



100 CARING ADULTS

Promise Council is looking for 100 adults or more to line the sidewalks outside each of our schools to cheer on and encourage students as they return to school. You can cheer, whistle, clap, sing, and shout words of encouragement along with Promise Council members. (No physical contact for the children's safety). Please bring a mask to wear if required by district guidelines.



This link ([100 Caring Adults](#)) will show you the days, times, and schools where we will be supporting students! You can also use this link to sign up to attend (it is not required).

SUGAR CREEK ELEMENTARY FAMILY RESOURCE ROOM

Promise Councils are committed to supporting students based on three key areas identified by local teachers and staff:

1. Providing more adult mentors for students
2. Meeting physical needs of students when they stand in the way of academic achievement
3. Increasing opportunities for parental engagement

In its efforts to increase parental engagement, Sugar Creek Promise Council has applied for a **\$25,000 State Farm Neighborhood Assist® Grant**. The grant would be used to create a Family Resource Room. A safe, comfortable, non-threatening space to validate caregivers' feelings of importance and emphasize the important role they play in the school. This dedicated space will provide caregivers opportunities to spend time at school building relationships, getting resources, washing clothes, and providing basic needs. Once strong relationships and trust have been established, the family resource room will also be a space for hosting caregiver trainings related to: self-esteem, involvement in their student's education, and the important role education plays in

their student's future academic, social, emotional and career success.

The grant was written by Amanda Mateer (Family Coordinator), Holly Cox (Assistant Principal), Tammy Neuhouser (Learning and Behavioral Specialist I), and Jen Stolbom (3rd Grade Teacher). Important dates for you to know:

[Week of August 9](#)

Top 200 Grant Applicants Selected – LOOK for Sugar Creek at

neighborhoodassist.com

[August 18-27](#)

Voting Period Starts – Help Sugar Creek WIN by voting daily and telling all your friends!

[September 29](#)

Winners Announced!

Good luck, Sugar Creek!!

An EXCITING NEW PARTNERSHIP



Ekal Helping Hands has devoted their new campaign “Express Yourself” to provide school supplies to children in Promise Council Schools. Please take a moment to read about their organization, their campaign, and how you can help!

Hello! We are Ekal Helping Hands, a youth service and leadership team that is

branched off of Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation USA's local chapter for the Bloomington-Normal community. Ekal Vidyalaya is a non-profit organization on a mission to bring basic education to every child across rural India and Nepal. It focuses on the holistic development of villages through the empowerment of tribal and rural communities, and the organization has built a presence in over 100,000 villages to support this mission. However, Ekal Helping Hands, our youth team, focuses on making a difference in the local community.

Our new campaign “Express Yourself” does just that! We understand how COVID-19 has impacted and affected millions of students and schools worldwide, and we wanted to help address those issues within our own community and on a global scale. So, we decided to run a series of workshops, in the subjects of public speaking and art, with the goal of raising funds for students locally, with the Promise Council, and globally, with Ekal Vidyalaya.

Through our partnership with Promise Council, we will use the funds we raise to donate school supplies and backpack kits to directly impact schools in both Unit 5 and District 87. We hope to help as many students as possible through this initiative!

As a youth team, our slogan is “Youth for Youth” and through our campaign “Express Yourself” we hope to encourage youth in our community to utilize their voices, skills, and abilities to help our community through art and public speaking. While the classes are already underway, you can support our campaign by donating at this

link: [expressyourself](#)

With just a click, your donation, no matter how big or small, will encourage youth from our team, students in the Bloomington-Normal community, and students in rural areas of India and Nepal!

If you would like to learn more about who we are, please visit the following links!

Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation USA website [ekal](#)

Our contact email: ekalyouthteam1@gmail.com

Our Instagram: [@ekalyouthvolunteers](#)

FROM THE BOARD

August /aw' gəst/. The eighth month of the year. Follows July, precedes September. It is sometimes referred to as the “worst month” because it symbolizes the end of summer vacation. This year however, it also means being only weeks away from unlimited face-to-face time with their best friends! As our nation cautiously begins to emerge from the isolation of the pandemic, we can finally look forward to our annual preparations of going BACK to school.

Promise Council has been working on its own preparations to return to schools this fall, and we have three big priorities we would like your help with:



COME TO OUR 100 CARING ADULTS EVENTS

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JOIN OUR E-MAIL SHOUT OUT LISTS

All PC schools create their own *Shout-out Lists*. These lists are composed of community members willing to consider meeting student needs. Schools generate “shout-outs” periodically when a student with an urgent need is identified. The need could be large such as help with rent or furniture, or smaller such as school supplies, snacks, or clothing. There is no requirement that you respond to each request. Just consider it and respond as you are able.



VOLUNTEER TO MENTOR CHILDREN

In January, 2021, the US President directed the Department of Education to “deliver a report ... on the disparate impacts of COVID-19 on students in elementary, secondary, and higher education.” Early studies already show that for many students, the educational gaps that existed before the pandemic are not only widening, but falling disproportionately on students who went into the pandemic with the greatest educational needs and fewest opportunities. These are the students we support. We are anticipating

many requests for
volunteers and mentors to
help students with social,
emotional, and educational
needs.

*If you would like to join a Shout-out List, or give of your time and talents as a
mentor, please go to PROMISECOUNCIL.ORG and let us know what you can do!*

Promise Council

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