

the heart BEAT

STORIES OF HOPE FROM FAMILY GUIDANCE • FALL 2018



STRONGER TOGETHER

CAMP RECAP

2018 Promise Camp was our biggest group yet, thanks to you!

#IMPACTMAKERS

Join our new, vibrant giving community to feed campers and help make mentor matches.

MENTORING SUCCESS

Kathleen Grehl shares an amazing example of the work God is doing in the lives of our community's children.

A Word from Philip

Philip Spina, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As we close out another year at Promise Camp and move into the fall season, I wanted to reflect on the amazing work being accomplished by the Family Guidance team and personally thank each and every one of you for helping us make it happen.

“None of this would be possible without your faithful support.”

Promise Camp had a record season with 408 kids attend over six weeks. 216 campers returned from last year and 192 experienced the blessing of Promise Camp for the first time. We could not have achieved these record numbers without the support of donors and the Family Guidance staff. Thank you, especially, to our dedicated and compassionate counselors for tirelessly demonstrating the love of Jesus to every camper who visited us this summer.



We kicked off the fall school-based 2018-2019 mentoring season and are excited for the life change that these relationships bring. Be sure to check out MarQuice's success story highlighted in this issue, to learn firsthand about the impact of Christ-centered mentoring relationships.

None of this would be possible without your faithful support. Thank you for your financial generosity, volunteer hours, and prayers.

May God continue to bless you and your family,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Philip".

Philip

Prayer Corner

We believe in the power of prayer!

It is the foundation of our ministry. We deeply appreciate any of you who will commit to covering the children we serve, our staff, and volunteers with your heavenly petitions.

Current requests:

SCHOOL

Pray for the protection of the kids in our mentoring programs as they return to school.

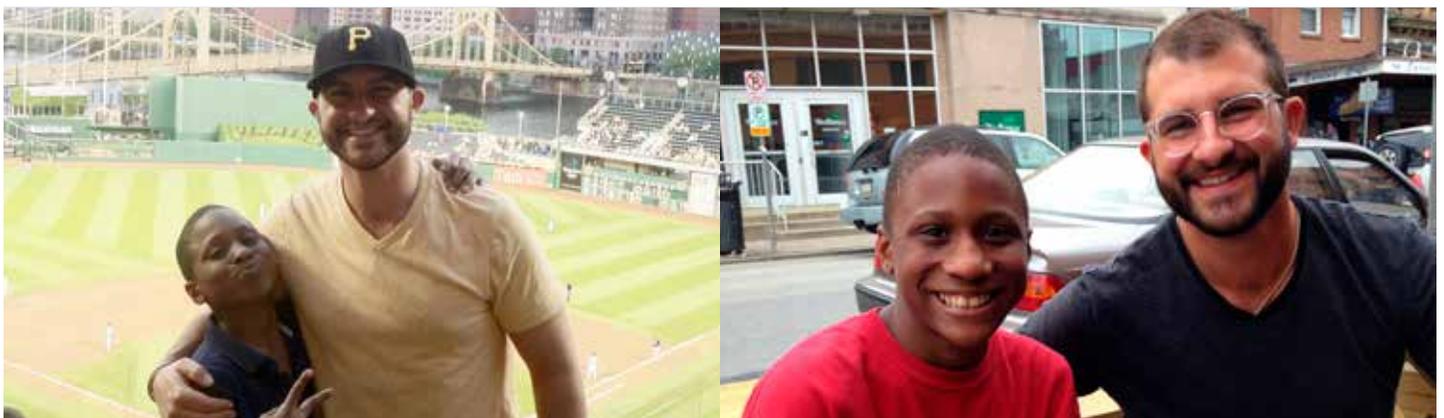
MATCHES

Pray for guidance and wisdom as we make new mentor matches.

FAMILIES

Pray for the families of the kids in our Promise Camp and Mentoring programs.

Thank you for your prayers!



Remembering Tyrelle

In July, we received the heartbreaking news that Tyrelle Bowyer, a Family Guidance mentee since 2012, was fatally shot in Wilkinsburg. Please pray for Tyrelle's family, protection for our children, and community healing in this difficult time.



The Good Samaritan Fund

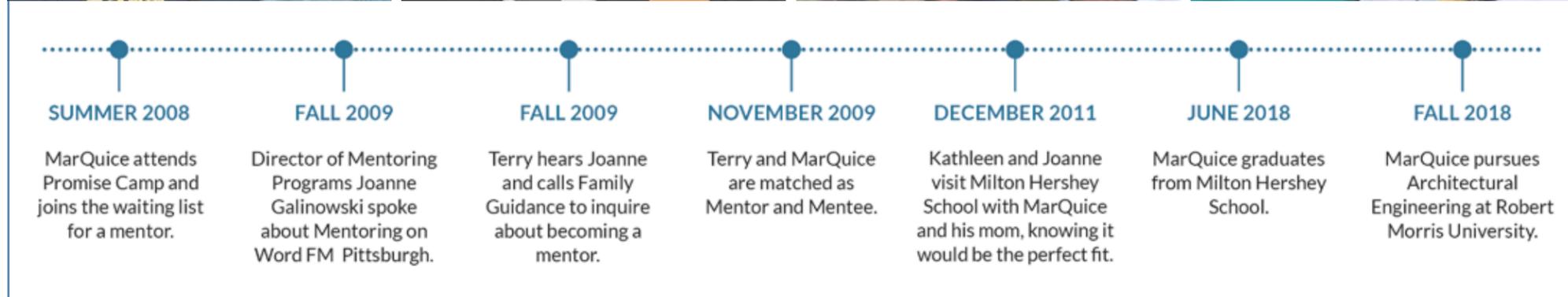
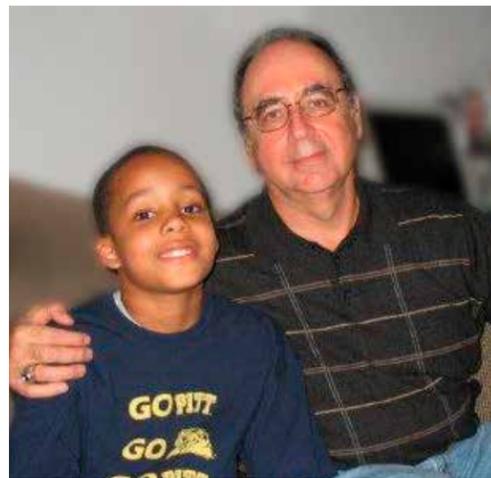
This summer, Family Guidance staff was excited to reintroduce the Good Samaritan Fund in efforts to answer the sudden and unexpected needs of our children and families. The fund has helped keep utilities on, purchase new school uniforms, and buy food for the most vulnerable in our community.

Your Generosity at Work

We reached our back-to-school clothes need of \$2,000. Thanks to those who donated, and to Centimark Foundation for their generous support.

How to Donate

Visit familyguidance.net and indicate *The Good Samaritan Fund* in the donation comments, or call 412-258-6183. Please email questions to cpontzloff@familyguidance.net.



CELEBRATING A MENTORING SUCCESS

Kathleen Grehl

The first time I met MarQuice, I was surprised to find an old wise soul in such a little boy's body. His charm and outgoing personality had me at hello, for sure! MarQuice has a wonderful mom who can do a lot, but at that time, she couldn't do everything. Caprice had been raising him in the church, training him to be disciplined in school, and encouraging him to be the best human being he could be, but in addition to instilling these admirable values, Caprice wanted a male influence in MarQuice's life. She wanted him to experience a world outside of his own.

The positive impact of mentoring on children who live in vulnerable communities or are otherwise at risk is astounding. Studies show that vulnerable youth who have a mentor are 46% less likely to start using illegal drugs. 81% of youth who meet

regularly with a mentor are more likely to participate in extracurricular activities than those who don't. Children with mentors are 55% more likely to enroll in college than those who don't have mentors.

When I matched MarQuice and Terry, I explained what a Mentor is and is not. I told MarQuice that a mentor was someone he could trust and who would keep promises, someone who wanted the best for him and with whom he could feel safe. I told MarQuice a Mentor is someone who would be there for him when he needed it the most, but to remember that a relationship with a mentor is a friendship.

A couple years later MarQuice spoke at a Volunteer Appreciation Banquet. He told all the mentors that I was wrong—that Mr. Terry is his family and he loves him! To this day, MarQuice swears that his favorite activity was when he met Terry's family and had dinner with them.

In the case of MarQuice and Terry, a mentorship did mean family, and I am happy to have been wrong about that.

After a meeting with the Admissions Director of the Milton Hershey School, God put Caprice and MarQuice on my heart. Tuition for the school was not only absolutely free, but all student expenses would be covered including clothing, food, housing, medical, and dental care. They would even contribute tens of thousands of dollars towards college tuition.

A couple years later MarQuice graduated from the Milton Hershey School and he is now headed to Robert Morris University with a major in Architectural Engineering!

At the Family Guidance Mentoring program graduation dinner, MarQuice was kind enough to share some thoughts on his experience in the program. He commented that his friendship with

Terry has been "magnificent" and he gave Terry credit for his becoming wiser, stronger and more compassionate. MarQuice said that Terry's example of "working hard for the ones he loves" really left a mark on him. During his years spent in a Christ-centered relationship with Terry, MarQuice learned that a man works hard not for himself but for others. When asked for three pieces of encouragement for MarQuice, Terry said, "Put God first and seek His righteousness, respect all people and love even your enemies, and flee sexual immorality." In a culture where children hear so much to the contrary, we are grateful for a mentor like Terry who is willing to pour wisdom into a child. A child who grew to be a man.

Does your child need a mentor? Want to get involved? Contact us today at 412-741-8550.



408 Children Served



47% (192) New Campers



53% (216) Returning Campers

11.3 Average Camper Age

68 Campers per week



Special Thanks

Transportation at Promise Camp just got a whole lot easier thanks to Erich and Bonnie Smith, who donated a truck this summer!

Your gift is truly a blessing.



Save the Date!

Broadway star Ivan Rutherford returns for the **6th Annual Spring Gala on April 26, 2019**. Connect with us online to stay up to date on all the event details.



Love Family Guidance's mission of serving the Pittsburgh region's vulnerable families and youth? Consider joining the new monthly giving group, #ImpactMakers. Your \$25 monthly donation could feed four campers for one week. Additionally, you'll receive special monthly updates on the impact your gift is having on the community. Visit FamilyGuidance.net for more information, or email cpontzloff@familyguidance.net.



\$25/mo. feeds
4 campers for 1 week.



\$50/mo. provides
a week of camp for 1 child.



\$84/mo. provides a
year of mentoring for 1 child.



\$125/mo. provides a
new low ropes course element.

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Philip Spina



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 with 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 Jennifer Engel
412-445-4699 | jennifer@promise.camp
227 Lance Road • Clinton, Pennsylvania 15026

Please accept my gift of:

- \$50
- \$100
- \$250
- Other _____

Please apply my gift towards:

- one2one mentoring
- Promise Camp
- Where needed most

I would like to be involved by:

- Becoming a mentor
- Becoming a volunteer
- Committing to pay for Family Guidance

Ways to Give

- My Check is enclosed. *Please make checks payable to Family Guidance.*
- Please charge my credit card for a one-time gift of \$ _____
Or, please charge \$ _____ monthly to my credit card.
 - Until I notify you otherwise. _____
 - For a total gift of \$ _____
 - Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

Name on Card _____

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____

3-digit CVV _____

No one seeking help at Family Guidance is denied services based on race, creed, gender, disability or national origin. Official registration or financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Thank you for helping Pittsburgh's most vulnerable kids.



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