

Promise Place Shelter Support Volunteer Duties

Effective February 2022

Family Promise exists to end childhood homelessness, one family at a time.

We provide support and resources to children and their families in a homeless situation until the family can regain sustainable independence. We partner with social service agencies and a diverse network of local congregations to end homelessness one family at a time. One way that we are addressing homelessness is to provide a temporary shelter space for families while they address the issues that have led them to become homeless. Promise Place Shelter is available for families that meet our criteria and who agree to the conditions for being our guests.

The purpose of the Shelter Support Volunteers is to provide hospitality and meals to families staying at Promise Place Shelter. What we mean by hospitality is that we want the volunteers to make the families feel welcome, to offer encouragement and support for them on their journey to achieve stability. It is our hope that church congregations will work as a team to take responsibility for providing three dinner meals a week to the families who are staying at Promise Place Shelter. Any congregation that wants to provide Promise Place Shelter Volunteers will be put on the schedule for a week at a time.

For each church congregation, all volunteers who are participating in bringing meals to the shelter must complete a volunteer application, provide their ID, and give Family Promise permission to complete a background check. Also, we ask that all volunteers complete the Family Promise volunteer online training modules which take approximately 2 hours total and can be completed in segments.

The specific duties of the volunteers are to provide simple, home cooked, or professionally prepared dinner meals to the families. There will not be any more than two families staying at the shelter at any one time and there will not be more than six members per family. We will communicate the family sizes with the congregation in charge of the week's activities. The prepared meals need to be delivered to the shelter at 6 PM on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings. We ask that the meals be delivered in containers that can either be thrown away or kept by the family for other uses. The shelter units have kitchens, so items can be warmed up if necessary.

We also ask the volunteers, if they are comfortable utilizing the current covid safety protocols, to take time to visit with the families. We will provide easy, open-ended questions for the volunteers to ask in order engage the families in a conversation and to give us information about the family's welfare. If the volunteer has a concern about either the condition of the facility or the family's safety or welfare, the volunteer should call the Executive Director at 406-564-5267 immediately.