

Ending homelessness...one family at a time.



A MESSAGE FROM
THE DIRECTOR
Tiffani Ferrier Wharry

Greeting Housing Heros!

I hope your families and congregations are well. We have been busy around here. You may already know that as you've answered our call and have donated a home-cooked meal or housing supplies, or you may have seen me at your Sunday service asking for help! I can't tell you how exciting it has been to have an opportunity to engage in the community and with all of you. I look forward to the opportunity to visit and strengthen our relationships this year!

We have added two new churches to our network in Lapeer County and will continue to reach out to new churches and organizations to help us in our mission. Nicole likes to remind me, "Many hands make light work." Though she didn't coin the phrase, it is true, and we are blessed with each new congregation we add. Though all of this seems great, and it is, the problem is that giving more help means there is more need out there. The number of families and children suffering from housing crises and food insecurity is growing. We already know that roughly 3 million kids are suffering through homelessness in the U.S. Unfortunately, Covid has only increased this number, and the gap in affordable housing also continues to widen. Here at FPGC, we have witnessed the growing number of working two-parent households unable to find housing, pay rent, or afford their essential needs.

Families who have been independent and stably housed and have not needed us for years have been calling for help with essential items. With gas prices and inflation on the rise, it looks like we are in for a busy summer.

Eagle Scout Project

We have been chosen as Jadon Urogdy's Eagle Scout Project. For those of you don't know, "Service to other people is what Scouting is all about." Eagle Scout projects emphasize leadership and choosing a project that will make a significant impact to the community.

Jadon Urogdy, (pictured) a 17 year old Boy scout who is working on his Eagle Scout Project, recently stopped by to deliver all of these bags.



His goal was to fill 100 canvas drawstring bags that are categorized by age and gender with essential and non-essential items.

These bags will be handed out to family members in the Family Promise program.

We are so thankful to him for choosing us and the families we serve.

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New Faces

We have been working on strengthening our network by talking to new churches, volunteers, or advocates. Recently our board gained two outstanding new members, and we couldn't be more excited.



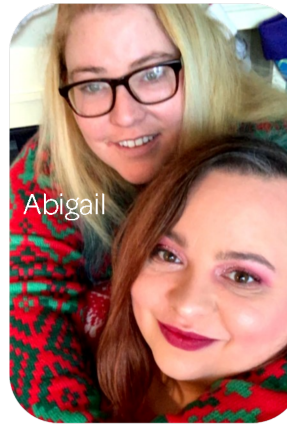
Robbie Carnes has been one of the pastors of Fenton Presbyterian Church in Fenton, Michigan, for seven years. He has served churches in Los Angeles, South Bend, New Jersey, and San Diego. He is inspired when churches, community organizations, and government pull together to care for some of the most vulnerable among us.

We put Pastor Robbie right to work in helping secure new churches to add to our network.

We are so thankful to have him on "board."



Abigail Eaton is originally from Boston, MA but resides with her wife, two cats, and two dogs in Grand Blanc.



Abigail

She is an avid Family Promise Volunteer who joins us every Monday at the Day Center. She fills her time sorting donations, packing up family stabilization packets, and just about anything else we need from our long "To-Do List."

She works as a home health aid for the elderly and handicapped, and she enjoys roller derby, volunteering, and helping people in her spare time.

Abigail brings many different experiences and her fantastic outlook on life to our board. We are delighted to have her join us.

Our Volunteers at Work

A big thank you to Court Street United Methodist Church for their plentiful collection during Family Promise Awareness Week on May 8th.



It was their hope they would collect enough to supply eight (8) families with generous stabilization packages, along with stocking our shelves with a

little extra for upcoming weeks.

The whole congregation was so generous that Abby has been able to help more than twelve families with the items

collected, AND we still have some of the personal care items and non-perishable food, which will support future families we are serving.

We know you would like to see some faces! It's a little bit harder, and we try to be respectful of families in their homes, but we continue to ask so that you can put a smile and a face to the families your donations support.



We appreciate your generosity!



Family Spotlight

Helping families look a little different than before COVID. Our new normal focuses on Prevention, Shelter Diversion, and most importantly, Stabilization.

You may not know this, but we are still the only agency in the community helping families with diversion (much less expensive). In addition, CERA funding ended on June 15th, providing eviction prevention; as such, we expect it will be impactful to our organization and families on the edge of homelessness.

Families are more likely to experience homelessness mid-year than any other time. Many of you have heard us tell the story often, that we hear, "if it weren't for you (Family Promise), I wouldn't be able to pay my rent."

We are apprehensive about what the doldrums of summer have in store and are prepared for it to be a busy one.

Right now, Abby, our Case Manager, works with 15-30 families each month, answering all incoming calls and electronic applications for assistance.

tance.

Each month the number of families Abby speaks with has been averaging 45-50 families, almost all of whom are requesting help. Somehow she does this and stays in contact with the families receiving support, along with our graduates. If you have a couple of hours each month that you might like to give to us—we could use your support delivering meals or making phone calls to check in with families helping talk to families in need.



Prevention

(Family still in their home)

Shelter
Diversion

(At "shelter" experiencing homelessness)

Shelter

(Actively enrolled in a homeless shelter)

Stabilization

(Continued support for families that recently transitioned or are at high risk)



Family A Story—Father and Son

Stabilization looks different for each family. Some families get back on their feet immediately; some need our support longer.

When it comes to Veterans, we all have a very soft spot for them; this family is no different. This father and son duo have just each other as their extended family (including mom) live out of the country.

We are grateful to our long-time partnership with St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Barb Manor (Coordinator), and the volunteers there are gifting \$500 to a Veteran family.

How we are using it. Our father and son team are be-



hind on their rent because of a non-working vehicle, still one of the number one reasons for family homelessness. What's worse is that it is not working over a minimal amount (\$50).

Abby has identified a shop that will repair the vehicle quickly and inexpensively and use the remaining funds to pay this month's rent. Then with a working car, she will ensure he gets a job so he can pay rent next month.

This is an excellent example of our Graduate and Stabilization Program. At times, the programs overlap but do exactly what they are designed to do—keep families stably housed.

Family B Story—Grandmother and granddaughter.

Sometimes we help families not because they are experiencing a housing crisis; we help because it is the right thing to do. For example, we have a Grandmother who has full legal custody of her special needs granddaughter. The granddaughter is twelve; she has cerebral palsy and autism and is cognitively impaired.

Grandma is on oxygen, and carrying the tank around in a multi-level home is very challenging, to say the least. Before Grandma was awarded custody of her granddaughter, she was already retired

on disability. As you can imagine, she has full hands caring for her granddaughter.

Enter Family Promise. Currently, Abby is helping them search for a more suitable home that is more affordable for them on a limited fixed income. We are, of course, helping with meals and other household supplies not provided via government assistance.



This is another example of how your volunteer efforts are being utilized as we move forward with the growth of our Stabilization programs.

A Message from the Director

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Did you know that families are more likely to be homeless in the summer than in the winter? Seems odd, right?

Well, it happens for a couple of reasons.

First, if they have been living with another family, as it heats up outside, it can 'heat up' inside too, causing more friction and strife.

Second, families who have been generously housing an additional family don't feel as bad putting parents with kids "out" when the weather is warmer.

Hopefully, you have had a chance to work or talk with Abigail (Abby) by now. I can not begin to tell you how fantastic it is to have someone of her caliber in the case manager role. She has been a blessing to FPGC. Her ability to connect with families and help them reach their full potential has been amazing to watch. I have witnessed her persuade landlords to allow families to stay in one house while we work to find them housing to avoid homelessness altogether. This quick out-the-box thinking has allowed us to help even more families in multiple counties for less cost per family.

We are committed to keeping our families where they belong, in their homes.

Hope to see you soon!

Peace, Love, and Housing,

Tiffani M. Lerner

Events

5K Our 5K—now in our 8th year it is certainly a fan favorite. For those of you not in Davison, the city has a major road construction project that includes the surrounding streets around Hahn Middle School and so they have asked us to make a few tweaks to our race.



To include those of you who might not be able to make it in person we will be hosting a virtual run beginning July 13 and will conclude on August 13.

The date: Saturday, August 13.

Start time is 7:30am (*this year only*)

This year only, we will begin and end from the Lake Callis side of Abernathy Park. 1152 N Gale Rd, Davison, MI 48423 and run through the park and a portion of the adjoining neighborhood.

You can find the modified route on our website. Please visit bit.ly/fpgeneseeco for more information or to register.



Golf



We are excited to announce that our 2nd Annual Golf outing will be at Sugarbush Golf Club on Friday, September 23, 2022.

We are blessed to share that Tiffini and Justin Bridgett, are going to be our Co-

Chairs of the event.

She is a born and raised resident of Davison, a mom of two, wife and an Associate Broker/Realtor at The Brokerage Real Estate Enthusiasts in Davison.

We are super excited to have them both on board. Details can be found at www.GolfForeFamilies.com



FPGC News

Even though we are not rotating families through our emergency shelter, we are still hard at work. We were recently approached by Cheryl Zapfe, the GISD

McKinney Vento

Program Specialist for Genesee and Lapeer County, to head up working with doubled-up families in both school districts.

You may remember that HUD does not count doubled-up families as homeless, even though many times those families are likely borrowing a sofa or extra bedroom because they have nowhere else to live.

Currently, in Genesee County,



there are 291 doubled-up families. At the same time as this partnership, we were granted an Expansion Grant from Family Promise National that will help facilitate our growth in Lapeer County.

Our new church

partnerships are located in the city of Lapeer and include Grace Episcopal, Lapeer Presbyterian, and Community of Christ. They have graciously accommodated some space for offices for us and Tiffani has begun the task of assessing what



First Presbyterian Church of Lapeer

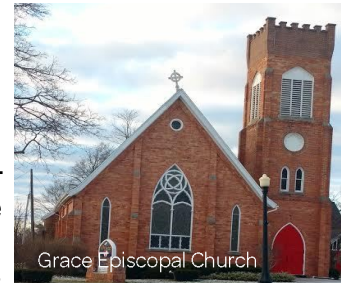
is needed. We will begin satellite hours this fall on Monday, Tuesday, and

Thursday

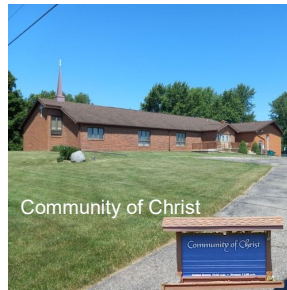
on a rotating basis.

With this expansion and partnership, we are bringing on an assistant case manager to help Abby manage the caseload.

If you would like to help, there are many ways to get involved with the expansion. To lend a hand, please reach out to Tiffani at (810) 234-9444.



Grace Episcopal Church



Community of Christ

Communications Committee

In the fall of 2021, the Family Promise Board of Directors met to review our overall operation and, specifically, to look for opportunities for improvement. One area that we spent time on was communications, not just to the public and our guests but also within the organization and with volunteers and donors.

The result was creation of a new Communications Committee with members from the Board as well as other volunteers. Since this Newsletter is one of our primary tools for communication to our volunteers and donors, we thought this was a good place to provide an update on our efforts.

Our first focus was to improve the Family Promise website, which is of-

ten the first point of contact for guests and volunteers alike. Thanks to a yeoman's effort by Nicole Hoste-Breslin, Director of Development, our new site is now in place and address-



es a myriad of challenges from the original site. Please take a look at it <https://www.familypromisegeneseecountymi.org>.

We are also making improvements to the Newsletter, which we hope you can see here. In addition, we are now providing bulletins/posters to each participating church that will be updated quarterly with new statistics, upcoming events, and any current needs.

While the committee was initially intended to be a one-time effort, we have now decided that it will remain in place to stay on top of communications, acting as a committee of the Board.

If you have input, suggestions, or would like to get involved, please feel free to contact Tiffani, Nicole, or any of our Board members, who can all be found on the new website.



of Genesee County

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URGENT NEEDS

Household Items:

- Laundry Soap
- Trash Bags
- Feminine Hygiene products
- Tylenol/Ibuprofen (especially for children), or other OTC medicines
- Tooth Paste
- Toilet Tissue
- Paper Towel
- Towels and Washcloths
- Plastic Totes for Storage
- Laundry Baskets

Gift Card

- Gas Cards
- Grocery Cards

Scan our QR code to access



Family Promise is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)

(3) organization addressing the crisis of family homelessness in Genesee County.

Through a comprehensive set of solutions involving prevention, shelter, and stabilization,

Family Promise empowers families experiencing or who are at-risk of homelessness to reclaim and maintain their independence.