

Volunteers Needed for Family Promise Ministry at St. Paul's

"This, rather, is the fasting that I wish... sharing your bread with the hungry, and sheltering the oppressed and the homeless...." Isaiah 58:6-7

As many of you know, St. Paul's is participating in the Family Promise Program. This is an interfaith network of several congregations in Juneau that have joined together to take turns housing homeless families in church facilities for a week or two at a time. The need is great:

- Juneau's rental housing market has long been among the tightest and most expensive in the entire U.S.
- The Juneau School District consistently includes over 100 homeless school children at any given time.
- The only program providing shelter to homeless *families* in Juneau is St. Vincent DePaul's, the demand for which is so great that families often wait years to obtain housing.

As a Family Promise Host Congregation, St. Paul's will provide lodging and meals for up to 3-4 "guest" families (no more than 14 individuals) for three weeks this summer: July 2 – 16, and August 20 – 27. Program guests first arrive on a Sunday evening. Each morning, guests are taken to the Family Promise of Juneau Day Center at Chapel by the Lake, where school-aged kids catch the school bus, and adults meet with the Director, care for pre-school children, make phone calls, and seek housing and employment.

The Family Promise program is well-established; it began in New Jersey over 30 years ago and now includes over 190 local "affiliates," 6,000 congregations, and tens of thousands of volunteers. Nationally, over half the guests are children, most of them under age 6. The typical family is a mother with 2-3 young children.

There are many ways you can help St. Paul's show the face of Christ through the Family Promise program. Whether you provide a hot meal, arrange activities for children, or stay overnight, you will make a difference in the lives of families who have suffered the ordeal of losing their home.

Please review the opportunities on the back of this page. If you want to help, please provide your completed form to Randy Coleman, our Volunteer Coordinator. You could text a picture of the completed form to Randy at 723-6168; [e-mail](#) it, or drop the form in the Family Promise box in the Narthex. We will also have a fillable pdf of the form available soon at the Parish website, stpaulsjuneau.org. If you complete the form online, save it and e-mail it to Randy.

Please contact Randy if you have any questions. Further information is also available at familypromisejuneau.org.

I want to assist the Family Promise Program in the following ways:

- Meal Preparation and Serving
- Supper Volunteer (5:00 pm – 8:00 pm)
- Overnight Volunteer (8:00 pm - 6:30 am)
- First Sunday Afternoon Setup (cots, tables, tents)
- Last Sunday Cleanup (8:00 or 9:00am – get cots and tents ready for delivery to the next church)
- Help with Laundry (towels and sheets)
- Deliver cots and tents to the next church
- Donate non-perishable food items (cereals, snacks, juices, coffee, tea, peanut butter, jelly, etc.)
- I would like more information

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

All volunteers will receive training from Family Promise personnel, and all will receive the Diocesan safe environment training, including a background check.

Please text or email completed form to Randy Coleman at 723-6168 or [e-mail](#), or drop the form in the Family Promise box in the Narthex. If you complete the form online, save it and [e-mail](#) it to Randy.

If you want to help at the Cathedral of the Nativity, please contact Teresa Zimmerman at 523-8982.