



Pamela Mellott, State Director

147 Possum Trot Lane, Kearneysville, WV 25430

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Promise Places

Does your organization deliver four of the **Five Promises** to the young people it serves, or do you know one that does?

If yes, sign up to be designated a Promise Place and receive visibility from West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth.

The **Five Promises** are those developmental resources - wrap-around supports- that young people need for success in life:

- Caring Adults
- Safe Places
- A Healthy Start
- An Effective Education
- Opportunities to Help Others

A Promise Place can be a school, community organization, church, business, or any other organization that provides all Five Promises to young people in their community. Promise Places will receive recognition materials, be featured on the West Virginia's Promise website and will serve as models for other local organizations across West Virginia.

Promise Places inspire others to take action on behalf of youth by raising awareness of local outlets providing the Five Promises to young people. West Virginia's Promise promotes and celebrates the Five Promises as a model for youth development.

Youth who receive four of the Five Promises are far more likely to be successful, twice as likely to get A's, twice as likely to avoid violence, and 40 percent more likely to volunteer. Receiving four of the Five Promises has the potential to level the playing field for youth across racial and economic lines.



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Examples of Promise Delivery of Five Resources:

Organize a Promise Planning and Implementation Meeting to discuss possibilities for action. Organize a Community Summit (or join an established community Promise group) to create awareness and evaluate how well your community is providing the five fundamental resources, to identify gaps, and to involve a cross-section of the community in developing a plan of action. Identify specific children within your community or area who are not receiving resources and need special attention.

1. Caring adults, personal ongoing relationship with a caring adult- parent, mentor, tutor, coach;

- Recruit a specific number of members for specific number of hours per week as mentors, tutors or coaches for children and youth and provide incentives for their participation.
- Organize a “Lunch Buddy” program with a local school by recruiting your members, senior citizens, business people or other community members to share a lunch period weekly with a child or group of children.
- Recruit, train and supervise older students as mentors or tutors for younger students.
- Volunteer as a reading helper or organize a “Read Aloud” program for your school.

2. Safe places in which to learn and grow with structured activities during non-school hours;

- Organize and support after school programs in partnership with local churches or community volunteers, offering donations, a nutritious snack or recreational equipment and activities.
- Recruit a specific number of members as volunteers to staff after school programs.
- Encourage staff to volunteer to supervise after school tutoring and recreational activities.
- Organize or assist with summer programs for children to encourage educational opportunities for fun and recreation.

3. A healthy start toward adulthood;

- Distribute Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) information to parents who may be eligible.
- Support mini health clinics/seminars for children and adults.
- Sponsor a child without insurance for a dental check-up or cleaning.

4. An effective education that builds marketable skills;



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- Develop, support, and/or participate in career exploration days for youth to learn about a variety of professions, and the skills and education needed to perform these jobs.
- Participate in or sponsor National Groundhog Job Shadow Day (held annually on February 2nd) or National Take A Daughter To Work Day (held in April) where students to shadow community members in the workforce.
- Provide transportation to students wishing to participate in job shadowing programs.
- 5. Opportunities to help others, give back through community service to others.**
- Teach responsible citizenship and develop an ethic of service by developing community service projects for and with children and youth.
- Work with your local school, church youth groups or other youth organizations to organize quarterly food drives, a collection of hats, mittens, or gloves, or coats for kids for your community.
- Provide children and youth with information on community service opportunities and the benefits to the community and to the child.
- Sponsor youth service project by providing materials, food, or rewards (shirts, prizes, discount coupons).

Does your organization deliver four of the Five Promises to the young people it serves, or do you know one that does?

If yes, please apply to be a designated a **Promise Place** and receive state recognition from West Virginia's Promise and national visibility from America's Promise Alliance as well as recognition materials to build local awareness.

Children and youth need a variety of resources in order to thrive. America's Promise Alliance calls these the Five Promises. The Five Promises are those developmental resources — wrap-around supports— that young people need for success in life:

- Caring Adults
- Safe Places
- A Healthy Start
- An Effective Education
- Opportunities to Help Others



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The Five Promises change lives

Children who receive at least four of the Five Promises are much more likely than those who experience only one or zero Promises to succeed academically, socially and civically. They are more likely to avoid violence, contribute to their communities and achieve high grades in school. To experience the full power of the Promises, young people must experience these critical supports throughout their lives — in their families, at schools and out in their communities.

Everything we do as an Alliance is built around the framework of ensuring that more young people experience more of the Promises. We want to recognize local institutions that are providing the Promises to young people in their communities.

A **Promise Place** can be a school, community organization, church, business, or any other organization that provides four of the Five Promises to young people in their community. Promise Places will receive recognition materials, be featured on the West Virginia's Promise and America's Promise Alliance's website and in the Alliance's weekly newsletter, and will serve as models for other local organizations across the country.



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Promise Place Application

Please fill out the application below to receive designation as a Promise Place.

Email to Pam Mellott Pamela.J.Mellott@wv.gov

Organizational Information

Name of Organization:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Contact Person:

Email:

Web Site:

County:

Today's Date:

What is the mission of your organization? (Limit 100 words)

What year was the organization founded?

Young People Served

Number served yearly_____.

Ages Served (check all that apply)

- ☐ Early Childhood (0-5)
- ☐ Youth/Adolescents (12-17)
- ☐ Children (6-11)
- ☐ Young Adults (18-24)

Special Populations (check all that apply)

- ☐ Youth in foster care
- ☐ Children of prisoners
- ☐ Immigrant Youth
- ☐ Low-income youth
- ☐ Pregnant/parenting teens
- ☐ Other: _____



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The Five Promises

Caring Adults: All children need support and guidance from caring adults in their families, at schools and in their communities. These include ongoing, secure relationships with parents as well as formal and informal relationships with teachers, mentors, coaches, youth volunteers and neighbors.

Safe Places: All children need to be physically and emotionally safe wherever they are — from the actual places of families, schools, neighborhoods and communities to the virtual places of media. They also need a healthy balance between structured, supervised activities and unstructured time.

A Healthy Start: All children need and deserve healthy bodies, healthy minds and healthful habits. These result from regular health check-ups and needed treatment, good nutrition and exercise, healthy skills and knowledge, and good role models of physical and psychological health.

An Effective Education: All children need the intellectual development, motivation and skills that equip them for successful work and lifelong learning. These result from having quality learning environments, challenging expectations and consistent guidance and mentoring.

Opportunities to Help Others: All children need the chance to make a difference in their families, at schools and in their communities. Knowing how to make a difference comes from having models of caring behavior, awareness of the needs of others, a sense of personal responsibility to contribute to the larger society, and opportunities for volunteering, leadership and service.

- ☐ My organization provides four of the Five Promises to the young people we serve
- ☐ My organization provides all Five Promises to the young people we serve
 - Describe how your organization provides the Five Promises to the young people it serves. (Limit 250 words)...
 - Describe impacts and outcomes for the young people you serve as a result of your organization's efforts. (limit 150 words)
 - Provide a youth quote about involvement/experience with your organization. (include age or grade level — name optional)

Optional

Does your organization address any of the following America's Promise priority areas?

- **All Kids Covered:** Improving the health of children, which we believe is a prerequisite for a successful school experience. The Alliance wants to make sure



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- all children in the U.S. who are eligible for publicly funded health insurance programs are enrolled in those plans. Describe these efforts. (200 word limit)
- **Dropout Prevention:** Efforts to help young people graduate from high school ready for college work and civic life. Describe these efforts. (200 word limit)
 - **Ready for the Real World:** Providing middle school students with high-quality service-learning and career exploration experiences to help them connect what they learn in school to a positive future. Describe these efforts. (200 word limit)

Please email completed application to Pamela.J.Mellott@wv.gov