

Dear Family Promise and Volunteers,

It is from my deepest gratitude that I and my daughter De Leica write you today. On June 12<sup>th</sup> of this year, my daughter and I found ourselves in a very unfortunate situation that forced us to leave our home unprepared and left us in a dire situation, we were homeless!

In life, we stroll by homeless people and so often seem to become immune to their status in our society, never thinking that one day that would be me. I never thought that I, a hard working middle aged man, would join their ranks with a six year old precious little girl.

After researching my options for help, it was immediately apparent that I was not looking for a hand out, but a hand up. I felt my pride sink into my stomach when I walked into the Department of Transitional Assistance to ask for help. Unknowing to me, I found out that my daughter and I did not fit the criteria for the help they provided. After knowing this news, I was pained greatly as I walked out with my daughter as I did not know where we would sleep that night.

However, I did receive a list of shelters to call from the DTA. That was where I received not only the number for Family Promise but a warm welcoming voice on the other end of the phone. It was immediately apparent that the voice on the other end was genuinely concerned. She asked me several questions and assured me that she would speak to her director and see if they could help. I went to bed that night with my daughter at my side but also with a glimmer of hope.

We were called in for an interview and the following day the director and the case manager welcomed my daughter and I into the program. We were given everything my family needed from the moment we arrived. After one initial welcoming into the center we went to our first church to be hosted for the week. I cannot put into words the gratitude my daughter and I feel for all the volunteers that take their time and give so freely of themselves, not only my family but so many others. All of you and the services you provide have given my daughter and me the opportunity to pick ourselves up while maintaining a sense of dignity and respect while getting back on track.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely let everyone know that what you all do is very much appreciated, not only by my daughter and me but from the people that love us dearly but were not in a situation to help. Your kindness and service is selfless and giving and we will be forever grateful. My daughter and I move into our new apartment on August 15<sup>th</sup> and it's because of all the wonderful service all of you have provided for me and my family as well as so many others. You are truly the wheel that makes this wonderful program turn.

We thank you all and may GOD be with you,

Sincerely,

Anthony & De Leicia