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Family Promise Names Tracy McKeithen as Network Director

McKeithen's extensive experience to strengthen organization and enhance client outcomes

Evanston, Illinois – October 4, 2011 - Family Promise Chicago North Shore has named Tracy L. McKeithen as their new Network Director as part of their overall strategy to strengthen the organization and further their mission of helping families in homeless situations achieve lasting independence. "Tracy brings a tremendous skill set that will help our families achieve sustainable independence," says Board President, Laurel Tyler. "We're thrilled to have her experience and expertise on our team as we build on our first year's successes and position the organization to make a significant impact in the lives of struggling families."

McKeithen brings an extensive background in social services, with 19 years experience in program management, job training and life skills for homeless families, including the hard to house and hard to employ populations. She most recently served as Program Manager with Heartland Alliance for their Student & Family Support initiative and Homeless Prevention & Rapid Housing program. McKeithen holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree in psychology. What drew Ms. McKeithen to Family Promise was the model of keeping the family together and providing care for the whole family as a unit, unlike other shelters where spouses and older male children are typically separated. "I was also very impressed to meet the many volunteers who 'pay it forward' by volunteering with the families," says McKeithen. "I fell in love with Family Promise - it's so much more than just where I work."

While Family Promise has an 87% success rate in returning families to sustainable, permanent housing, their goal is to improve on that rate while also reducing stay times in the program. These goals will be a key focus for Ms. McKeithen, as she works with clients to address the cause of their homelessness, participate in workshops and training to prepare for independence, and develop stabilization plans..

Family Promise is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit with a mission of helping families in homeless situations return quickly to permanent housing. It is the only organization on the North Shore to provide emergency shelter, meals, job search assistance and other support for families, while working to address the causes of their homelessness and assist in finding housing. One of more than 160 affiliates of the national Family Promise organization established in 1986, Family Promise Chicago North Shore relies on a network of local organizations, individual donations, congregations and hundreds of volunteers to achieve its mission.

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