

FAMILY PROMISE — JANUARY 22 TO FEBRUARY 5, 2012

Family Promise — January 22 thru February 5, 2012

It's never too early to sign up!!! Please stop by the bulletin board (across from the upstairs bathrooms) and sign up to help with the next Family Promise weeks. Please note COGS will now host the families for two weeks at a time. This means that we will only host families twice a year for two weeks each. If you have any

questions please contact Judy Gilman, Lou Ann Shafer, Blanche or Mike Griffin.

Family Promise has produced the following excellent flyer, which describes what is involved when a congregation such as COGS hosts



TYPICAL HOST WEEK

During the week there are approximately 50 slots for volunteers. Some congregations have a different member for each slot; others have volunteers take on multiple roles. Many volunteers bring family and friends to assist with hosting families. Volunteers come from the host and support congregations and are assigned duties by the *Volunteer Coordinators*—Some faith communities will host families at one faith house and will have volunteers also assist from sister congregations. This program attracts family members and their friends, providing an opportunity for others to see the work of your congregation with families in need.

Sunday:

▶ A Network van arrives in the afternoon with beds and the families' personal belongings to be set up in designated space. We provide all linen and beds.

▶ Guest families arrive at the Host congregation Sunday evening. **Four individual rooms** are needed. They are usually Sunday School Rooms or meeting rooms. The rooms for the families and the common area have been set up prior to the arrival.



Each night of hosting:

▶ Families settle in, relax and meet the coordinators and the evening volunteers. At 6:00 PM dinner is served family style. Guests and volunteers share the meal together. Families are responsible for their children and help with clean up and chores.

▶ After dinner, volunteers fellowship with families. Hosts and their families play games, help with homework, watch videos, or just talk.

▶ Food for lunch is available in the kitchen area and

parents make sack lunches for their families for the following day.



▶ Adults turn in around 9:00 PM; children at appropriate earlier bedtimes. Wake up is around 6:00 AM. 2 Volunteers will spend the night at the congregation.

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FAMILY PROMISE — CONTINUED

‡ Breakfast is served around 6:30 AM during the week; typically cereal and other convenient foods. The Network van picks the families up at 7:00 AM.

During the day (Families are not at the congregation):

‡ The Driver takes guests to the Day Center. From there, children will go to school and the parents to their jobs. In the afternoon the reverse is done.

‡ If the parents do not have a job, they work with the Case Manager at the Day Center to seek employment, housing, and other resources to help them regain their independence. The Day Center has bathrooms with showers and other necessities to prepare for the day.

Host Sites do not provide showers or laundry facilities. Only overnight sleeping space, nutritious meals and fellowship.

‡ Everyone returns to the Host Congregation around 5:00 PM and the cycle repeats. The schedule repeats for Monday through Friday. Families are only in the overnight faith shelter in the evening. During the day our staff at the day center provides case management and assistance to help each family achieve their goals of employment and housing.

**Saturday:**

‡ On Saturday the families can sleep in and enjoy a hot breakfast (pancakes or bacon and eggs). Families go back to the Day Center and do what families typically do on weekends—see friends and relatives, take children to activities, etc.

The next Sunday:

‡ On Sunday the families are packed up and out of the facilities prior to Sunday services. Out network van will pick them up at 6:45 to 7:00 a.m. They are taken to the Day Center for the day until it is time to move on to the next congregation. Families that want to attend services will usually do so at their own congregations; some may choose to worship at a host congregation.

...and the next host congregation begins its week.

(A Host week begins on Sunday night at 5 p.m. and ends the following Sunday at 7 a.m. The use of your rooms is only between 5 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily. Participation by your faith house may require that evening, weekly classes and meetings would meet at a different time or location for the host week.)