



How Powerful Can The Promise Council Be?



Consider this.

Two families in Olympia District 16, a school district new to the Promise Council, recently experienced two urgent requests for help.

An elementary student was in a mower accident that caused him to lose his foot and part of his leg. His family needed to quickly erect a ramp so that when he came home he could get in and out of the house using a wheelchair. They requested help with lumber and construction.



A high school student needed cash and Walmart gift cards to help her family with food and basic needs. Her father is terminally ill and can no longer work.

Informed by the SHOUT-OUT list, Caring Adults used the Promise Council website to contribute. Others brought donations directly to the school.

In less than one week, over \$5000 was raised.

Superintendent Dr. Laura O'Donnell was delighted with response and the speed with which it came. "I love this community!" said Dr. O'Donnell.

Thanks to all who answered the call!

"April Showers Bring May Flowers"

That little rhyme has definitely been true this year. But it is also the perfect analogy for the

exciting period of rapid growth that Promise Council has been experiencing this spring! In February, we added six Promise Council Schools to our family; Stevenson, in District 87, and all five schools in Olympia District 16. On April 8, 2021 the Board of Directors unanimously approved four new Promise Council Schools in Unit 5. If you are keeping count, that means we have “blossomed” this spring from 13 schools to 23! That is nearly an 80% growth rate, and we couldn’t be more pleased. If you live close to any of these schools, or have a personal history with them, please consider [becoming a volunteer](#) as they begin to develop their programs.

The Promise Council Board of Directors sends a very warm welcome to all of our new “flowers” this spring. As always, we look forward to helping these schools help kids!



Brigham Early Learning Center is home to 233 Pre-Kindergarten students ages three to five. It is located at 201 Brigham School Rd; west of Main Street on the south end of Bloomington. 55% of the students served by Brigham are low-income. 49% have special needs requiring Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), and 31% are English Language Learners.

Led by Erin O’Grady, Brigham’s goal is to provide a stimulating and nurturing environment for young children. Students are given the chance to become successful and build self-confidence. The program is designed to increase student opportunities, help prepare for future achievements, and meet individual learning needs and goals.



Fairview Elementary School is located at 416 Fairview Street in North Normal. It’s student body of 304 includes 155 low-income students and 67 with special needs. Principal Gina Tenuta is committed to the Fairview mission, which is to educate every Falcon to his/her full potential. Fairview’s staff aims to foster life-long learning by recognizing and encouraging individual talents and capabilities through diverse opportunities. They strive to create a sense of community through respect, responsibility, and cooperation in a safe, caring, and healthy environment so that each Falcon will spread his/her wings and fly!



Parkside Junior High School, located at 101 N Parkside Road in Normal, serves 691 students in grades six through eight. 38% of the students at Parkside are from low-income families and 19% have IEPs. Principal Hesser and the staff at Parkside believe in creating a positive environment



Sugar Creek Elementary School serves both the Pre-K and K-5 populations. Its 427 students are led by Principal Kristina Peifer at 200 N Towanda Avenue in Normal. The student body at Sugar Creek includes over 100 students with special needs and 226 who are experiencing the opportunity gap

where their students can grow to their full academic, social, and emotional potential. Promise Council is excited to come alongside them as they continue to strive to achieve this mission!

often present with low-income families. With the support of Promise Council in the coming year, all Sugar Creek Cheetahs will know it's a GREAT day to be a Cheetah!

Dear Promise Council,

I am amazed, humbled, and very grateful for this community of caring and generous people!!” Whether the need be for clothing, shoes, food, utility assistance, beds, technology, medical needs, school supplies, or whatever the need, Promise Council has immediately responded to every request! You are extremely generous, and donations are of premium quality! Donations are received in the form of checks mailed to Cedar, Amazon deliveries, school drop offs or meet and greet pick-up spots with the Coordinator!!

Sometimes, families are shy about seeking assistance and often feel a sense of embarrassment about not being able to meet their student needs. When teachers and staff come alongside of them, we know that Promise Council will be a reliable resource for support. Most families are very humbled and grateful for donations received. They often tell me that they can't believe how abundant the gifts are!

But the greatest joy is the look on the children's faces. One father benefiting from a shout-out, videotaped his 3 students as they received new beds and bedding. The children were dancing, jumping up and down and so excited! They had been sleeping on the floor for 3 months after the fire sprinkler accidentally discharged and damaged everything in their room. Even though the father was a wonderful provider, this tragedy was something he could not recover from alone. Promise Council not only assisted with material items but encouraged this young father! You made a difference!

In another Shout-out delivery, a Grandmother who was caring for her grandson did not have money to purchase needed clothing for his growing needs. She only asked for a couple pair of pants and shirts. Promise Council abundantly blessed this young friend with 4 pair of pants, 6 shirts/sweatshirts, underclothing, socks, shoes, and a jacket! These were all in his favorite colors and movie characters!! Promise Council Caring Adults always go the extra mile...out of love! The families feel it!!

These are only 2 examples of the 9 Shout Outs this year alone!! Besides the frequent Shout Out requests, Promise Council supports Cedar Ridge Teachers through encouraging notes and provision of needed supplies. You filled our library with books that represent all people and help build equity! You just replenished our empty supply of underclothing for our young Kindergarten students who are still learning toileting and frequently have “accidents”!

Even though you may not be able to see the joy of your gracious actions, please know you are valued, needed, and appreciated!! May the blessings you have poured out be returned to you two-hundred-fold!!

Cindy Rodgers

Cindy Rodgers is the Community School Coordinator at Cedar Ridge Elementary School. Her journey with Promise Council began two years ago after learning about our history, processes and goals from the Chairperson at Cedar Ridge. According to Cindy, she was very impressed then, but is now amazed! We want to share the letter Cindy wrote to us to express her

gratitude. Her thanks belong to all of you, the volunteers and donors who make the work we do possible.

DONATE

VOLUNTEER

Promise Council

1701 E. Empire St. STE 360-#286
Bloomington, IL 61704
www.promisecouncil.org

