

Bon Samaritan School • Christian Education
Vacation Bible School • Daughters of the King
Brotherhood of St. Andrew • St. Paul's Day School
Haiti Medical Missions • Bible Study

Music at St. Paul's • Family Promise • Seek{ers}
Worship • Jumble Sale • Prayer Shawl Ministry
CROS Ministries • Paul's Place • Pastoral Care
Youth Programs • Green Team • Church School



**"The tree is known by
its fruit."** ~ Matthew 12:33

I M P A C T
Our Ministries at St. Paul's

The sixth in a series of reports on St. Paul's ministries and outreach, each of which are funded by parishioners' annual pledges and contributions.

Through the Family Promise Ministry, St. Paul's Imparts 'Love Thy Neighbor,' Providing Homeless Kids and Families Lodging and Meals

Through one of St. Paul's most effective ministries, Family Promise, parishioner-volunteers are consistently providing meals and lodging for homeless families from the south Palm Beach community. On this next Sunday, January 17, in what will be our eighth year of involvement in Family Promise, families will be hosted at St. Paul's across the week, with 55-60 volunteers providing their support.



Back in 2008, St. Paul's was among the first congregations in the county to provide the week-long hospitality resources for challenged families. The goal of this ministry is to help families (only parents with children) make the transition from being homeless to sustainable independence and financial stability. Many of these families have lost everything: jobs, their home and furnishings, car, and, in some cases, their health.



Across these eight years with this ministry, the record shows that eight out of ten of these local homeless families recover, find jobs, re-establish a residence and get back to at least reasonably normal lives.

In those years there has been a constant: St. Paul's volunteers were always there to support these families with hospitality, warm meals and lodging.

The ministry is made available in two parts: 1) by providing week-long food and lodging and 2) through Family Promise day centers.

The week begins on Sunday evening when a van arrives at St. Paul's. The families are welcomed by their hosts and hostesses and they are shown the rooms where they will sleep (on the second floor, in the Sunday School area). Families socialize with volunteers, the kids do homework, play games, and enjoy the playground. A hot meal is then served in the Parish Hall. An overnight host stays to respond to any needs. The next morning breakfast is served and bag lunches are prepared, a van takes the families to the day center, the parents are engaged at the day center, or go to interviews or to jobs, or appointments, and the children go to school.

At the local day center on George Bush Boulevard resources are provided to assist the bread-winners find employment, through vocational counseling and job placement. Telephones, computers and printers are available for resumes and correspondence. There is counseling for finances. Social workers assist with the children. Long-term mentoring is practiced. Educational scholarships are offered. The intent is to improve the immediate life experience for the family.



St. Paul's volunteers, Dale Workman, Linda Boyd, Patti Lewis, and Joann Latapie, prepare a meal for guests.



Parishioner Nancy Armstrong entertains the younger guests. She was the first St. Paul's Coordinator for Family Promise, and was a part of its successful launch in 2008.

"I continue to be amazed that men and women, beset with the worst troubles one could imagine, have the resiliency to get back on their feet, recover, and attain a more normal life for their families. It can only be done, however, IF we can give them some breathing room, some resources, to lend them a hand..."

— St. Paul's coordinator

"What impressed me most was that some of the parents who benefited from the ministry, who recovered, who made it, came back to St. Paul's and worked as hosts and prepared the meals in an effort to show the challenged families that it could be done, and by doing so inspired them as they put their lives back together."

— St. Paul's coordinator

And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

~ Matthew 8:20

The overnights, a week at a time, are provided now in south Palm Beach County through 12 congregations, churches and synagogues, involving hundreds of committed volunteers. St. Paul's volunteers, making use of our facilities, each year contribute all of the food, estimated cost to be upwards of \$5,000, and have volunteered some 2,500 hours in their roles in the ministry.

Ministries like Family Promise are made possible by St. Paul's only as a result of solid financial resources (your pledges and contributions), a productive parish organization, quality clergy and staff, well-maintained facilities, and responsive parishioners.

At the beginning, with St. Gregory's and Advent Lutheran Church, St. Paul's folks hosted Family Promise families as many as seven and eight times a year, a major effort to get this ministry underway. We have seen an increase of families in the homeless population. There were more than twice

as many "clients families" served in 2015 than in 2014, with over 8, 836 "family nights" provided in 2015 by congregations here in south Palm Beach County, a record high in the eight years of operations here.

With other congregations now involved, we serve as the host congregaion four times a year. Family Promise is a national organization (192 chapters in 41 states) with now two chapters in Palm Beach County. This a non-governmental effort, funded entirely by the private sector, staffed by volunteers from local congregations.



"One family had four or five children, there were serious health problems on top of no job, no car, no home. The oldest child, a teenager, took full advantage of Family Promise resources, followed leads, landed a job and was able to pull this family out of a seemingly hopeless problem. St. Paul's, through this ministry, Family Promise, helped cause that very desirable result."

— St. Paul's volunteer

"Having been a part of this experience, one can realize how St. Paul's is able to be a leader in starting and expanding these ministries. We are generous both in our pledges and contributions and we are generous with our time and spirit to respond to calls for help. It's not just in Family Promise, it is through all of our ministries."

— St. Paul's volunteer