

**ASHFORD MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Missions Newsletter**  
**April 2021**

**FAMILY PROMISE**

Below are words from the Assistant Director of Family Promise and is a great description of what Family Promise means to those in need in our community, especially how we've come together to help this organization during a pandemic...

A table. A simple kitchen table with mix-matched chairs. A second-hand table, selected from the available options at Habitat ReStore. It's not much to look at. In fact, it, and the chairs that surround it, were given away by someone else, probably replaced by newer, more trendy editions.

It's just an old table. Or is it?

Actually, this is a picture of a dream come true. It is the centerpiece of a home. A family of nine, once experiencing homelessness, now has a home that contains this table. But it is not just a table, it is a place that is large enough for the whole family to gather around for a meal - a breakfast before school, lunch on the weekends, family dinners each evening. It's not just a table, it's conversations, it's wisdom passed down through generations, it's laughter, it's family game night, it's homework-central, it's late-night-heart-to-heart chats, it's tangible love.

A table, yes, but it is also the hub of a home.

We often take our tables for granted. But for this family, who has not been able to sit down for a meal together at the same time for over seven months, this represents a dream come true.

It represents home.

It represents family.

It represents the love of a community that surrounded them when they were at their lowest, when they had no hope, when they were out of options.

It represents Family Promise of Athens.

It represents our many volunteers who have provided meals, beds, a warm, safe place to sleep. It represents a community of support. It represents everyone who has volunteered with and donated to FPA for the past seven months.

A table, yes, but oh so much more.



## **FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEK**

We start our next host week with Union Christian Church and Watkinsville First Christian on Sunday, April 18 – 24!

The families are still being housed at Milledge Avenue Baptist Church and there is very limited contact with the guests. Since Milledge Avenue Baptist is still not using their building yet, the families continue to be housed upstairs and the volunteers are downstairs and away from the families.

They are at full capacity with 15 guests and any hosting time you are able to offer is greatly appreciated! You can volunteer for slots between April 18 – 24 via the SignUp Genius link below.

[Signup Genius Volunteer link](#)



## **SPARROW'S NEST SACK LUNCH**

In lieu of serving a hot lunch at The Sparrow's Nest on the 5th Friday of this month (April 30), we are going to prepare 60 PB&J Sack Lunches for The Sparrow's Nest to pass out as a curbside pick up to our neighbors in need.

If you would like to participate, you can donate via the SignUp Genius link below. From these donations, we will purchase the necessary food and our AMMY group will package the sack lunches, consisting of individually wrapped PB&J sandwiches, an apple, chips, cookie and water. Thanks to our AMMY group for helping with this project!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4ba5af2ca6fc1-sparrows13>



## **PROJECT SAFE**

Thank you to our Ashford members who graciously donated so many needed supplies for Project Safe! These donations are being delivered to Project Safe this week to help their clients who are survivors of domestic violence.



## FOOD PROVIDED FOR COVID 19 VACCINE DRIVES

Ashford provided snacks for the 50 volunteers at Piedmont Oconee Campus on Monday, March 8 while they vaccinated the OCS employees.



Ashford also provided Chick-Fil-A breakfast for the 75 volunteers at University Cancer and Blood Center on Saturday, March 13 during their vaccination drive for the community. We thank CFA Beechwood for providing us with a discount to help keep this effort within budget!



Thank you to those who were able to volunteer at ACTS in March!

The next ACTS Volunteer opportunity will be on Friday, May 28. Volunteer responsibilities include stocking shelves, checking expiration dates on food items, filling baskets for clients and working at the front desk. Please see the SignUp Genius to offer your time to this Mission!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/ACTS>



**ATHENS HOMELESS SHELTER**

The Athens Area Homeless Shelter has been working harder than ever to provide safe shelter for families experiencing homelessness during the COVID 19 crisis. The AAHS has partnered with Best Western Athens to house their staff and 12 families in order for the families to stay in safe, healthy emergency shelter during this pandemic. They are helping to house 31 children and their parents!

Thank you to our Ashford families to allow us to cover the \$80 per month cost of a meal in lieu of our Ashford families providing a meal at the homeless shelter.

We will continue this opportunity until the families can safely be housed back in the Homeless Shelter and meals can be provided in person.