



*Supportive Services for Veterans*



*CEO Nick Maddox gardening at HOPE with children*



*Free Library donated by Junior League*



# Family Promise of the Big Bend

## OUR 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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*Long-time HOPE Director Marie Vandenberg (far right) with Bag for HOPE team members*



*Tallahassee Democrat honored at our annual event for coverage of homelessness and affordable housing*



**SHAMARIAL ROBERSON**  
**Board Chair**

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

## Our Chair's Vision

Dear Friends,

What an incredible year of transformation 2024 has been for Family Promise of the Big Bend!

Last year, I shared our vision for renovating HOPE, the only shelter for homeless families in the Big Bend region. Today, I am thrilled to report that we completed a comprehensive \$1.9 million renovation in September 2024. This transformation has touched every aspect of our facility - from modernized dining halls and dormitories to an updated basketball court and children's playground. We've also implemented state-of-the-art safety and security systems to better protect our residents, many of whom are seeking refuge from challenging situations.

One innovation I'm particularly proud of is our new resident engagement program. Each dormitory is now equipped with laptops where residents can log their daily chores, fostering a sense of responsibility and community within our HOPE family. This digital system helps our residents build valuable skills while contributing to the upkeep of their temporary home.

Looking ahead to 2025, we're setting our sights on another ambitious goal: upgrading our affordable housing units that serve formerly homeless veterans. With approximately 76 such units in our portfolio, this initiative will ensure that those who served our country have access to affordable, quality housing. Additionally, we're expanding our services for children at HOPE, focusing on programs that build resilience and create positive futures for our youngest residents.

Every day at Family Promise, we witness the power of community support in transforming lives. Our doors remain open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, providing not just shelter, but hope and opportunity for families in need. The work we do continues to be deeply fulfilling, knowing that each day brings us closer to our mission of ending family homelessness in the Big Bend region.

I extend a heartfelt invitation to you - whether you're a long-time supporter or just learning about us - to come visit HOPE and see these transformations firsthand. We would also welcome the opportunity to speak at your



*Ribbon cutting of HOPE after renovations with Senator Corey Simon and board members*

organization's events and share more about our mission and impact. Together, we can continue to build a stronger, more compassionate community for all our residents.

With gratitude and hope for the future,

Shamarial Roberson DrPH, MPH, Chair



**Our Mission:**  
**Our mission is to end homelessness in the Big Bend through leadership, education, advocacy, and the provision of quality services and affordable housing.**

## Our Story:

Family Promise of the Big Bend was founded in 1989, and formerly named the Big Bend Homeless Coalition. The national Family Promise affiliation is a network of 200 providers committed to helping families achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response.

## Our Appreciation:

As a public nonprofit we depend on a wide array of volunteers, donors, and governmental agencies. In 2024, our HOME, HOPE, and PROMISE awards celebrated three examples of our incredible supporters. They were: the Tallahassee Democrat for long-term coverage of homelessness and affordable housing, Senator Corey Simon for successfully championing effort to refurbish HOPE, and Bank of America for their financial support to build gardens and a greenhouse at HOPE.



*Chair Sharmarial Roberson presenting HOME, HOPE, and PROMISE award to Andy Harrison of Bank of America*

# OUR WORK: HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

## 387 FAMILY MEMBERS

provided emergency shelter



## HOME BASE

program provided stable housing for 1-year to 36 homeless young adults, aged 18-24



## PERMANENT HOUSING

provided for 141 formerly chronic homeless individuals and families. 91% maintained stable housing for 12-months or more

# OUR WORK: HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

**312  
VETERANS  
SERVED**

in our Supportive  
Services for Veterans  
and Families program



**OPERATED 3  
APARTMENT  
COMPLEXES**

to serve veterans and  
low-income families. The  
largest complex has 52  
apartments for formerly  
homeless veterans

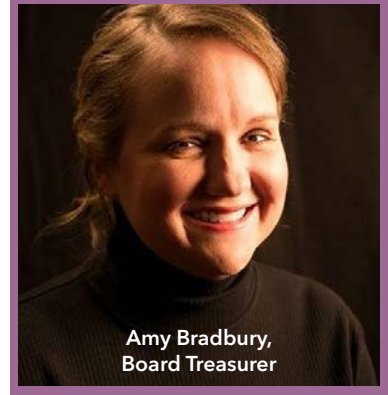


# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS\*



Tara Hall, CFO

**TOTAL ASSETS  
END OF YEAR:  
\$6,306,525**



Amy Bradbury,  
Board Treasurer

**7.7%**

Administrative and  
Fundraising Costs

## Top Donors Include:

- US Department of Housing and Urban Development
- US Department of Veteran Affairs
- Florida Department of Children and Families
- Community Human Service Partnership
- Big Bend Community of Care
- United Way of the Big Bend

"Thanks to our generous donors, 2024 was truly transformative for Family Promise. The \$1.9 million renovation of HOPE has given our families the dignified, secure environment they deserve. As we look toward upgrading our veterans' housing in 2025, your continued support shows that when our community comes together, we can create lasting change for those who need it most."

- Amy Bradbury

\* Financial Data is from FY 2022-23 990



# VOLUNTEERS: WE RELY ON HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS!

## Here's One Story!

Celebrating 15 Years of Hope, One Stitch at a Time

For fifteen remarkable years, A Bag For HOPE has woven together creativity and compassion, transforming fabric into future opportunities for the children at HOPE. Founded by Libby Penrod, a retired nurse, and Lynne Corbett, this dedicated group of artisans has been crafting handmade bags and other items, with all proceeds directly supporting HOPE's youngest residents.

"Our focus is totally on the children," says Penrod, reflecting on their years of service. This unwavering commitment has yielded extraordinary results. A Bag For HOPE's contributions funded the initial basketball court, children's playground, and education center - spaces that have become vital sanctuaries for learning and play at HOPE Community.

Their impact extends far beyond the physical structures they've helped build. Marie Vandenburg, director of the HOPE Community, emphasizes the organization's crucial role: "I don't know what we would do without them. Our funding is limited and they are able to help us in ways that we would be struggling to try to support our residents."

A Bag For HOPE exemplifies how passionate community members can create lasting change through creative initiatives. Their dedication to crafting beautiful, purposeful items has built a legacy of support that continues to touch the lives of countless families seeking stability and hope.

*If you'd like to partner with us as an organization or individual contact us at [volunteer@familypromisebigbend.org](mailto:volunteer@familypromisebigbend.org)*



*Co-founder of Bag for HOPE, Libby Penrod, far right with Nick Maddox, CEO; Liza McFadden, consultant, and Tim Griffith, Property Manager*



*Bag for HOPE Playground updated during renovation with shades*

# LEADERSHIP

We're open 24-hours a day,  
7-days a week.

It's the kind of work that takes people  
with kind hearts and keen abilities to  
deal with people in crisis.

## 2024 Board Members

Dr. Steve Beasley

Dr. Trey Blake  
*Secretary*

Amy Bradbury  
*Treasurer*

Jamie Forrest  
*Chair of Development*

Brice Google  
*Vice Chair*

Khari Harrison

Shamirial Roberson  
*Chair*

David Vincent  
*Chair, Nominations and  
Governance*

Michael Yaworsky  
*Chair, Finance*

# LEADERSHIP



**NICK MADDOX**  
**Leadership, CEO**

Nick Maddox was appointed CEO in July 2023. As a child, he had first-hand experience with the trauma of being homeless. He brings significant experience as a former CEO in the nonprofit arena and also has government experience as an elected county commissioner. Nick is passionate about creating a topnotch client experience which will have long-term positive impact for clients and for our community.

## Key Management Staff



**TAMIKA FIELDS, COO**



**TARA HALL, CFO**



**TIM GRIFFTH,  
PROPERTY MANAGER**

# OUR THANKS

We appreciate all of our donors. Unrestricted gifts in the past year have helped support gaps which grants don't fully cover. This year that included:



over  
**\$30,000**  
worth of food  
for meals



over  
**\$60,000**  
to help replace  
roofs and repaint  
Homefront, our  
apartments for  
formerly homeless  
veterans

## WAYS TO GIVE:

- Sponsor or purchase a ticket for our Annual Event
- Become a HOPE champion by donating \$1000 annually, or \$83.33 monthly
- Partner to support one of our many events celebrating holidays and birthdays at HOPE
- Hold a donation drive for new toys, books, hygiene products
- Reach out to us at [volunteer@FamilyPromiseBigBend.org](mailto:volunteer@FamilyPromiseBigBend.org) with ideas



*Annual Event*



*First Day of School event with Chair Shamarial Roberson and School Board member, Darryl Jones*



*Sock and food donation drive*



Family Promise  
of the Big Bend

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