

## From the Director's Desk: A Place to Call Home

When a new family comes into the Family Promise of Genesee County program there is an adjustment. There's a new routine, new faces, new surroundings and, most importantly, new opportunities. Adjustments don't just impact the parents; children are faced with them too.

Each family is different but, a majority of the young children, eagerly embrace the program, the volunteers and the different toys! Sometimes, we're lucky enough to receive reminders of how Family Promise of Genesee County positively impacts the children. A 9-year old girl shared her thanks in a special way, on her first day of the program. In addition to what is pictured here, she also shared how much she loved her new friends, the playroom and how happy she was to be here with us.

Her excitement hasn't dimmed and to know our program, our volunteers and our guest families have had a positive impact on her life is amazing!

Lindsay Moore, Director  
Family Promise of Genesee County



## Warming Hands and Hearts



Coordinators and volunteers at our host churches are pretty spectacular people. For one week at a time they create a safe, fun, happy home for our guest families, though the work to welcome our families begins way in advance!

The team from Davison United Methodist Church, led by Ellen Wagester and Susan Pollard, handmade these very special mittens as part of their welcome gift to the guest families. Those special touches mean so much to the families. In fact, one of our 10-year-old guests said she was really happy to get the mittens because she had recently lost hers...as kiddos are good at doing sometimes!

## His Dash Changed Lives

The Dash, by Linda Ellis, has been referenced dozens, if not hundreds or thousands, of times. It's a poem highlighting the fact it isn't one's date of birth and date of death on a headstone or grave marker which means the most, it's the dash; the span of time one spends on the earth. And while it is with great sadness we share the announcement of the death of one of our very active Family Promise volunteers, we celebrate and give thanks for his dash! His dash changed lives.



Paul Walling, from Court Street United Methodist Church, had an incredible dash! For the past three years, this man of faith served in many supportive roles for our program and guests. Paul worked to help prepare the Day Center by lending his handyman and carpentry skills. He was the point person for the maintenance of our van. All we ever needed to do was let Paul know our Network van needed an oil change and he showed up with big smile and book in hand to head to the dealership for the oil change. He served as an overnight host for Court Street United Methodist, and he participated in our fundraisers. Paul exemplified the idea of living his faith.

Beyond Family Promise, he cherished his wife, Reba, his family and friends. Paul was generous with his time and talent. His wit, his compassion and his love and laughter will truly be missed by many of us. In memory of Paul our program received \$1000 from donors, to be used to help meet the needs of our guests. Paul Walling helped build Family Promise. His wife, Reba, thankfully, continues to build and grow this program. We celebrate his dash.

## Family Promise of Genesee County

# Winter Gala & Silent Auction



**Saturday, February 20, 2016 6:00pm**  
**Riverfront Banquet Center Flint, MI**

*With a  
Fabulous  
50's Theme!*

Prepare your hearts for an evening of fun and excitement with friends as **Family Promise of Genesee County** presents its annual charity **Winter Gala & Silent Auction** with a Fabulous 50's theme, including:

**Beer, Wine & Cheese Reception**  
**Elegant Dinner**  
**Silent Auction**  
**Dancing & Photo Booth**

**Tickets on sale now!**  
**Call (810) 234-9444**

## Family Promise of Genesee County is Hiring

Family Promise is excited to be expanding our staff to include a Director of Development. This person will work with the Board of Directors and the Network Director to develop and implement growth strategies. We are excited about the new opportunities this position will create. Details on this part time position can be found on our website, [familypromiseofgc.org](http://familypromiseofgc.org).