



City of Glendale
5850 W. Glendale Ave. / Glendale, Arizona 85301



Office of Mayor Jerry P. Weiers

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT: Kari Sliva, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor, 623-930-2261 (O); 602-574-2481 (C);
ksliva@GlendaleAZ.com

MAYOR WEIERS HOLDS MEETING ON HOMELESSNESS Family Promise Introduced to Glendale Area Faith-based Leaders

(April 25, 2019) GLENDALE, Ariz. – Today Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers held a community meeting with 50 members from the faith-based community of Glendale and the West Valley to introduce leaders to a nonprofit that recently opened its doors in Glendale called Family Promise of Greater Phoenix.

Utilizing a network of churches and synagogues, Family Promise rescues primarily first-time homeless families from the streets and provides emergency shelter and basic needs in a 60-day program designed to assist in their return to self-sufficiency.

Representatives from more than 20 churches, city of Glendale Community Services, Glendale Police Department and several nonprofit organizations attended the Mayor's community meeting to learn how to connect with Family Promise as a resource to reduce family homelessness.

“It was encouraging to see people from many denominations connecting on this extremely important issue facing our city,” said Mayor Jerry P. Weiers. “The only way we are going to reduce homelessness is if we all work together.”

Family Promise Executive Director Ted Taylor told attendees that the organization had planned to open a center in Glendale in 2020. However, the need for a West Valley location and the positive reception they had received in Glendale expedited their plans, and they opened in Sept. of 2018.

By partnering with more than 40 interfaith congregations across the Valley, Family Promise provides safe overnight shelter, food and compassion to families in crisis. Services include case management, counseling and enrichment programs.

Family Promise has been a national model since 1988 with more than 200,000 volunteers, resulting in more than 82 percent of families in the shelter program finding housing in less than nine weeks.

Additional speakers at the community meeting included Stephanie Small, Director of Community Services for the city of Glendale, who reviewed the city's Homelessness Plan Update that was presented to City Council in Jan. Small also informed the attendees of the funding mechanisms provided through U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which are administered through the city of Glendale. One such resource is the city's Community Action Program (CAP) office which provides support services for individuals or families are experiencing a financial hardship or major life crisis.

Community Action Program provides various types of assistance to prevent homelessness, such as case management, information and referral to local social service agencies. The Glendale CAP office also provides direct financial assistance for those households that are eligible such as: utility payment, utility deposit, mortgage payment to prevent foreclosure, and rent payment to prevent eviction.

Attendees also heard from Jannah Scott, Partnership Specialist with the U.S. Census Bureau. Scott presented information on the upcoming 2020 Census, including job availability and partnering with nonprofits on traditionally hard-to-count populations such as homeless individuals and families. Scott discussed the importance of building relationships and trust through various faith-based organizations, and sending a message that the information collected remains confidential.

Mayor Weiers stressed that the Census determines how almost \$700 billion in federal funding will be divided among states and communities for community services, public safety, street maintenance, Section 8 housing, and supplemental nutrition assistance programs.

Attendees also received an update on the Glendale Works initiative introduced by the Mayor and approved by City Council in 2018.

The program provides homeless individuals day-work cleaning parks and right-of-ways within Glendale. They are also introduced to programs and resources to help them end their homelessness.

Glendale Works is administered by Phoenix Rescue Mission, and, through March, had 126 unduplicated participants since the program launched in Nov. The program has been successful in participants finding jobs and receiving needed resources to move them from the street into self-sufficiency.

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