As we approach the end of 2019, I would like to reflect over the past two years. I am fast approaching my fourth anniversary with this amazing organization. There is so much to celebrate. Together, we commemorated Family Promise of Wake County’s 25th Anniversary, from our incorporation in 1993 to the arrival of our first family in the spring of 1994. During our anniversary celebration, we also served our 1,500th family. While this may not seem like something to celebrate, I believe our community is fortunate to have an agency, such as Family Promise of Wake County, to serve these families experiencing homelessness. Since my last note, there have been many successes to celebrate, some of which are included in this 25th Anniversary Report.

Continued inside
Tara and her 13-year-old daughter, Tiara, found themselves in the very unfamiliar place of being homeless in early 2019. They had been living with her brother and his wife when financial troubles resulted in their eviction. Tara was referred to one agency, which then referred her to Family Promise of Wake County at the end of February.

“It was hard moving from church to church every week, but with the help of Family Promise and friends, I was ultimately able to find a job that I love,” she said. Tara previously worked at a temp agency while also working a second job. The working environment at one job site was very hostile, and, despite having a Commercial Driver’s License, Tara ended up outside with a shovel. That was not her vision for the future for her and Tiara! During her first week in Family Promise, Tara found her current job, which has provided opportunities for advancement and training. “They want you to succeed,” Tara said with a smile.

After 10 weeks in Family Promise’s Emergency Shelter program, Tara and Tiara moved into the Transitional Housing program and were chosen to be the first residents of a newly remodeled apartment. “It makes me proud to see what I achieved in a few short weeks,” Tara said. Her daughter, Tiara, has also thrived with the added assistance of a local teen center.

Tara’s Case Manager and Family Promise of Wake County’s life skills classes have helped her succeed in her new life. She has learned how to save money and eat more nutritionally, among other things. “They teach you to fish, not to be given a fish,” Tara explained. An active member of her church with her daughter, Tara is motivated by her faith to continue achieving her goals.

“I made a vow to God to use me. This is not my life to do what I want to do, but to fulfill my purpose. I never stop praying for everybody in this program.”

One of my favorite parts of Family Promise of Wake County is our full continuum of programs and services to help families from emergency shelter all the way to obtaining permanent housing. This allows us to empower our families to choose the path that is best for them. One of my favorite stories involves a family making this choice. Since May 2018, Wake County has moved towards a Coordinated Entry system to assist those experiencing homelessness, in which, based on risk, need, and priority, families are matched to local housing providers, like Family Promise of Wake County. Recently, one of our families staying in our shelter was matched to a permanent housing provider. Even though they have multiple barriers to obtaining permanent housing on their own, this family declined the assistance and expressed a desire to achieve success on their own. In September, they moved into our Transitional Housing and are working toward obtaining their own apartment through our New Lease on Life program. Due to their hard work and quick saving, this family has already paid off an eviction, which was their primary barrier to obtaining permanent housing. As staff of Family Promise of Wake County, we are fortunate to support and empower families making decisions similar to this on a daily basis.

I know that you will enjoy the highlights featured in this celebration of our work together. I hope that you will commit to continuing to support Family Promise of Wake County, but I also challenge you to share our mission and our stories with others close to you. Please help us spread the good works of Family Promise and encourage others to get involved. I cannot express enough gratitude to this community.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this community.
Danielle T. Butler, LCSW, Executive Director
When RaShawn Stanley received the call offering him a position as a Case Manager at Family Promise of Wake County, he started jumping up and down in the middle of WalMart.

“This is the one,” he recalls thinking. RaShawn interned with Family Promise of Wake County during the last semester of his Bachelor of Social Work program at North Carolina State University, and he credits his internship with preparing him for the joys and challenges of a career in social work.

“I didn’t realize how big the crisis is. As I learned more, I knew we’ve got to do something. This is where the spark started for me,” he said.

RaShawn, who joined the staff in March 2019, serves as the Case Manager for the Rapid Rehousing and Aftercare programs. The Rapid Rehousing program moves qualified families directly into affordable permanent housing. The Aftercare program stays in touch with families after they have exited any Family Promise of Wake County program, offering continuing support and advice to keep families out of homelessness in the future. The Aftercare program, especially, has been revitalized under RaShawn’s leadership. He has regular phone check-ins with every family that exited since March 2018 for which the organization has contact information, and every other Saturday he hosts a peer support group or life skills class for parents in the Aftercare program.

For RaShawn, a highlight of his work so far has been placing his first Rapid Rehousing client.

“That one’s going to stick for a minute,” he said. “Home is my favorite place. There’s something about going home that’s refreshing, where you can decompress and feel safe. Everyone needs to have that.”

He’s also proud of Family Promise of Wake County’s ability to accommodate families of all descriptions: single moms and dads, two parent families, families with a child who has graduated high school, multi-generational families, and more.

“We take the whole family. It’s in our name. We don’t define your family. You do.”

“We take the whole family. It’s in our name. We don’t define your family. You do.”

Connect with Family Promise of Wake County by signing up for our monthly newsletter at www.familypromisewake.org.

familypromisewake @WCFamilyPr0mise
Over the past year, Greystar, their vendors, and their employees have made a major impact on the quality of life for the guests at Family Promise of Wake County. Greystar, a global multi-family residential company with a small town feel, has focused its corporate culture around helping others through its Mpact Initiative, the company’s community service committee. They make service their top priority by organizing opportunities for employees, residents, and vendors to volunteer in the community, giving their time, knowledge, and experience. The Mpact Initiative has given generously to Family Promise of Wake County, organizing a host of renovations to our buildings and events for our families. This year they:

- renovated all of the bathrooms in the Day Center,
- facilitated the Be A Square to install a new roof on the Day Center,
- installed a new kitchen in the Day Center,
- hosted a Valentine’s Day celebration for our guests,
- hosted an Easter celebration for our guests,
- hired one of the dads in our program,
- provided volunteers for the Transitional Housing apartment renovations sponsored by the Triangle Apartment Association,
- hosted a book bag drive,
- provided volunteers to feed and entertain the children of families while their parents attend classes.

They did all of this in the last year! Thank you, Greystar, and all of your employees, residents, and vendors for your generosity and great work. You made a difference in the lives of many families.

From the Board of Directors

Dear friends,

Twenty-five and 1,500. Those are the two numbers I think about when I consider the work Family Promise of Wake County has done since we started ramping up for our big anniversary at the beginning of 2018. We hosted our inaugural fundraising event, Keeping the Promise, in April to celebrate our 25th Anniversary. During that time, we had the opportunity to engage with many of our amazing volunteers and supporters—those who have been with us since the beginning, and those who have joined as our organization has grown throughout the years. They shared stories of children and families who have touched their hearts;
of rooms prepared, meals served, and life skills classes taught; and of conversations that lead to new understandings of the housing crisis in our communities.

Just as we were approaching the day of our anniversary celebration, the Board of Trustees received an email from Danielle, our Executive Director, notifying us that Family Promise of Wake County’s 1,500th family entered the Emergency Shelter program. It was a bittersweet moment. On the one hand, this was 1,500 families who experienced the support of our staff, the generosity of our volunteers, and the hope our programs give. On the other hand, this was 1,500 families who experienced the trauma of losing their home; more than 1,500 parents who told their children they had nowhere to stay that night; and more than 1,500 children who wondered when they would get to sleep in their own beds again. And I knew these 1,500 families accounted for only a portion of the people who experienced homelessness in Wake County since we started serving families in 1994.

But, in the end, hope wins. I am hopeful due to the long list of host churches and supporters that we’ve printed on this and the following pages, and I am hopeful because I’ve already seen a portion of the list we will print when we share our story again during our regular mid-year communication. I am hopeful because we have a dedicated staff, including Danielle and RaShawn, who you met on these pages, and also Amy Huenemann, Alissa Pritchett, Latisha Ward, and Carey Phelps. I am hopeful because our Board of Directors, whose names you’ll find on the back page, take their service seriously, thoughtfully make difficult decisions, and give generously of their time.

Finally I’m hopeful because this year, we once again have the opportunity to multiply our impact through a generous matching grant. If we raise $19,000 in new, increased, and lapsed donations between now and February 2020, the Stewards Fund will match it. I hope the stories contained within these pages have given you a sense of the importance of Family Promise of Wake County’s work—and of your continued support.

Thank you for everything you do for Family Promise of Wake County!
Summerlee Walter, President, Board of Trustees

Family Promise 2018 Supporters

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- Apex UMC
- Asbury UMC
- Benson Memorial UMC
- Christ Episcopal Church
- Crosspointe
- Edenton Street UMC
- First Baptist - Salisbury
- First Presbyterian - Garner
- First Presbyterian - Raleigh
- First UMC Cary
- Fuquay Varina UMC
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
- Greenwood Forest Baptist Church
- Hayes Barton UMC
- Highland UMC
- Holland's UMC
- Kirk of Kildaire, Presbyterian
- Millbrook UMC
- North Raleigh Community Church
- North Raleigh UMC
- Oak City Church
- Pleasant Grove Baptist Church
- Soapstone UMC
- St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church
- Saint Andrews UMC
- St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
- St. Francis UMC
- St. Mark's UMC
- St. Michael's Episcopal Church
- Temple Baptist Church
- Trinity Baptist Church
- Wake Forest Presbyterian Church
- Wake Forest UMC
- West Raleigh Presbyterian Church
- Western Blvd. Presbyterian Church
- White Plains UMC
- Windborne UMC

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Edenton Street Methodist Foundry Fellowship Class
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Engebretson, Edward A. & Arlene W.
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Falanga, James J. & Nancy J.
Federal Emergency Food & Shelter Fund
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Fortier, Clifford & Joy
Foster, Darryl J. & Mary Helen
Frankis, William
Frankie, Mark
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Gunter, Glenn D. & Brook B.
Hagen, Nancy L.
Hall, Sarah
Hamilton-Brooks, Robin
Harris, Edward M. & Pamela M.
Hayes Barton UMC Seekers Class
Hayes Barton United Methodist Church
Hedrick, George W.
Herndon, Michelle
Hicks, Mary Ellen
Highland UMC United Methodist Women
Highland United Methodist Church
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Hill, Edward F. II
Hines, Thomas B. & Mary Y.
Hinton, Joyce P.
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Howard, Gina
Hubert, Dahlisia
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Johnson, James C.
Jones, Daryl Ellery & Suzanne E.
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Just Creations, Inc.
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Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church
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Koslowsky, Jeff
Kruger, Mr. R. S.
Kulp, Richard Lee
Kunstling, Ted R. & Frances W.
LaBorde, James L. & Mary B.
Lamont, Raymond Dean, Diane H.
Langfield, Kathy Hughes
Lapp, Janice W.
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McClenny, Aleta Payne
McDonnell, Noel
McGuinness, Richard B.
McLaughlin Properties
McNeil, Violet
Medlin, Melissa
Mescall, Michael E. & Kelly D.
Michalek, Kathleen A.
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Miller, Marlyn S. & Ryan C.
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Oak City Baptist Church
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Patrick, Ari
Payne, Jason
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Qualcomm Matching Gift Program
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Rains, Kaye H. & W. Glenn
Raleigh Baptist Association
Raleigh Friends Meeting
Raleigh Moravian Women's Ministries
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Realtor Foundation of Wake County
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Ruopp, Margaret
Russell, Reid & Laura B.
Sain, William C. & Phyllis C.
Sandve, Richard D & Ann R
Schick, Thomas & Anne S.
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Shearin, G. Thomas & Linda O.
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Truist
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Tyndall, Michael S.
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Wire, Patrick D. & Mary Beth
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Youth Mission Co.
Zazem, Dennis J. & Diane M.
FAMILY PROMISE OF WAKE COUNTY
by the numbers

OUR FUNDING SOURCES (2018)

- 68% Private Contributions
- 25% Gov't Grants
- 4% Program Fees
- 3% Fundraisers

FAMILIES SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITIONED (2018)

- From Emergency Shelter to Transitional or Permanent Housing
- From Transitional Housing to Permanent Housing
- Successfully Remain in Rapid Rehousing

HOW WE SPENT OUR 2018 BUDGET

- 88% Program
- 8% Management
- 4% Fundraising

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Learn more at www.familypromisewake.org.