

- To prepare, bring in and share a meal with the families from about 5:30 to 6:30 PM. Typical meals each night include tacos, chicken in many forms, sloppy joes, beef and mashed potatoes, hamburgers/hot dogs, casseroles and lasagna served with a salad and maybe some rolls. We have an oven and microwave in our kitchen as well as a freezer and refrigerator.
- To come in around 6:00 PM and simply ‘hang out’ with the families until about 8:00 PM. We have available all manner of crafts, kits, toys, books, puzzles, games, TV with DVD’s and summer activities with bikes, balloons and whatnot. We just need volunteers to come, nothing to prepare or get ready for, and just hang out.
- To simply come in around 8:00 PM, meet the families and sleep until 6:00 AM when the families are picked up and returned to the Day Center.
- To help on Sunday after the late service to set up or early on the last Sunday to take down the Sunday School rooms and Social Hall for our host week. This takes about an hour or so.
- To help with laundry, especially, at the end of the host week.



*Interfaith Hospitality Network.*

### **Program Details from page 1**

provided in a 15 passenger van supplied by the organization. Children attend their normal schools.

The Day Center also provides families with Internet access and a fax capability so important in today’s environment when seeking employment and other activities such as health care for their children, school activities and home work done through the Internet.

### **Hebrews 13:2**

*“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.”*

## Support Church

The **Seventh Day Adventist Church of Elyria** is a support church for us. Some churches in the county may not have the space or capacity to host families but do want to be actively involved in the program. Mike and Sharon Vince are the coordinators and we want to thank them for providing overnights, volunteers to Hang Out with the families and financial support for our program each and every host week.

## Family Promise Volunteer Coordinators Tasks

- 1. Overnights:** Recruits members to volunteer to stay overnight during the host week. A minimum of two adults are required to be in the church overnight from approximately 8:00 PM to 6:00 AM.
- 2. Meals:** Oversees the menu-planning for host week to avoid duplication and ensure well balanced meals. Schedules volunteers to prepare and serve supper each night for up to 14 persons. Insures that food is available in the church kitchen for families to make lunches, snack and have breakfast.
- 3. Activities (Hangin' Out):** Recruits volunteers to come and hang out with the families after supper, maintains in the church a stock of crafts, games, DVD's, books, puzzles, toys, bikes and toddler items for use by the families.
- 4. Set Up and Take Down:** Prepares Sunday School rooms for guest families before 3:30 PM on Sunday by removing tables, chairs and other items, covering windows, adding alarm clocks, lamps, bedding and pillows and inflating airbeds in each room. On the last Sunday, prepares for storage of all items assists in loading airbeds for transport to the Day Center and Sunday School rooms and re-configure the Sunday School rooms by 8:00 AM.
- 5. Greeter:** Arrives at the church at about 5:00 PM each night, sets up for supper, helps the meals provider get ready for the families. Greets the families and children as they arrive in the Family Promise van at about 5:30 PM. Helps families get ready for supper and transition to the Hangin' Out volunteers.
- 6. Caller:** Works with activities and meals coordinators to assist in recruiting by calling members to see if they can take part in one of these activities.