



Community Continues to Support our Mission to Help Kids

APRIL SHOWERS fell early for Promise Council this year. During the month of March, we received over \$100,000 in donations and grants to support the work we do in Central Illinois. Please read about our generous partners and join us in thanking them for their gifts!



On March 7, 2023, we were surprised with a check from the **Laborers Local 362** for \$85,000 made possible by labor leader and member of our board, John Penn. When asked about hosting a retirement party in his honor, John specified he would only agree if it was tied to something charitable. The funds raised in honor of his work, totaling \$170,000 were split between two nonprofit organizations that are near and dear to his

heart – Promise Council and the Stay4 Project. Both organizations support at-risk children as they navigate the educational system and make their way toward becoming productive members of society. According to John, all of the money raised came from union members in Local 362 and others in the area.



The same week, **Cummins, Inc.**, a global power leader in technology solutions announced that Promise Council had been approved for a \$5000 grant! Cummins is instrumental in advancing innovations in advanced diesel, natural gas, hybrid, electric and fuel cell technologies. They have been listed for 14 consecutive years on

Ethisphere World's Most Ethical Companies list and were ranked 24th on Newsweek's List of America's Most Responsible Companies last year. Cummins' stated mission is *making people's lives better by powering a more prosperous world* and their values align with those of Promise Council – Integrity – Diversity & Inclusion – Caring – Excellence – Teamwork.

Just a couple weeks ago **Mondo's Mission**, a local non-profit established to carry on Monte Rink's legacy of support to the Bloomington-Normal community, donated \$2,000 to the BJHS Promise Council. With their generous donation, we were able to stock our Raider's Resource Room with over 800 items, including, undergarments, sweat pants, leggings, deodorant, etc. The BJHS social workers access the items when they uncover a student who is unable to afford such basic necessities. We were able to purchase items which are needed most so students can immediately receive new clothing, etc., when needed.



The Heart of Christ Fund and Second Presbyterian Church first became involved with Promise Council this year by making a generous donation to one of our newest schools, Parkside Junior High School. The fund, started by an anonymous donor who believes in helping people help themselves makes gifts that encourage education and respect for self and others. Like Promise Council, they support efforts to overcome economic, social and racial barriers. Their desire, like ours, is to help recipients become productive participants in the community. On March 22, the **Second Presbyterian Church HOC Fund** approved a grant for \$11,000 to support the growth and development of Promise Council throughout Central Illinois. Their gift represents a recognition of the importance of self-sustainability for nonprofit agencies and organizations working hard to improve the lives of others. These funds will indeed “extend the heart of Christ in the heart of our community”!!

Message from the Board



The act of moving our clocks forward each spring is a healthy reminder that life is also moving forward. As spring begins, we anticipate and then celebrate change: sunnier skies, longer, warmer days, and new growth.

This spring, Promise Council is proud to remember all of the positive change that has unfurled since we began our work in 2009. Our initial success in helping children at Pepper Ridge Elementary led to the addition of three Unit 5 schools over the next two years. BJHS was added as our first District 87 school in 2013, and was quickly followed by adding nine more local schools from 2013 - 2018. The need for growth and change spurred our original steering committee to apply for and achieve recognition as a nonprofit entity, gaining 501(c)3 status in 2014. The first Board of Directors was seated in 2018, and following a period of introspection, reorganization, and preparation, we were ready to grow again. In 2021 and 2022 four additional local schools were added in Bloomington/Normal and we expanded to include all five schools in Olympia District 18.

Today, we are proud of who we are and what we have become but as John F. Kennedy once said, “Change is the law of life, and those who look only to the past

and present are certain to miss the future.” Today we celebrate the old, the new, and what is to come. We are grateful for all of the individuals, corporations, organizations and agencies that have joined us along the way. We stand on a firm foundation because of your support and we look forward to building our future together!

Volunteer with us!

Promise Council

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