

## Presidents' Report

For everything  
there is a season

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Brian Johansson

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Dear Friend of Family Guidance:

**W**hen Peggy and I felt called to move from NYC to her hometown of Pittsburgh we knew it was for a season. We now know that God called us to lead Family Guidance through a challenging transition. In the last 3½ years we have seen the growth of camp, the building of a 200 seat dining hall, been blessed with national best-practice accreditations for both camping and mentoring as well as obtained some strong financial support in both grants and a new Broadway-themed Gala. Most significantly, together with a supportive board, we directed the sale of our HQ building in the suburbs and moved into the North Side to be among those the organization serves. This bold move allowed us to partner with Light of Life Rescue Mission, a respected leader in ministry. Not forgetting Family Guidance's continued focus; hundreds of children and families remain helped and supported by



a loving and committed staff.

It is this new affiliation that we feel most passionate about. God is honored when his people put personal agendas aside and think outside the box to facilitate working together, sharing space and expenses to reach more people. And, it is this new affiliation that has prompted a realignment in leadership. We are thrilled to pass the baton to Philip Spina, an experienced, godly

man who is uniquely networked and respected in both the Light of Life organization and in Pittsburgh. It is our prayer that God continues to bless Family Guidance as Peggy and I move on to our next assignment.

Blessings,

*Brian and Peggy*  
Brian and Peggy



### A Peek at Promise Camp '17

Camp Director Brett Probert talks about the blessings of the 2016 camp season and exciting new developments for 2017. Pg5



### Roller Coasters & New Eyes

The impact of mentoring goes both ways as both mentor and mentee get a glimpse into each other's worlds. Pg3



### Pumpkin-Spiced YP Event

This year's Young Professionals event kicks it up a notch. Way up on Smith Brothers Left Field Rooftop Loft! Pg5



## Serving the Lord Wherever He Calls

Philip Spina, Executive Director

I am honored and thankful to have the opportunity to lead such a wonderful organization. For those of you who don't know me, I am a native of Pittsburgh. I was born in Homewood Brushton and moved to Penn Hills where I went to high school. I attended Allegheny College where I received a Bachelor of Science degree before completing a Master's degree at the University of Pittsburgh. I spent most of my career working in financial services with PNC, Chase Manhattan and Mellon. I retired

from BNY Mellon at the end of 2012 as a Senior Vice President in Wealth Management after a 20 year career there. Three years ago I began volunteering at Light of Life Rescue Mission which turned into a full time position in April of 2014. I have been helping the men and women at the Mission with their employment and education pursuits as well as assisting the development team with fundraising and their upcoming capital campaign. I am excited with this unique opportunity to continue the great work that Brian has done and for him to help strengthen Light of Life with his vast experience of working with the homeless in New York City.

I have been spending time with Brian and the rest of the Family Guidance team over the last few weeks in preparation for my new leadership role. We will continue to build on the great work that has been done over the last 52 years by growing our mentoring programs and expanding Promise Camp to serve more vulnerable children. Additionally, we will be focusing on utilizing Promise Camp in the off-season as a retreat center for other nonprofits, churches, companies, families and the community at large. To accomplish all of this and continue our long standing tradition of serving youth through Jesus Christ, we need your ongoing partnership. Please continue to pray for our mentors, mentees, campers, volunteers, board of directors and staff. Your continued financial support is also needed and greatly appreciated. I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know

many of you and welcome the opportunity to hear from you. Please feel free to contact me by email at [pspina@familyguidance.net](mailto:pspina@familyguidance.net) or by phone at 412-803-4152 .

May the peace of Christ be with each of you and your families during this season of Thanksgiving.

Philip Spina

### From Our Board

"We are thrilled that Philip has joined the Family Guidance team. His passion for loving and serving others in need, coupled with his years of experience in wealth management and the nonprofit sector, makes him a formidable champion for bringing hope and a change. As a native and long-time resident of the area, Philip understands our communities and the challenges they face. We are confident in his leadership and are excited to see the next chapter unfold for this very important ministry."

- James Dionise  
Family Guidance Board Chairman  
President & CEO, Mars National Bank





## 2016 Golf & Dinner Classic Wrap-up

Kelly Pirl & Donna Riggs

On Monday, September 19, Family Guidance hosted their "Helping Kids out of the Rough" Golf and Dinner Classic at beautiful St. Clair Country Club.

After a delicious lunch buffet 20 enthusiastic foursomes took their hole positions for the shotgun start and spent the afternoon golfing through a perfectly lovely fall day. Family Guidance staff traveled to each hole, bringing beverages, and others kept a vigil at holes where a hole-in-one could result in winning a Henne Jewelers Rolex or a Chevy Malibu courtesy of Colussy Chevrolet. As golfers returned to the club house, they were greeted by a silent auction display, beverages, and an awesome jazz combo on the patio. New this year, as part of the foursome package, we invited non-golfing spouses or guests to join their significant golfer for the music, auctions and dinner. There were numerous golf-related items in the silent auction including getaways to Seven Springs and Myrtle Beach. The live auction featured great items including a package of advertising billboards, a Pirates Treasure, and a vacation on Mexico's Riviera Maya.

"Helping Kids out of the Rough" has helped Family Guidance provide life-changing experiences to over 3,000 of Pittsburgh's most vulnerable children and teenagers at Promise Camp.

We are grateful to all who participated for another successful year!



Mentee Jonathon during his very first visit to Kennywood ...His face says it all.

## Roller Coasters & New Eyes

Kelly Pirl and Kathleen Grehl

While taking the leap of faith and committing to be a mentor can be an overwhelming feeling, the benefits will outweigh any doubts and enrich your life more than you can imagine. If you have a heart for children, Family Guidance has a waiting list of vulnerable kids that are in need of support. Family Guidance's One2One program provides mentors with the support they need to effectively work with vulnerable children in maintaining and flourishing these relationships.

Chris Smith has a heart for children and chose to be a mentor with Family Guidance. Having a background in psychology, Chris felt driven to make a bigger impact and signed up after a church service where a Family Guidance Mentoring Supervisor spoke about the need for Christian

mentors. "It's not about me. It can be very uncomfortable at times..." states Chris, "but there is so much need, I wanted to do more and be connected to make a difference with youth."

Family Guidance provides training for mentors to be prepared, encouraged and to be realistic in their expectations all the while making a positive impact in children's lives. Mentors and mentees are matched based on compatibility; this is a very critical part in the success of these long-lasting relationships. Chris was honest with his expectations, time and other life obligations and was paired with mentee, Jonathan, who was easy to engage, full of energy and was open to share new experiences.

Bullying, fear, and violence are Jonathan's every day. "He has a good soul. The bad has enticed Jonathan and fueled him to have hope to get out of there," said his mentor. Chris has opened Jonathan's world through positive experiences

with trips to Kennywood ("Turns out we both love roller coasters!"), to the incline ("Almost a roller coaster."), and mostly just being a friend (like being understanding when Jonathan is upset that his teacher yells at him and "doesn't even apologize!").

It's not about grand gestures and special outings either; one of Jonathan's absolute favorite things is just to play with Chris' golden retriever. They also go to the park to swing, kick around a soccer ball and hike the trails. On one of these hikes, Chris noted that Jonathan was unusually quiet. Then, as they sat down on a rock to rest, Jonathan said, "If Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had not worked so hard, we wouldn't be hanging out today. We'd be segregated. So I'd have a black mentor and you would have a white child - and that wouldn't be good, because what if the white kid was mean?!" (Chris is still laughing about that one.)

One time, over ice cream, Chris had learned that his young friend has goals

that will get him into Harvard. He plans to work hard and then start a business that throws birthday parties for kids!

It's obvious that the impact of mentoring goes both ways. Jonathan's world was limited to a small part of the community and has now been opened to new experiences and possibilities. Chris has given Jonathan a safer environment to develop new skills and learn. He has been faithful to come alongside Jonathan, and give him the freedom to question views and values. And in return, Chris can say, "I have learned that bravery and success are not equal for everyone or equally earned." The impact Jonathan has given back to Chris by sharing time together has given Chris, "new eyes...and taught me to slow down and be curious again."

*Kids mentored for at least 1 year are more confident in their school performance. To find out how you can bless a child's life as a mentor, contact Kathleen Grehl at [kgrehl@familyguidance.net](mailto:kgrehl@familyguidance.net)*



## Needs & Wants

Practical ways you can help!

### Promise Camp

Preparation for each camp season happens well in advance. We are currently accepting donations for the following list of camp necessities:

#### Sporting Equipment:

- Basketballs
- Footballs
- Volleyballs
- Soccer & dodge balls

#### Cleaning Supplies:

- Laundry detergent
- Bleach
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Scrubbing Bubbles
- Gallon size no-rinse floor cleaner
- Aerosol glass cleaner
- Scotch-brite sponges
- 55 gallon black trash bags
- Gallon containers of hand soap
- Single-ply toilet paper

#### Misc:

- Feminine products

### one2one Mentoring

The following items will help to provide fun activities for our mentees while helping to ease the pocketbooks of our dedicated mentors:

- Restaurant gift cards including Dave & Busters, Chick-fil-A, Eat'n Park, Red Robin, etc.
- Craft kits such as jewelry making for girls and model building for the boys.
- Cinemark movie gift cards for a fun afternoon at the movies

For details or to arrange a drop-off, contact Kelly Pirl at [kpirl@familyguidance.net](mailto:kpirl@familyguidance.net) or Jessi Marsh at [jmarsh@familyguidance.net](mailto:jmarsh@familyguidance.net).

Thank you for generously helping to care for the at-risk children we serve.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

November 19

### Mentor Training

In depth orientation for our next group of dedicated and godly mentors.

November 22

### Rooftop Harvest

Join us from 6pm to 8pm for a pumpkin-spiced evening of good food, live music, and great people. It all happens at Smith Brothers Agency Left Field Loft overlooking PNC Park. Meet our host Emmai Alaquiva, award-winning filmmaker and champion for vulnerable kids in Pittsburgh. This year's event is sponsored by MSLDirect.com. All proceeds benefit our work with vulnerable children. For information and tickets visit [RooftopHarvest.org](http://RooftopHarvest.org).

March 31, 2017

### 4th Annual Spring Gala

Don't miss the premiere charity event of 2017 with returning Broadway Star Ivan Rutherford.

April 2017

### Promise Camp Open House

Join us for a personal tour of our beautiful camp grounds and first-class facilities.

May 6-7, 2017

### Pittsburgh Marathon

We are a contributing charity of the Pittsburgh Marathon. If you run in any of the marathon races for us, we will pay for your registration! For info visit: [Run4FGI.com](http://Run4FGI.com).



## Reflections on Promise Camp 2016

Brett Probert

What a blur! It seems like the 10 months of preparations for our 8 week summer camp program drag on and on. But as soon as the staff shows up for training, and then the first of nearly 400 campers steps off the bus, the rest of the summer just flies by! Promise Camp & Retreat Center is once again mostly quiet except for the weekend rental groups that enjoy a day or two in God's beautiful creation. And while the sounds of laughter and giggling of kids enjoying camp has faded, the memories of a wonderful summer have not.

We had a fantastic staff of young people in 2016 ranging in age from 16 to 26. Some were from the streets of Pittsburgh and others as far away as Florida and Massachusetts. They truly bonded this summer as the body of Christ to learn how to love God, love each other through the fun and tough times, and love kids into the Kingdom. The ministry of Promise Camp hinges solely on how the Lord lives His life through the summer staff members. I've often said that themes and games and swimming pools

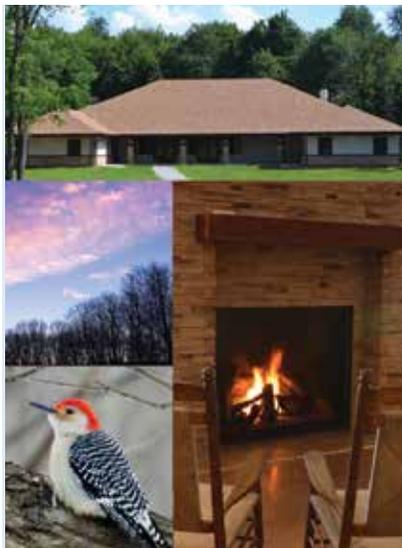
and campfires are great, but that's not what makes an eternal difference in the life of a child. It's people following Christ who are building relationships so that He shines through in irresistible ways.

Our 2016 theme was "Love Your Selfie #HeDoes" and our verse was John 3:16. This was the fifth in our six-year repeating theme approach and dealt with helping campers to understand love from God's perspective and not the world's. We had a super-safe summer with no major injuries or incidents. We're so thankful for that because in over 672 hours of camp, we served 391 campers who enjoyed the climbing wall, the ropes course, hiking, campfires, the swimming pool, games, and so much more!

Preparations are already underway for Promise Camp 2017. We've started hiring a dynamic team and settled on the theme of "GO! (again)" with the main verse of John 8:11 where Jesus says "go now and leave your **life of sin.**" The idea is that in Christ, we always have a second chance...a chance to "GO! (again)!" We have added four awesome new challenge course elements and built a 40' climbing tower! We're also making some improvements to our buildings to accommodate the growing number of campers each summer. Lastly, we've hired a Facilities Manager and Camp Registrar who will soon become husband and wife and live onsite to help take our ministry to the next level. We are eternally grateful to the faithful folks who support what we **do with their prayers and financial gifts.** **Thanks for helping kids to understand God's love!!!**

## Family Guidance Board of Directors

Tim Colussy  
James Dionise  
Heather Ferrand  
Rev. Brenda Gregg  
K. Mark Hall  
Mark Hondru  
Thomas M. Hosack, Sr.  
Dean Marshall  
Dr. Bryan McCabe  
Randy McMillan  
Vincent D. Moye, Jr.  
Kenneth E. Smith



## Rent Promise Camp

Just 27 miles west of Pittsburgh, Promise Camp Retreat Center provides an unparalleled setting for your group getaway. Our facilities are perfect for church retreats, family reunions, picnics, parties, team development, and other events. Features include:

- » New dining hall w/ state-of-the-art kitchen
- » Multipurpose Activities Center
- » Two all-season bunkhouses
- » Warm-Weather cabins • Picnic Pavilion
- » Large Pool • Covered Basketball Court
- » Many campfire areas stocked with firewood

Rental contact: Camp Director Brett Probert  
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