## Dear Friends of Family Promise,

t our recent event, A Night of Hope, board member and former guest Crystal Bodie-Smith offered a poignant reminder: "Don't think it can't happen to you." Families face an array of gifts and challenges, joys and sorrows—uncertainties that can place any family on the path to homelessness at any moment.

If you've been fortunate enough never to face this reality, please imagine choosing between keeping your family together **or** sleeping in a shelter. Imagine choosing between staying in a dangerous, abusive environment **or** experiencing homelessness with your children. These are the impossible choices families make every day. This is why the work of Family Promise is so incredibly valuable. **Our staff works tirelessly to provide the certainty of a home to families facing these devastating decisions.** 

Natalie was forced into making these decisions not once, but many times. Years of hardship left her constantly in crisis mode. While we hope those we care about can plan years into the future—searching for secure jobs with upward mobility, saving for retirement—Natalie's "long-term planning" meant figuring out where she and her son would sleep that night.

When Natalie arrived at Family Promise of the Triangle, she received more than temporary housing. She found time and space to transform her entire mindset. In her own words, "Family Promise gave me a fresh

start—a place where I felt like I could finally breathe."

More than a year later, Natalie has steady employment, a savings account, and her son is thriving in school.

More importantly, she has hopes and dreams for a future that extend far beyond finding a place to sleep tonight.

We cherish stories like Natalie's. As we head into 2026, we're committed to supporting more families in creating their own success stories and helping them avoid these difficult choices. Two major initiatives are expanding our capacity to serve:

- First, we are humbled to have partnered with The Durham Crisis Center to
  provide Rapid Rehousing services to families in Durham County who have
  fled domestic violence—a significant expansion of the support we already
  offer families in Wake County.
- Second, to meet the growing need for temporary housing, I am beyond ecstatic to announce that we are launching a project to build additional temporary housing at our Method Road property. When completed, we will be able to house up to eight more families. This two-year project will require significant fundraising, but we know it's essential for families in the Triangle.

My term as Board Chair is coming to a close this year. Throughout my years supporting Family Promise, it has always been clear to me that my function is to provide our case managers with the resources they need to change lives. To pursue these two vital initiatives with the same amazing empathy and expertise that has built our current 77% success rate—and with government funding becoming increasingly unpredictable—we have built new partnerships to bring in resources. In 2025, we were proud to partner with the Cooper Charitable Foundation and to host our first fundraiser since before the pandemic.

While we have been deeply honored by your support in the past, the need for our services grows every day, and so does our need for your help.

Thank you more deeply and sincerely than you can imagine for your past support and engagement. **Please join me in supporting Family Promise of the Triangle again this year and in the years to come**. Click <u>here</u> to give your gift today.

Gratefully,

Jay Wells, Board Chair Family Promise of the Triangle

