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[www.familypromiseofgc.org](http://www.familypromiseofgc.org)

If you would rather receive this newsletter electronically, please call (810) 234-9444.

*Building communities. Strengthening lives.*



Thanks to Lou and Rachel from PetSmart on Miller Rd., who set up this great fish tank at the Day Center. The tank sat without fish for a week while it adjusted and settled. But the kids did not even care the fish hadn't arrived yet. They just loved looking at the decorations!



Save the Date!

2016  
WINTER GALA  
& SILENT AUCTION  
Riverfront Banquet Center  
Saturday, February 20, 2016  
With a Fabulous 50s Theme!



# OF GENESEE COUNTY

SPRING 2015

ISSUE 3

## FAMILY PROMISE

### *From the Director's Desk*

#### **Homelessness is hard.**

The two young children of one of our guests have been talking a lot about going home. They miss their beds. They miss their rooms. They don't really understand why they had to leave.

Sometimes, nighttime is the toughest for the mom because there are fewer distractions. And it's hard to find the right words to explain to 2 and 3-year olds the reason they can't go home. This translates into a rough night's sleep for mom. Even though mom is working

on a new beginning, a solid foundation, it doesn't make those conversations easier.

But, every day that mom remains committed to her future - their future. Committed to the hard work it will take to rebuild what was lost. I look forward to the day this family will be together in their own home.

That perseverance amazes me, inspires me and reminds me our work is important. Each and every facet of Family Promise, each class, each staff member, each coordinator and each volunteer, each donor or

program supporter shapes a person's journey.

Because of each of you, lives are changing.

Lindsay Moore, Director  
Family Promise of  
Genesee County

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### *The Gift of Time Is Precious, The Impact Lasting*

"You want to do what you can to make a difference in the world while you're here," says Luci Kirk. Luci, a retired speech therapist, has been coming to the Day Center for a year. She learned about Family Promise through St. Robert, in Flushing. St. Robert is a support church within the network.

One of her favorite moments happened just recently, "when the kids recognized me and started running down the hall, it let me know they must have enjoyed some time with me." Another valuable volunteer, Jodie Johnson just returned to Michigan with her husband, a naval

veteran, and their children. She has a social work degree and is looking to get reconnected in Mid-Michigan. Jodie had a chance encounter with Nancy Glady, coordinator at host church Holy Spirit Lutheran in Grand Blanc, who pointed her toward Family Promise. Now she volunteers



*New volunteer, Jodie Johnson loves up one of our babies.*

*The Gift of Time Is Precious, continued*

twice a week with the children, so parents can focus on their classes. She likes “knowing that little things that you do and teach them might make a difference to them.”

Luci and Jodie are just two of several who volunteer regularly, at the Day Center. Susan Pollard, board member and co-coordinator at Davison United Methodist Church, Amy Deloney, former board member and coordinator at

Holy Family Catholic Church, Tammy Houston, Family Promise Graduate and Debra Magee, UofM Flint student, also come to our daytime home each week to give of their time and talents.

So far this year, volunteers have logged nearly 60 hours at the Day Center. These volunteers have opportunities to sort and organize donations, supervise children for parents during classes, plan

special group activities for the families or help with data entry. They can also share a special skill to benefit families such as resume` guidance, GED prep and mock interviews to sharpen skills. Director Lindsay Moore coordinates the volunteer schedule. You can call her at the Day Center for your chance to find your special volunteer opportunity at (810) 234-9444.



Luci Kirk, one of our wonderfully dedicated day center volunteers, reads to children.

*Friends of our Family*

The Host and Support churches are an integral component of the success of our Family Promise Network. The coordinators from the following churches shared some of their reflections about the invaluable hosting experience.

**Holy Spirit Lutheran** and their Support Church Our Risen Lord Lutheran have just completed their third hosting, and the experience has been great for both congregations. Each time there are more members giving of their time and talents to help with the Family Promise ministry. Making these families feel welcomed and comfortable is easy, but seeing God’s grace shining through and giving these families hope for their future, and making a success of themselves, is what makes it all worthwhile!

*Holy Spirit Lutheran Church located at 7234 Fenton Rd. Grand Blanc. Our Risen Lord Lutheran Church located at 4040 Lapeer Rd., Burton.*

**Swartz Creek United Methodist Church** have had their eyes opened. They have received more joy than one could imagine, through the love that their volunteers have shown to the families. Their youth, in particular, have enjoyed their involvement with Family Promise and eagerly anticipate the next visit. Each church feels their own special blessings in being part of a process that helps families get themselves back on their feet.

*Swartz Creek UMC located at 7400 Miller Rd., Swartz Creek.*

**St. Paul’s Episcopal Church**, and their support churches, St. Dunstan’s Episcopal of Davison and St. Jude’s Episcopal of Fenton, have enjoyed working together to host families. All three churches are always finding ways to make the experience for the families even better than the time before. The families helped are what strengthens each churches’ commitment. As the volunteers see, firsthand, what a difference their work makes in the lives of the guests, by showing their love for others in a very tangible way. A way that brings as much joy to those who give as to those who receive.

*St. Paul’s Episcopal is located at 711 S. Saginaw St., Flint. St. Dunstan’s is located at 1523 Oak Rd., Davison and St. Jude’s is located at 106 E. Elizabeth St., Fenton.*

**New Life Lutheran** hosts with the help of Support church Holy Family in Grand Blanc. Since being involved with Family Promise, New Life has been amazed at what their small church can pull off, with God’s blessing and the help of Holy Family. The congregations know that this has been a huge commitment, but they have personally witnessed what rewards abound! They have been truly blessed in their efforts to be a blessing to those in need, because.....it has rung true that "there but for the grace of God go I."

*New Life Lutheran Church is located at 7235 Torrey Rd., Swartz Creek. Holy Family Church is located at 11804 S. Saginaw St., Grand Blanc.*

*JoJo’s House: The Next Step*

“The Epistles of St. James and St. John remind us, if you’re going to be talking about love, if you’re going to be talking about anything with love, ultimately you’ve got to do it. I don’t want to talk about the homeless, I want to impact them in some way,” said Fr. Philip Schmitter, Pastor of Christ the King Catholic Church, in Flint. JoJo’s House, an initiative directed by members of Christ the King, is going to make a BIG impact on homeless families’ lives. It will be used as a transitional rental-home opportunity for Family

Promise of Genesee County graduates. The first family will be placed this spring. JoJo’s House, named after the late Sr. Joanne Chiaverini, is a single-family home located near Christ the King. Chiaverini, a Sister with the Immaculate Heart of Mary Order, spent 40 years in service to the Flint community. Her nickname JoJo, was bestowed by the dozens of children whose lives she helped change. So, it was fitting this project be named for her. Fr. Schmitter purchased the home back in 2008, from a parishioner who was

moving south. Schmitter says Nina Poole is a wonderful, outgoing, joyful woman and is excited that this is going to happen in the home where she raised her children. Soon after purchasing the home, Schmitter sold it to the St. Francis Prayer Center, just outside Flint. The Prayer Center is an endeavor began by Chiaverini to offer a place of retreat, spiritual refreshing and guidance for all denominations. Today the house is being renovated for the incoming FPGC graduate family. Schmitter says work being

done is thanks to many community partners, not only Christ the King members and the staff at the St. Francis Prayer Center, but “We’re very pleased that the Community Foundation of Greater Flint was willing to give us a \$5,000 grant and the Sisters of the Living Word, in honor of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their existence, gave us \$1,000.” Chiaverini’s late sister also donated seed money to help JoJo’s House become a reality.

We are excited to share future stories of transition!



**SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2015 - 8:00am**  
**Davison Abernathy Regional Park**  
500 S. Dayton St., Davison, MI  
*(Back entrance to Davison’s Hahn Intermediate School)*  
**Free Pancake Breakfast & Free childcare!**



**GIVE ME SHELTER 5K RUN/WALK**

- **8:00 AM Kids Free (10 & under) Fun Run**
- **8:30 AM Runners - Timed - Race Service Company**
- **8:35 AM Walkers - Timed - Fun, Family, Friends, Strollers**
- **9:00 AM Free Pancake Breakfast - Davison Odd Fellows & Awards Ceremony**



**Thank you to these current Platinum Level Sponsors for supporting the Family Promise of Genesee County “Give Me Shelter” 5K Run/Walk:**

**McLaren Flint • D&W Windows & Sunrooms • Snider Financial • MassMutual SE Michigan  
Dr. David Slezak, DDS, PC • YMCA of Greater Flint • Dr. Kenneth Vobach • Fernco, Inc.  
The State Bank • Davison Optimist Club**

**THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER TO RUN OR WALK OR BECOME A SPONSOR!**

To register or for details on how you can support this event with different sponsorship levels, visit [www.GiveMeShelter5K.com](http://www.GiveMeShelter5K.com) or [www.FamilyPromiseofGC.org](http://www.FamilyPromiseofGC.org) and download a registration/sponsorship form.