



DILLSBURG BIC CHURCH
GROWING DEEP REACHING FAR

18 East Harrisburg, Street | Dillsburg, PA | 717.432.3847
www.DillsburgBIC.org

November 2024

“Family Promise—More than just a bed to sleep!”

By Jean Keller-Thau

Family Promise Harrisburg Capital Region (FPHCR) has been part of Dillsburg BIC since it opened its doors in 2010. Countless men, women, and children from our congregation have shared a meal, joined in play, had conversations, provided transportation, and slept overnight so that families facing the challenges of homelessness could receive a “hand-up.” This ministry could not exist without the incredible volunteers from DBIC.

We interact with one to three families that stay at DBIC three to four times a year, but there are many more families and individuals who find hope through the programs, partnerships, and genuine compassion and care of the staff at Family Promise. Their focus continues to be on families they can bring into the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN), but their reach extends far beyond that. The staff at Family Promise continues to reach out to families after they have graduated from the program, as well as to provide assistance to all those individuals who connect with Family Promise. They do not simply answer a phone call; they ask questions and provide as many resources as possible so that those going through extraordinarily difficult times have a glimmer of hope on their journey.

Family Promise continues to grow in order to make a greater impact on homelessness in Central Pennsylvania. Currently, they offer programs such as Move UP, Wheels UP, and Heads UP. Move UP provides funding for rental and security deposits to help folks avoid homelessness or, if they are homeless, to get back into housing. Wheels UP provides funds for car repairs and purchases, while Heads UP offers an opportunity to receive mental health support. All of these programs are designed to assist individuals in avoiding the difficult journey of homelessness. The staff has also diligently reached out to other organizations and agencies to provide as much information and help as possible to those connecting with Family Promise.

Over the last few years, Family Promise has partnered



with the United Way in the Road to Success program. Road to Success provides an opportunity for individuals to develop resumes and connect with job opportunities that can support their future. They currently serve as a case management site, providing workforce development and removing barriers that prevent successful employment.

I’ve had the opportunity to be personally involved with Family Promise over the last fourteen years. This involvement has allowed me to serve as a volunteer leader and then as a volunteer at DBIC, where I’ve acted as an evening host, overnight host, van driver, set-up crew member, and food provider. I’ve also had the opportunity to serve FPHCR as a board member, board president, and chairman of various committees. I continue to serve as a board member, and over the last year, I have been volunteering, answering phones, and connecting firsthand with individuals who are navigating a journey they never anticipated. This experience has fostered a deep compassion for those in need of the “hand-up” that Family Promise provides, as well as a profound respect for the FPHCR staff, board, consultants, host churches, volunteers, and donors.

The goal of Family Promise is not just to provide shelter but also to offer the resources that can lead to success for families and individuals in avoiding or emerging from homelessness. Their mission is to transform the lives of those experiencing homelessness because every child deserves a home.

You can discover more about Family Promise Harrisburg Capital Region by visiting their website at www.familypromisehcr.org.

More Family Promise HCR on page 8!!!

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Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Church

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An invitation . . .

to create a Christmas greeting of hope and encouragement for the mission workers DBIC supports. Global Outreach is inviting you to sign a card provided in the church lobby during December or to draw or write on a 3x5 card a prayer, poem, blessing or message we can send virtually. Below is the list of families DBIC supports regularly and their country of service.

Andy and Krishana Brubaker—Guatemala

Samuel-6, Raelyn-4, Eliana-2

Dave and Joyce Jones—Uganda

Yosuel and Jacqui Medina—Amazon

Joshua-20, Rebecca-13, Elizabeth (Eli)-11

David and Patricia Miller—Quebec

Matt and Julie Walsh—West Africa

Thomas-18, Tessa-16, Stephanie-14, Sarah-12, Samuel-9, Andrew-7

AW & TW—Pakistan

S-7, A-4, Z-2

Representing Global Outreach, we appreciate the time and thought you give to letting these families know we are remembering them and praying for them.

Gratefully, Beth Shelly



Calling women of all ages: You are invited to a gathering here at DBIC on Friday, November 8 from 6-8 p.m. We will enjoy food, fellowship, devotions, and wreath-making in anticipation of the Advent season. Invite your friends and let us know if you can come, so we can prepare food and supplies:
www.dillsburgbic.org

Celebrating Life Together!

Scenes from the September 7th Fun Fall Fest!!



Corner Life Meals

On the first and third Wednesdays of the month, come to the Fellowship Hall for a delicious free meal served from 5:30-6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to linger after the meal for songs and activities for all ages, including Thrive youth group and Shine which will begin at 6:30PM. If you can volunteer time to help prepare, serve, or clean up after the meal. Please sign up at www.dillsburgbic.org/corner-life/

November 13

Baked Ham
Smashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Cookie Trays

December 11

Baked Pasta
Salad
Bread
Pies

WORSHIP & WONDER: Art for Advent

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS & ARTISTS

PAINTERS, POETS, WOOD
WORKERS, QUILTERS, GRAPHIC
DESIGNERS, CULINARY ARTISTS,
MUSICIANS... & MORE!

All Ages & Expertises:

Submit art in November
to be displayed during Advent
in the Narthex, as an act of Worship.
Let's be filled with Wonder!

Culinary Art Sunday to be announced.
Contact julie.lerew@dillsburgbic.org for details.



Messiah University Collaboratory

*Compiled by John and Esther Spurrier,
DBIC Global Outreach Commission*

On Saturday November 2nd at 10 A.M. in the fellowship hall, we will have a presentation including demonstrations by people from our church who have participated in The Collaboratory at Messiah University, including:

Tim Van Dyke – he has been involved in various projects within the Collaboratory over the years. The most recent one and one which is a good example of the type of work we do in the Collaboratory is the Nepal Wheelchair project. This project focuses on designing wheelchairs for a hospital in Pokhara, Nepal, using locally available materials and tools, making it more affordable and easier to repair. We have worked for a number of years on a wheelchair which we have been able to design and to build successfully in Nepal. We now are working on designing a standing version of the wheelchair which will assist more-abled users in going from a sitting to a standing position. I have taken three trips with students to Nepal to work on this and other projects, collaborating closely with hospital staff. While in Nepal, we have attended Nepali churches in order to be able to connect with the local Nepali believers.

Ray Knepper he volunteers in the Collaboratory with Professor Michelle Lockwood and the CAWS Team (Clean Assessable Water Solutions) where we develop methods to provide safe drinking water to communities in developing countries. Based on the tested water, we design our systems using different methodology, including ozone oxidation, ultraviolet radiation and chlorine. The Team develops and tests the system for a particular need, then travels to the country and installs the system, educating the clients on its use and how to maintain the system. Sustainability by the client is important to the long-term success of the project.

Randy Fish – over the years he has been involved with students attempting to provide access to clean water and reliable electricity. Those projects have brought me to Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe. My most recent work has been on a system which reports to maintenance staff when a hand pump has broken down or when it is in need of maintenance. In May, I traveled with a team of students to Zambia to install prototypes of this system that I'll be talking about in November.

From the Messiah University website about The Collaboratory:

Our Vision - To increase hope and transform lives through education, collaboration, innovation, and service.

Our Mission - To foster justice, empower the poor, promote peace and care for the earth through applications of our academic and professional disciplines.

To increase the academic and professional abilities of participants, their vocational vision for lifelong servant-leadership and their courage to act on convictions



Group of children at Ray's of Peace home (near Bangalore, India) where the CAWS Team installed a water purification system May, 2024. It included softening the water then sending it through reverse osmosis. (Submitted by Ray Knepper)



Excerpts from the Peace Promise October Newsletter....



An update on our survivors from Rebecca, our Care Coordinator:

It's been another full month for our Care Team and survivors! After months of working hard, we tried to add some extra fun things in September to take advantage of the fall weather and activities. It's been a month of growth for our survivors with a bit of fun mixed in too.

The women continue to work through their goals and life skills classes - we had a treat last week as one of the past women we helped was in town for a visit and came to therapy group to chat with us.

We have also seen some fruit come from relationships that we have been cultivating. We have been doing outreach at a clinic in Harrisburg for months, and last week they contacted us to come and help a woman who walked in off the street. We worked to get her safely to a vehicle and with help from JFT Recovery and Veterans Support Services, got her into rehab that day. We will be ready to support her in her next steps when she returns. We also have some other outreach opportunities in the works that we hope to share with you in the future..

Some highlights:

- We were able to provide a new experience for one our "Peace Promise kids" - he went kayaking with the Kipe family and Patty at Gifford Pinchot.
- There were opportunities to further our positive interaction with law enforcement! This is huge for our survivors who are learning how to build relationships with safe people.
- We enjoyed helping to throw a birthday party for two of the children we support
- Some of the women spent an evening at my house for dinner and s'mores. Building relationships with our survivors is one of the best parts of the job!

Our ladies are growing and we know this wouldn't be possible without the support of our community. Thank you for being part of their journey.

THANK YOU

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THANK YOU, Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Church, for all your donations to Thrift on Purpose and for volunteering your time thus far at our thrift shop in setting up for opening day. Hope to see you soon at Thrift on Purpose! You're wonderful!

~ Kimberly Tucker, Thrift on Purpose Committee

THANK YOU so much for your generosity in supporting the Collaboratory! It is quite overwhelming the way God has used you, and others, to support our mission as we educate students and share the Gospel. Your donation will be used to bless those at Hope Academy, providing solar power to the girls at the school. The electric can be inconsistent, and solar also provides a more efficient and sustainable way to run the school. We intend to send a group of students and faculty in the month of May to help with the installation. When our last group visited Guatemala (March, 2024), our team was able to both teach about STEM and also Jesus. We hope that our upcoming trip will be similarly multifaceted. Your donation allows all of that to happen, so thank you so much! Our semester just began, so please keep us in your prayers as the Solar PV team works on their system design.

~ Bryce Watkins, Program Manager, Messiah University Collaboratory

Thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement that you sent in memory of Dad (Llyod Sowers). While he didn't attend the church in the past several years, he did mention many times, how wonderful the people were at DBIC. Thank you for your care of him.

~ Tim & Melody Sowers

THANK YOU for your recent donation to Messiah University. Messiah University combines rigorous academics, sincere faith and gracious hospitality, remaining true to our Christian identity and mission in the midst of rapid cultural change. Within a community of intentional learning and living, we have great confidence that our students will grow and thrive. With God's faithfulness as our anchor of hope, we thank you for investing in our students to be enriched, equipped and encouraged to meet the challenges that will face as future graduates of Messiah University.

~ Jon C. Stuckey, Vice President for Advancement, Messiah University

Thank you for your recent gift. Your investment in these precious lives is making a real difference. We hope we can count on you to be a monthly Hope Giver through your generous donations. It takes consistent and tireless work on behalf of our Peace Promise team to forge relationships of trust, hope, and safety with these individuals. We're making a difference, and we couldn't do it without you. Thank you for helping to release these precious souls into freedom and restoration so they might live lives of endless opportunities, meaningful relationships, and enduring peace.

~ Susan Vigliano, President of the Board, Patty Seaman, Executive Director, Peace Promise

THANK YOU so much for hosting the celebration of life services for my sister, Harriet Conrady. To Pastor Rob for your words of comfort and promise. To the folks who provided the meal and a place for healing fellowship with so many friends and family. You all put in a long day on Sunday and we deeply appreciate your ministry to our family.

~ Dale Dohner and Family (Harriet Conrady's brother)



Hello to the good people at Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Church,

Thank you for sharing with us at Breadcoin in the good work of the gospel, the very thing Jesus instructed (yay, invited) us to do... to care for those most in need.

We at Breadcoin are so encouraged by your joining in the work of feeding and connecting people through your very generous recent financial gift (\$15,175!!), and we were able to do so much through your partnership. We were able to feed families at multiple meals through the Evolve and Empower Camp. It's been powerful to see what can happen when we set tables at which all are welcome. Barriers fall, people feel loved and cared for, and there is space created for deeper connections and sharing the love of Christ.

So much can happen over meals, and we have such a hunger, if you will, to see churches take the lead in creating welcoming spaces at which people can belong and be fed. Your gift places you in the forefront of what we believe is a movement afoot at a critical time. We'd love to see many more tables set and people helped to know that they belong and matter (and get fed with local businesses!). We need you and appreciate you.

Your gift is so generous that, beyond the Evolve and Empower Camp, we are also able to continue making a difference in food-insecurity and hunger needs in Harrisburg and Cumberland Counties, going forward. And through our model, we see that we can not only feed people, providing critical calories, but can deepen community and lessen harmful divides between us.

I have had a couple of visits to your area, and I am heartened by the spirit I encountered there, with so many good people working together. You are fulfilling a critical role in the body of Christ through your financial support and encouragement of the mission of Breadcoin.

We appreciate the leadership and largesse of Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Church, and I hope I can join in worship with you one day, making the big, beautiful body of Christ feel a bit smaller.


Gratefully,
Cary Umhau, Co-Founder
Breadcoin





Our Family Promise guests will be at our church from November 17th through the 24th. At present, there are two families consisting of three parents, two tweens, and one school-age child.

If you are interested in participating, there are several ways in which you can help. First, we need people willing to serve as evening and overnight hosts. Next, we need donations for breakfast and lunch foods. And finally, we will be providing evening meals for them. Descriptions of each role with further information can be found on the sign-up genius sites. Links are at <https://www.dillsburgbic.org/family-promise/> For any other questions, feel free to contact Scott and Cindy Raboci at (717) 432-9140 or sraboci@yahoo.com. Thank you for being a sweet blessing!



How We Help

Family Promise of Harrisburg Capital Region helps families experiencing homelessness or in danger of becoming homeless.

Families stay together!

Rotational Shelter	A network of congregations which provide overnight-lodging, hospitality, and van transportation for families.
Day Center	Our house in Camp Hill, where families in the shelter can provide for daily needs and work on goals.
Road to Success*	A United Way of the Capital Region program which assists with employment, childcare, uniforms, training and more. <small>*Certain Zip Codes</small>
Heads Up	Mental health services provided for those who have experienced homelessness.
Wheels Up	Help with permanent solutions to transportation need, such as car down payment, repairs, and funds for license.
Move Up	Financial assistance with expenses associated with transitional and long-term housing and staying in current housing.

Family Promise HCR
56 Erford Rd, Camp Hill
717-737-1100
www.FamilyPromiseHCR.org



THE BOOK NOOK

Explore and Discover our Church Library
Free to Borrow From!!

The DBIC church library is being graciously tended by Ginny Spurrier (who is reshelving books) and Ariela Vader (who is processing new books). If you have suggestions for books to be added to the library, contact Ariela at ariela.vader@gmail.com, but we kindly ask that you find a different place to drop off unwanted books. Thank you!



WANTED – Ladies who like to have a good time but like to keep a secret!

What is the secret? It's the Ladies' Secret Pal Program.

What is the Secret Pal Program? It's for all post-high school ladies of the church and provides an opportunity for ladies to make new and lasting friendships.

How does it work? We gather once a year in January for an evening of dinner, fun, and fellowship to reveal our current Secret Pal and to pick a new name for the following year. During the year, you pray for your Secret Pal, give notes of encouragement, give a \$5 gift on her birthday and a \$10 gift at the end of the year party when your name is revealed.

When is it happening? The dinner party will be held on Tuesday evening, January 21, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. Your personalized invitation will be printed and in your mailbox by December 10, 2024. Even if you aren't a Secret Pal, please come for a fun evening. If you have any questions please see either Nina Hoover or Susan Hatch.



General Announcements:



Service Livestream: We will continue to stream the church services for those who do not attend in person. You will receive a link via email each Sunday. You can also join the livestream by going to the website (www.dillsburgbic.org) If you view the service using the link in your email, you will not need a username or password; however, please note that a username and password will be needed to access services from the dillsburgbic.org website due to privacy and copyright issues. The username will ALWAYS be: dbic and the password will always be: "sermons" (without the quotes). Feel free to share this information with anyone you know who would like to join us virtually as we worship!

The church nursery is open during the 10:00 a.m. worship service for children ages 0-4 (any kids not yet in kindergarten). You can sign in your children in the nursery room (next to the library) and pick them up after the service.

Free Greeting Cards: If you could use greeting cards, please help yourself to the ones available in the narthex literature rack. They have been donated and the supply will be replenished as they are used.

Fresh Hope for Mental Health: First and Third Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 pm, Orange Room. This is a peer-to-peer group, meaning that everyone attending is affected by a mental health challenge of their own or of a family member or close friend. It is not necessary that you be in treatment with a therapist or doctor to attend, but our meetings are not a replacement for treatment when needed. We incorporate faith practices with psychological information or science-based information about mental health and share information, support, and encouragement with one another. The privacy of individuals who attend is important, so we are asked to keep our conversations confidential.

Support Group for Christian parents of LGBTQ+ children. (Meeting time shared as needed to protect privacy) Do you want support in your efforts to love your child and have a good relationship with them? Do you have questions or fears about your child's future? Are you questioning your parenting? We are not trying to change your child, the church, or the world. We are here to support and honor each other in our efforts as parents who love their LGBTQ+ children. If you would like to join us in judgment free conversation, please contact Rob at freshhope@dillsburgbic.org or 717-432-3847.

We are no longer scheduling regular office hours. Staff members will still be available by appointment or by chance. Please email or call if you want to plan a time to meet with any member of the staff. If you need a key fob to access the building throughout the week, please contact Kathy (office@dillsburgbic.org) to request one.

Newsletter availability: While we distribute the quarterly newsletter by email and it is available on the website, we also realize some people prefer having a paper edition. If you would like a printed copy in your mailbox each month, please call or email the office and let Kathy know!