

Executive Director's Message

Staying the Course in 2017

Philip Spina

We hope that this New Year brings happiness, peace and health to you and your loved ones. We have seen many blessings and positive changes over the last few months here at Family Guidance. What hasn't changed is our commitment to support vulnerable children in the Pittsburgh area and to implement cost effective strategies and programs that maximize our ability to help and accomplish our mission.

Since our last update, new board officers were elected for 2017: Chairman Dean Marshall, Director-Corporate Business Development, U.S. Steel Corporation; Vice Chairman Dr. Bryan McCabe, Pastor, North Way Christian Community; Treasurer Randy McMillan, CFO, Kirby Electric; Secretary K. Mark Hall, Attorney, U.S. Courts, Judge Conti's Chambers. We are thankful for our talented and godly board members for their sacrifice and commitment. We are also happy to announce that Joanne Galinowski has returned as Director of Mentoring, bringing with her years of experience and



Philip Spina with the One2One Mentoring Team: Kathleen Grehl, Chantla Colon and Joanne Galinowski

a heart for hurting children.

Our programs continue to thrive with our One2One Mentoring team busy recruiting and training new mentors, and the Promise Camp staff in full gear as they prepare to serve more than 400 deserving children during the expanded 2017 season.

To those of you that have made a contribution, we thank you for your support. Your donations are very important as they are a reflection of how much impact we are really having where it matters most - with the children. Keep your eyes open in 2017 for ways to get involved, activities,

the upcoming Spring Gala, and the Golf Outing! We appreciate the confidence you have placed in us and our work. We will strive to be better each day with the help of our Lord, and look forward to working with you in 2017.

Thank you for your continued support; we are blessed by each and every one of you.

Philip Spina
Executive Director



A Chat with Ivan

Broadway star Ivan Rutherford returns for the Annual Spring Gala on March 31 at the Fairmont Pittsburgh. Pg2



Mentoring a Vulnerable Kid

Our committed mentors model the love of Christ as they stand by our kids through good times and bad. Pg3



Meet Jacob & Whitney

We're excited to welcome our soon-to-be-married Promise Camp facilities manager and registrar! Pg5

A Chat with Ivan Rutherford

Kelly Pirl

Aclaimed Broadway veteran Ivan Rutherford returns to the Fairmont Pittsburgh for the Family Guidance 4th Annual Spring Gala, *One Enchanted Evening*. For the past three years, Ivan has graced us with his exceptional voice and endearing persona. Ivan is best known for his powerful portrayal of Jean Val Jean, the lead character in *Les Misérables*. Rutherford shared his highlights, upcoming projects and how he identifies with Family Guidance. .

Q: Why did you choose to help raise awareness for Family Guidance?

Ivan: I believe in Family Guidance and the work they do. Being a father of three, I understand the worry for our youth today and I can see what great things they are doing in the Pittsburgh area with transforming lives. I can only imagine how grateful and appreciative the parents must be.

Q: What has been the highlight of singing at the Family Guidance Annual Spring Gala?

Ivan: Highlights for me have always been the new friends I make each year along with seeing old friends and smiling faces while performing. Family Guidance is truly a great group of dedicated people that feel like a family to me. Plus I really like the little



bakery across the street from the hotel.

Q: What are you some of your current favorites to perform?

Ivan: I have always loved performing the classics. And Rodgers and Hammerstein were the first musical influence on me as a child. Really, that is what got me involved in singing in the first place.

Q: What current projects are you most excited about?

Ivan: I am currently in discussions with

representatives from Billboard for an Asian tour for which I am very excited!

Don't miss the Annual Spring Gala of 2017, *One Enchanted Evening*. Join Ivan in supporting the critical work of Family Guidance to bring hope and a future to Pittsburgh's most vulnerable children.

For sponsorship and ticket information or to register online, visit FGgala.com, or contact Kelly Pirl at kpirl@familyguidance.net.





Rooftop Harvest Review

Kelly Pirl

Smith Brothers' Left Field Loft, a chic, Google-esque venue across from PNC Park, set the scene for Family Guidance's Rooftop Harvest on November 22, 2016. The "friend-raising" event kicked off with appetizers from Sonoma Grille and Medure Catering and included great music from a local DJ. Emmet Alaquiva, Emmy-award winning producer and Pittsburgh native, came to share his story of how mentoring changed the course of his life as a child. Alaquiva stated, "I am very busy, but it is so important to be busy doing this." With over 70 people in attendance, the evening brought together many of Pittsburgh's young professionals, mentors and new faces to learn about God's vision for Family Guidance and creating a new Young Professionals' Action Committee (YPAC).

One of the visions for Family Guidance is building an all new YPAC. Connecting with other people who want to step up their positive impact on Pittsburgh's most vulnerable children! The YPAC is designed to accomplish promotion of healthy relationships, unify our youth into a positive force for the good of the community, encourage and bring awareness. If you are among those who would like to make a difference while promoting God's kingdom work at Family Guidance, drop us a line!

To learn more about FGI's Young Professional's Action Committee (YPAC), contact Kelly Pirl at kpirl@familyguidance.net



Family Guidance mentors bring hope and smiles into the lives of vulnerable children.

The Value of Mentoring Children in Vulnerable Neighborhoods

Tammy Knight

The value of mentoring has been well studied and well documented. Results validate that a mentor can have a tremendous impact on a child's life. A recent review by Public/Private Ventures Study shows that students who meet regularly with their mentors are 52% less likely than their peers to skip a day of school, 37% less likely to skip a class, 27% less likely to start drinking and 46% less likely than their peers to start using illegal drugs (National Mentoring Partnership website: www.mentoring.org/aboutmentor, accessed 3/17/14.) Another Public/Private Ventures project, which was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, studied 1,300 youth from seven mentoring programs in the state of Washington. Results showed that gains were made in social acceptance, academic attitudes and grades, and, interestingly, a reduction in

depressive symptoms (National Mentoring Partnership website: www.mentoring.org/aboutmentor, accessed 3/17/14.)

Studies are helpful to give the big picture but how does that translate to a specific kid. Case in point: Picture a courtroom in downtown Pittsburgh. The young fifteen year old girl named Janice standing before the judge has been picked up for shoplifting. Her family is nowhere. But in the front row are her mentor and a Family Guidance staff person. The Family Guidance staff member leans to the mentor and says "This has been difficult with Janice. Do you want to transfer to another mentor on the waiting list?" The mentor looks her straight in the eyes and says, "Of course not, I'm in this for the long haul. What message would it send if I bail when it gets difficult? I have been with Janice for 5 years and it has not been easy but that is why I'm here." As the girl was sentenced to a group home, she acted out and became very hostile in court. The next week the mentor went to see her in the court appointed facility. Janice was surprised and began to cry, she said "I'm sorry for acting

stupid in court". A glimmer of hope!

A mentor is a person who makes a commitment to come alongside a child in need, be consistent, keep promises and just listen. There are thousands of children in difficult situations that are in need of a role model. Family Guidance has been in the mentoring business for over 50 years in Pittsburgh. We are nationally accredited as a "Best Practice" by the Christian Youth Mentoring Association and have staff who work to recruit and support mentors all across the five county region. If you think you are ready to mentor a child, give us a call. We have a waiting list, as one of our mentoring supervisors says, "Just show up and let God do the rest."

Here is another short story from a mentor providing guidance to a mentee: "My mentee and I played 'Scrabble Junior' while exchanging snacks we brought each other this week. We listened to some of her favorite songs from the 'Trolls' movie soundtrack. She and I talked a lot and she randomly opened up about feeling like she doesn't have any friends, and how other

kids think she's only has a positive level of behavior because she tells on the other kids. My mentee said she often feels as if she is friendly to everyone, but not many people are nice to her. She then told me that I was the only friend she believed in. I was flattered, but I explained that I sometimes feel the same way. Still, I encouraged her to enjoy the friends she does have, and how sometimes doing the right thing is hard, but worth it in the end. She agreed and she then showed me a video from the 'Trolls' movie soundtrack that encouraged us both to stay strong."

Being a mentor is one of the most fulfilling things you'll ever do. You have the opportunity to help a child's future. Mentoring just a few hours a month with a child can start something that will last a lifetime. If you feel led to help, there are kids out there ready to get started!

Kids mentored for at least 1 year have 50% fewer school days skipped. To find out how you can bless a child's life as a mentor, contact Kathleen Grehl at 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 or Jessi Marsh at jmarsh@familyguidance.net.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

→ March 31, 2017

4th Annual Spring Gala

Don't miss the premiere charity event of 2017 with returning Broadway Star Ivan Rutherford. This year Ivan will wow us with the classic tunes of Rodgers and Hammerstein. Visit FGgala.com for sponsorship and ticket information.

→ May 6-7, 2017

Pittsburgh Marathon

Calling all runners! This year Family Guidance is a contributing charity of the Pittsburgh Marathon. If you run in any of the marathon races for us, we will pay for your registration! All proceeds benefit the vulnerable children we serve. For info visit: Run4FGI.com.

→ June 23, 2017

Promise Camp Day of Prayer

Each year on the Friday before the first camp session, Family Guidance staff join the summer camp staff to walk every inch of Promise Camp to bathe the camp in prayer. Please join us in praying for the Lord's mighty work in the lives of our campers, safety for all, and wisdom and discernment for our staff.

→ June 25, 2017

Promise Camp Begins

After nine months of hard work, prayer and preparation, the first busload of campers will arrive at Promise Camp. This year's theme is "GO! (again)." Kids will learn that in Christ, we always have a second chance. Please keep Promise Camp in your prayers this summer.



Meet Jacob & Whitney

Brett Probert

We at Promise Camp are very excited to have taken a big step on the 30+ year journey of providing fun, quality, safe, and Christ-centered camping opportunities for vulnerable children from the Pittsburgh region at nearly no cost to them. We have hired a full-time residential facilities manager who is overseeing all aspects of maintenance and management for our growing camp facility. Jacob Logan is 28 years old and comes to us with a great background in this kind of work, most recently as a facility supervisor with Robert Morris University. He is off to a great start and it is such a joy to watch the projects that have been put off over the last years for lack of time begin to take shape.

One of the projects he is helping to oversee is the construction of a modular home on the property in which he and his wife

will live. His presence here also helps to move the ball forward in our growing retreat center rental capabilities. Renting the camp for weekend retreats and such is playing an increasing role in funding our summer camping ministry.

Jacob is engaged to be married to our brand new camp registrar, Whitney Winters. They will be married on May 13th when Whitney will join her new husband in their new home. We have been working to bring all of the summer camp operations to our office at Promise Camp and Whitney's presence has brought that to full realization. She will be handling all aspects of camper registration, a huge responsibility, right from camp itself instead of trying to manage that from our home office some 30 miles away. She was previously the camp registrar and administrative assistant for the Salvation Army in her home city of East Liverpool, Ohio. She too comes with a great background and passion to serve at-risk urban kids.

Join us in praising the Lord for Jacob and Whitney's faithfulness in hearing His call to join our team and for the incredible faithfulness they've demonstrated already. Know that kids will be able to have a greater understanding of who God is because of their work behind, and in front of, the scenes!

Promise Camp is a place where children find unconditional love and acceptance. Your support helps us to share the hope of Jesus Christ and provide a truly life-changing camp experience for Pittsburgh's most vulnerable children.

Board of Directors

Dean Marshall
Chairman of the Board
Dr. Bryan McCabe
Board Vice Chairman
Randy McMillan
Board Treasurer
K. Mark Hall
Board Secretary
Tim Colussy
James Dionise
Heather Ferrand
Rev. Brenda Gregg
Mark Hondru
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
412.689.0056 | brett@Promise.Camp
227 Lance Road • Clinton, Pennsylvania 15026

Please accept my gift of:

- \$25
- \$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 pray 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.



913 WESTERN AVENUE, PITTSBURGH, PA 15233 • 412-741-8550 • WWW.FAMILYGUIDANCE.NET

<<Address>>
 <<Address 1>>
 <<Address 2>>
 <<Address 3>>
 <<City>>, <<State>>, <<Zip>>

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Pittsburgh, PA
 Permit No. 4978

