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Family Promise of Gwinnett County, Inc. (FPGC) is a nonprofit 501(C)(3), interfaith organization for families in transition. Part of a national network, Gwinnett County is one of over 146 Networks in 39 states. There are over 5,000 congregations and 125,000 volunteers making up these Networks.

The Family Promise Network Program brings shelter, meals, and support services to families without homes. Family Promise Networks are a cost-efficient, effective, and replicable community response to family homelessness. Because they make use of existing community resources, they can be implemented quickly, without major start-up costs. There are **six basic** components to a Network Program.

1. **Congregations:** The hosting of families rotates weekly among a minimum of 13 Host Congregations in the Network. In turn, each host congregation provides lodging, three meals a day, and caring hospitality 3-4 times a year. Support Congregations do not host families but instead assist a Host Congregation when they host families. Member Congregations simply provide financial support for the daily operation of the Network. The Gwinnett County Network has 20 Host and 5 Support Congregations.

2. **Day Center:** Guests use a local Day Center from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, where a professional social worker provides case management services. There, guests pursue employment, tend pre-school children, shower, and do laundry. The Day Center provides guests with a mailing address and a base for housing and employment searches. Many guests are employed during the day, while older children attend school. The Gwinnett County Network's Day Center is located at one of our congregations at 3495 B Sugarloaf Parkway in Lawrenceville.

3. **Volunteers:** Volunteers are essential to our success and provide a wide range of services like cooking and serving meals, playing with children or helping them with homework, interacting with guests with respect and compassion, and providing overnight security. In 2008, the Gwinnett County Network had over 1,650 volunteers who provided over 19,300 hours of service to families in need.

4. **Fundraising:** The organization is financed through donations, grants, and fundraising events. Most of the monies are raised by the individuals of the organization. The congregations also take a financial role in support of the Network. The Gwinnett County Network raised over \$275,000 in 2008 for daily operating expenses.

5. Social Service Agencies: Local social service agencies refer families to the Network and may also help guests find or provide housing, jobs, and other needed services. The Gwinnett Network is a member of the Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services where over 900 agencies partner together to serve their community.

6. Transportation: The Family Promise Network Van transports guests to and from the Day Center. The Network also uses a truck to carry bedding and personal belongings to the next Host Congregation. The truck is also used to collect any donations made to the Network. The Gwinnett Network has a 15 passenger van and a 14 foot box truck.

The Mission of Family Promise of Gwinnett County, Inc. is to mobilize communities of congregations that partner with social service agencies to end homelessness, one family at a time.

Our mission is achieved by focusing all our resources on just 4 families at a time. Currently, the average stay in our Network is 60 days and 90% of our families leave our program with housing and employment.

Our goal is to serve 100 families by the end of 2010. The first step to achieve this goal is to secure the needed resources to start a second rotation of congregations by January, 2010. This would allow us to double the capacity of families we serve.