

## Executive Director's Message

### Visiting the Past, Looking to the Future

Philip Spina

In the 1980's sci-fi classic Back to the Future, Marty McFly is transported back in time to the 1950's where he encounters younger versions of his parents. He gets to know them and their hopes and dreams for the future. After many mishaps, close calls and adventures, he returns home with a deeper understanding of the past and how it will impact the future.

I recently traveled back in time to the beginnings of Family Guidance. Although it wasn't in a DeLorean with a flux capacitor and I actually never left 2017, it was just as meaningful. Here's what happened.

On a recent trip to Florida, I had the privilege to visit with Anna Leckie, wife of Family Guidance founder Jim Leckie, along with her daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Alan Reed. We spent several hours together talking about the early days of the ministry and the impact Jim Leckie has had on so many lives throughout Pittsburgh. Susan shared pictures of her father and the ministry, and along with Anna and Alan, relayed the rich and

Christ-centered history of the organization. Tears of happiness and joy were shared over the course of our time together. Although I never had the opportunity to meet Jim, it became clear that he and Anna, their love for the Lord and heart for helping vulnerable children, were the foundation of Youth Guidance/Family Guidance from its inception 53 years ago.

Anna is a doing great and she sends her love and prayers to all of us here in Pittsburgh. I am blessed to call her my friend in Christ.

A few weeks before my visit with Anna and her family, I met with Judge Maurice Cohill. It was Judge Cohill's 1964 phone call to Jim Leckie to mentor some boys sent to his court that was the catalyst for the creation of our ministry. Judge Cohill and I had the opportunity to get to know one another and talk about the history of Family Guidance. He is an amazing individual who is still very active in the Pittsburgh community. For the fourth year in a row, Judge Cohill attended the Family Guidance Spring Gala and was able to spend some time with Broadway performer Ivan Rutherford after the dinner and performance.

It is difficult to express in words how meaningful it was for me to meet and spend time with Anna Leckie and Judge Cohill, and



Philip Spina with Anna Leckie and Susan and Alan Reed

to hear first-hand about the transformational work that occurred through them for Christ in Pittsburgh. I'm humbled and honored to serve as Executive Director alongside our staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, and faithful supporters. And now, enlightened and energized by my trip to the past, I have an even greater hope for our future.

Philip Spina, Executive Director



### Volunteering Top Ten

There are many ways to support the important work of Family Guidance. Check out our top 10!  
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### GO! (again) at Camp 2017

Camp Director Brett Probert fills us in on the latest camp happenings and this year's exciting new camp theme.  
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### It Takes a Body

Partner churches and caring neighbors come together to ready-up for Promise Camp 2017!  
Pg5

# Volunteering Top 10

Kelly Pirl

## 1. Become a Mentor!

Do you feel led to become a mentor? Does your church have a vision to serve? For more information visit [familyguidance.net/programs/mentoring/](http://familyguidance.net/programs/mentoring/)

## 2. Join our Young Professionals Board

If you are a young professional with a heart to help vulnerable youth, we'd love to have you on our YPAC Board. To join, contact Kelly Pirl at [kpirl@familyguidance.net](mailto:kpirl@familyguidance.net).

## 3. Become a Business Event Sponsor

Gain positive exposure for your business while helping Pittsburgh's most vulnerable children. For details, contact Jessi Marsh at [jmarsh@familyguidance.net](mailto:jmarsh@familyguidance.net).

## 4. Donate Items

Browse our Give Hope Catalog. Each one of these donations supports a significant part of our ministry to vulnerable children in Pittsburgh. Visit [familyguidance.net/give-hope-catalog/](http://familyguidance.net/give-hope-catalog/).

## 5. Connect with us on Social Media

Like us on Facebook (FamilyGuidancePA), follow us on Twitter (@FamilyGuidance), join us on Instagram (familyguidance). Share your favorite stories and pictures of your experience serving at Family



Guidance. Be sure to tag us by using the hashtag #FamilyGuidance!

## 6. Get Your Church Involved

Our Church Partners are essential to our mentoring and camping ministries. To get your church more involved with Family Guidance, contact us at 412-741-8550 or [info@familyguidance.net](mailto:info@familyguidance.net).

## 7. Become a Prayer Partner

Prayer is the foundation of our ministry. Please pray for the vulnerable children we serve through our mentoring and camping ministries, and for God's wisdom and direction for our staff and Board of Directors.

## 8. Become a Monthly Donor

We could not do what we do without you.

Thank you so much for your support. Please consider becoming a monthly donor at Family Guidance. It's an easy way for you to make your giving automatic so you don't have to think about it. To become a monthly donor visit [donate.familyguidance.net/](http://donate.familyguidance.net/).

## 9. Search and Shop

To shop at Amazon Smile, simply go to [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com) from your web browser and select Family Guidance.

## 10. Sponsor a Child at Camp

Go to [familyguidance.net/give-hope-catalog/](http://familyguidance.net/give-hope-catalog/), select the Promise Camp option, and help change a life!

*There are many ways that you can help to bring hope and a future to Pittsburgh's most vulnerable children. Thank you for your support!*





## One Enchanted Evening

Kelly Pirl

Family Guidance welcomed more than 300 guests to The Fairmont in downtown Pittsburgh for the Annual Spring Gala, "One Enchanted Evening." This special event raised more than \$140,000 for our One2One Mentoring and Promise Camp ministries. The night, filled with live entertainment, included a crowd-pleasing performance by Broadway veteran Ivan Rutherford. Rutherford is best known for his legendary portrayal of Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*. The Family Guidance Board of Directors was pleased to honor Ken Smith as the 2017 Jim Leckie Award winner, for his outstanding service to the under-served children of Pittsburgh. Thank you to all of our sponsors, donors, guests, board, staff, and volunteers for making this year's gala such a wonderful and successful event! Family Guidance is humbled and blessed to be able to offer hope and a future through Jesus Christ to our city's most vulnerable children. For more information on the history, mission and programs of Family Guidance, please visit [familyguidance.net](http://familyguidance.net).



The beautiful pool at Promise Camp provides hours of wholesome fun for our campers.

## Go Again! Promise Camp 2017

Brett Probert

In just a few short weeks, the first bus of Promise Camp 2017 will be rolling up filled with kids awaiting a week of fun, great food, climbing and challenges, and of course, the love of Jesus Christ! Preparations are in full swing for our upcoming summer of ministry! The summer ministry team is hired, the t-shirts are being printed, the Cabin Bible Talks are all assembled, the craft supplies are ordered and the pool will soon be filled. Last year we served 391 campers aged 7-17 over 6 weeks of ministry and we're excited to do it all over again this year.

We have streamlined our registration process and our new camp registrar, Whitney, is busy on the phone nearly

every day tracking down needed information and getting everything required so these campers can have a wonderful week of seeing Jesus in a new and different way during their time at beautiful Promise Camp.

We have well over 70 campers already officially registered and we're hoping and praying for many more as the summer season gets closer. We appreciate all the support, prayers, and encouragement each year as we undertake this awesome and awe-inspiring task! We will keep you posted as the summer progresses, and we'll be sure to share the stories of how the Lord is changing the lives of kids in and around Pittsburgh one heart at a time! Stories like this one from the 2016 camp season:

*After Alex, one of our counselors at Promise Camp, shared the story of how Christ had helped her in very specific difficult times, one of her*

*campers opened up to her in a way she hadn't before about similar difficulties in her life. "God was clearly working through all of our talks," said Alex. "This young camper accepted Jesus into her heart at the end of the week! She explained to me that she previously never thought that God was with her during all those hard times until I explained how God was with me during similar events in my own testimony."*

This year our theme is "GO! (again)" and centers around the idea that in Christ, we always have redemption and a chance to go again. The theme verse is John 8:11 when Jesus tells the woman caught in adultery to "go, and leave your life of sin." In essence, she was told to go again! In addition to that woman, we're going to be looking at the lives of David, Paul, and Peter and how God gave each of them second chances and went on to use

them in mighty ways because of His redemptive love.

Our counselor team is also going to be sharing each of their own struggles on the journey and the second chances God has given to them to punctuate the point personally. Our evening worship services will encapsulate each days' studies with worship, skits, and an interactive message. Our crafts and some of our games also help to drive the point home.

Please pray for each camper that in the midst of the fun that is Promise Camp that they'll be able to see God, His love, and His second chances for their lives!

*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. To sponsor a child, visit [donate.familyguidance.net](http://donate.familyguidance.net).*



## Golf for Kids

On Monday, September 18th, Family Guidance will host the annual "Helping Kids out of the Rough" Golf and Dinner Classic at St. Clair Country Club.

Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a round of golf while supporting the life-transforming programs of Family Guidance, including:

### one2one Mentoring

At-risk youth, a rapidly growing segment of our population, have special needs. They require special programs that build confidence, help them to develop positive relationships, and instill values that will help them make good decisions. We are helping one child at a time, giving kids hope and a future through the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

### Promise Camp

For more than 30 years, Promise Camp has been providing a quality summer experience for Pittsburgh area kids. Accredited by the American Camp Association, Promise Camp is located 25 miles outside the City of Pittsburgh in Clinton, PA. Each year hundreds of children, ages 7-17, learn about the promise of Jesus Christ while experiencing a variety of activities and making lasting friendships.

For more information, to register or sponsor this event please contact Kelly Pirl at 724-396-4241 or [kpirl@familyguidance.net](mailto:kpirl@familyguidance.net).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

→ June 3, 2017

### Mentor Training Day

Regularly scheduled training for the latest class of potential mentors. We are thankful for our volunteer mentors who sacrifice much to help change a child's life.

→ June 4, 2017

### Promise Camp Open House for Mentors and Mentees

A day to introduce mentors and their mentees to all the fun things there are to do at Promise Camp.

→ June 23, 2017

### Promise Camp Day of Prayer

FGI staff and summer camp staff will walk every inch of Promise Camp, bathing it in prayer. Please join us in praying for the Lord's mighty work in the hearts of our campers, safety for all, and wisdom and discernment for our staff.

→ June 25, 2017

### Promise Camp Begins

The first busload of campers 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!

→ September 18, 2017

### Helping Kids Out of the Rough Golf and Dinner Classic

Save-the-Date for an amazing day of golf at beautiful St. Clair Country Club. Non-golfing spouses and guests are invited to join us later for a fun evening of music, auctions, and a delicious gourmet dinner. For info, call Kelly Pirl at 724-396-4241.



## It Takes a Body

Brett Probert

**V**olunteers are essential to helping us maintain and improve the 112 beautiful acres of Promise Camp, including grounds and facilities. This May we hosted two volunteer work days.

**Workday 1** - A friend and neighbor who gives up one work day a year to volunteer at camp helped me tear the porch off of the rear of the Lakota Bunkhouse and also helped to build the new boardwalk sidewalk to the Dining Hall.

**Workday 2** - Eleven men from Hebron Presbyterian Church in Penn Hills came to work with me and Jacob to replace the Lakota porch and reroof the aging Sassafras cabin. Although the roof project got rained out halfway through, we made great headway - an enormous help to me and Jacob. The porch project is nearly complete and will only require railing installation.

**Upcoming Retreats** - Promise Camp rentals in the off-season help to fund our camping ministry to vulnerable children during the summer months. This spring we are hosting both the Light of Life Men's Residential Program and the Women & Children's Program spring retreats at Promise Camp. This is the second year for these hopefully annual events. We are already securing rentals for the fall of this year and have two rentals for 2018 already on the books. Renting Promise Camp for your church or personal event is another great way to support the work of Family Guidance.

**Essentials for Our Kids** - My home church, Bethel United Methodist Church in Salix worked with their children and youth programs to collect playground balls, craft supplies, and essential camper hygiene supplies as well as \$150 cash to buy more.

*If you would like to support the ministry of Promise Camp through volunteering or by renting our facility, please contact Camp Director Brett Probert at [brett@Promise.Camp](mailto:brett@Promise.Camp).*

## Board of Directors

Dean Marshall  
*Chairman of the Board*  
Dr. Bryan McCabe  
*Board Vice Chairman*  
Randy McMillan  
*Board Treasurer*  
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Vincent D. Moye, Jr.  
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## 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 Brett Probert  
412.689.0056 | [brett@Promise.Camp](mailto: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.*



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