

Family Promise Raises More Than \$135k at Cardboard City Campout



Bolles Family Promise Club at the 2024 Cardboard City campout.

Family Promise of Jacksonville returned to the field behind Lakewood Church, transforming the grassy area into a cardboard city for its 14th annual fundraising event on Friday, Nov. 15.

This year marked the most successful year for Family Promise's Cardboard City with more than \$135,000 funds raised to help support the nonprofit. Family Promise is shining a spotlight on Bolles sophomore Lachlan Lovett, who,

to date, has raised more than \$97,000 for this annual event.

"It's important to bring people in my generation together so they can see how they can raise money and impact people experiencing homelessness in Jacksonville, said Lovett, "I got involved with Family Promise because we are both passionate about helping people experiencing homelessness to find stability and have a brighter future."

Family Promise of Jacksonville Interim Executive Director Beth Mixson said young people like Lovett are prime examples of Gen Z's dedication to social issues.

"We are beyond grateful for Lachlan's passion and her success," Mixson said. "What she accomplished is astonishing; her dedication will change the lives of families experiencing homelessness."

Participants at Cardboard City 2024 were able to work together to build a cardboard structure that would be their sleeping quarters for the evening, decorating them with tape, markers, paint and other materials. With the goal of raising awareness of what unhoused families face on a regular basis, participants were also given a fact about family homelessness to incorporate into their design.

The event's Social Services Maze returned this year as well. The maze is an interactive experience that allows participants to get a small idea of how families experience homelessness in Jacksonville."

According to Family Promise of Jacksonville, more than 3,300 Duval County students experienced homelessness in the 2022/23 school year with more than 71% of those included in the 202 Point In Time experiencing homelessness for the first time and 30% of the unhoused in the United State are families with children.