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**Family Promise of Cobb County and Zion Baptist Church Dedicate Zion's House of Blessings as a Transitional Residence for Families Escaping Homelessness**

Family Promise of Cobb County (FPCC) and Zion Baptist Church will dedicate the Zion's House of Blessings, which will serve as transitional housing for a family who was once homeless, on Sunday, October 27, 2019.

"This house was originally in disrepair and we weren't sure how to make use of it. God made it possible for us to use it for a family in crisis." said Reverend Eric M. Beckham, pastor of Zion Baptist Church. "It is our exciting privilege and honor here at Zion to make this ongoing contribution to families valiantly confronting the crisis of homelessness in Cobb County. We are grateful for the ongoing partnership with Family Promise and the Cobb County CDBG in helping to make this awesome ministry possibility a reality.

The need and the opportunity began coming together when Zion Baptist, who already owned the home off of Forest Avenue, learned they could apply for funds to help rehabilitate the house, which had several major issues preventing it from being habitable. With assistance from the Cobb County CDBG office, Zion Baptist started renovating the home and bringing it up to code.

Meanwhile, Family Promise of Cobb County (FPCC) was working to fulfill its mission statement of helping homeless families with children "achieve adequate and consistent income, stable housing, and lasting independence by mobilizing our local interfaith community to provide temporary emergency meals, shelter, compassionate hospitality, and professional services." To accomplish the mission of helping homeless families return to independence, Family Promise of Cobb runs four programs. Its largest is the Rotational Shelter which partners with 14 hosting congregations and six supporting congregations to house families on their campuses. Zion Baptist Church is one of the original hosting congregations. The other hosting congregations

are Acworth UMC, Christ Episcopal Church, Covenant Presbyterian Church, East Cobb UMC, Episcopal Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Mt. Zion UMC, Pilgrimage United Church of Christ, St. Andrew UMC, St. Catherine's Episcopal Church, St. James Episcopal Church, Temple Kol Emeth, Transfiguration Catholic Church, and Unity North Atlanta Church. The support congregations are Annunciation Episcopal, Our Redeemer Anglican Catholic Church, St. Teresa's Episcopal Church, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Pathways Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church Marietta and Baha'i Faith of Cherokee. Its transitional housing programs are in partnership with Kirkwood Presbyterian Church and The Giving Garden. FPCC also has a food box program and offers support services for families who have left the programs.

The house behind Zion Baptist Church is now completely remodeled inside and out so that it can serve as FPCC's third transitional house in Cobb County. FPCC plans to work with families in the home as they journey back from homelessness.

"Family Promise of Cobb County greatly thanks the Zion Baptist family for providing this transitional home to future FPCC clients as they journey toward freedom from homelessness," said FPCC Executive Director Camilla Worrell. "We are so excited this house will be available during our first Family Promise Week, a week dedicated to celebrating the work we do in the community. We also deeply appreciate the contributions and the efforts of the volunteers from Zion Baptist and Family Promise who helped transform an empty house into a home that will again be filled with hope, love, and the promise of a better future."

FPCC, which opened in January 2014, is a local non-profit dedicated to helping families return from homelessness to independence. The local organization is an independent affiliate of Family Promise, a national organization founded in 1988. To find out more about Family Promise of Cobb County and to donate to this cause, please visit [www.familypromisecobbcounty.org](http://www.familypromisecobbcounty.org).

Zion Baptist Church is at 165 Lemon Street NE, Marietta Ga 30060. Originally started as a house of worship for freed slaves, Zion Baptist Church has provided a welcoming environment for all who wish to worship, study God's word, and serve their community for over 150 years. For more information, visit [www.zbcmarietta.org](http://www.zbcmarietta.org).

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