

# MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS



2020 has been a challenge for so many people. Family Promise would like to share one family's story with you, as an example of the 200 people we have helped this year.

“Have you watched how Janice interacts with her boys? I think she could teach parenting classes. She is so patient!” - Long time Family Promise shelter volunteer

## Janice's Story:

Janice and her 5 children relocated to Florida to escape an abusive father and husband. She helped her sister out with bills, but things soon became overwhelming with 10 people and 1 bathroom. She wanted to increase her income by taking the Florida CNA license exam. With all of the stress of the time, she failed her first attempt. And Janice had to miss work constantly as her 13 year old son was having kidney failure. She found out he will need to have surgery once a month for the rest of his life, or until a transplant match is identified.

She wrote about the turmoil of being homeless and fighting for her child's health, all during a pandemic: "My son is 13 years old and....was scheduled for a surgery that would have to remove his left kidney. After 12 long hours, I was glad he made it through but he was also in a lot of pain. When he first opened his eyes, the first thing he did was cry. I just told him 'I love you,' and that I was there.

Thank you Family Promise for helping me and for getting us an apartment to come home to continue his recovery journey. It has been an honor and blessing to be a part of Family Promise.”

A minivan was donated to her family, and things started to settle down. In early November, she finally passed her CNA exam!

Janice is stably housed and ready to work, thanks to the support of volunteers like you. Won't you donate today to help more mothers like Janice?

[www.familypromisegvl.org](http://www.familypromisegvl.org)



# HOW HAS FAMILY PROMISE CHANGED SINCE THE PANDEMIC?



Family Promise is still opening doors for local families and still engaging the community to achieve these goals.

- Our shelter is at 150% of our previous capacity--guests live in apartments we have rented.
- Meal provision was at 300% of our previous capacity from April through September, thanks to a partnership with Working Food. Volunteers are still providing meals for our families every day of the week.
- We purchased and are renovating 4 affordable housing units through our new partnership with Rebuilding Together North Central Florida, Matchmaker Realty and The Best Restoration which is made possible by the TD Foundation and First Federal Bank.
- **We hope to renovate five more units to house families in 2021. We need your help to do that.**

We will not return to our previous rotational shelter structure until June 2021 or later.

- When we lost our rotational shelter structure, we lost over \$34,000 per month of in-kind support. Your donations will sustain our organization as we transition to a new shelter model. **Every donation matters.**
- \$2,000 is the average cost of preventing a family from losing their home in the first place. Donations can sponsor a family through the "Help Us Move In" program.
- You can also support our affordable housing movement and partnership with Rebuilding Together by donating to our housing fund.

Return the enclosed donation envelope, or donate today at [www.familypromisegvl.org](http://www.familypromisegvl.org)  
Thank you!

