

of Genesee County

Ending homelessness...one family at a time.



A MESSAGE
FROM THE DIRECTOR
Tiffani Ferrier

Greetings!

I hope this finds you and yours healthy and happy!
WOW! Right?

First, let me say Thank You!

Thank you to all of our volunteers for your contribution to our organization during this difficult time.

While most of you were sheltering in place, doing your part to contain the spread of COVID-19, we here at Family Promise of Genesee County continued to do what we do best—house families!

We have been able to continue our work helping families that need us because of the support from our Church Coordinators, Board Members, and the outstanding businesses who are so generous.

Like most non-profits and social service agencies, we have spent the last couple of months adapting and to the new normal. Early on, it did not look anything like our traditional host week. We tried hosting from motels. While that was ok, long-term, it was cost-prohibitive and felt transactional (giving only meals and supplies) not at all our nurturing "hospitable" environment. We transitioned back to the Day Center to discover that it is small when you combine staff and three families with two babies and two toddlers between them, and social distancing. Not to mention cooking with no stove—though one of our moms was extremely creative with the hot plate and two electric skillet that were donated. It was not the right long term solution in addition to being very expensive to pay staff overnight.

There were many discussions - we asked questions like: How can we still serve and be safe? How will we engage our volunteer network, who has been with us side by side, investing in our community and mission?

While our approach has had to make some dramatic changes, it has taught us many things. Nicole and I have been busy working on many new programs and developing those that didn't previously have our full attention. Necessity is always the mother of invention!

On Tuesday, September 21st, the FPGC Education Lab opened. We repurposed the Play Room and outfitted it with 10 computers - with webcams for distance learning. School-age kids of our program will have first dibs, and then it will be available to any McKinney-Vento student within the GISD. Our partnership with the McKinney-Vento Service Specialist at GISD will also coordinate educational/school supplies, snacks, and refreshments. If you are interested in volunteering your time in the lab, please let us know.

Hello Friends,

It is our hope that you and your family are healthy and safe. These last few months have been challenging and full of unknowns and questions.

The good news is that our work continues! While we have only had 6 families graduate from our emergency shelter program this year, our other programs are exploding with activity and service. Through, Promise for Home, our eviction prevention and stabilization program, we have helped 97 families comprised of 272 children. These families certainly need us now more than ever before; sure, it is not the same sort of help that our mission was founded, but very valuable.

Like many other nonprofit agencies and churches, more than 72% of us have suffered financially due to the pandemic. Not being able to host our Annual 5K was certainly disappointing. Thankfully, Tiffani is a whiz managing our expenses, and leveraging community partners; her ingenuity has saved us more than \$2,800 in van repairs alone, to date, we have spent only \$170,000 of our \$212,665 annual budget. In turn, we put the money right back where it belongs -

...serving our community.

Should gathering restrictions continue, we have several back-up plans to allow us to once again host families. Our programs have been adapted, and we have taken the time to explore innovative solutions to keep our volunteers safe.

Tiffani and Nicole have been working on quarterly plans that involve us hosting families either in a large single-family house or apartments until it is safe for us to gather once again. We are waiting on replies to our grant requests to put these plans in motion. These options will reserve the Day Center for Case Management and our new Education Lab.

Again, thank you for all that you do!

Many Blessings to you and your family,
Family Promise Board of Directors and Staff



A Message from the Director

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Last year you may remember us talking about our eviction prevention program, *Promise for Home*.

We served two families with funds from it in 2019, and since March, we have helped 10 families, preventing 21 kids from ever knowing the trauma of homelessness. Now, we are part of the Genesee County multi-agency network helping people facing a housing crisis due to the pandemic. But don't worry—we are staying true to our mission of helping children and their families. Any assistance we offer is paid directly to the landlord, and all families enter our graduate program, *Beyond the Promise*.

We provide the same help and guidance that we would to an emergency housing graduate - case management, monthly budgeting, access to resources, job skill development, or any other tools necessary to stabilize the family.

Stabilizing households is another place where we have had great success. Through a connection from our friends at Goodrich United Methodist, we have been delivering food and other supplies so far reaching 80 families comprised of 236 kids.

Before the mandatory stay at home order, Nicole had been working on transitioning our application process to an electronic one - the goal was to gather all the information we needed in the first call and shorten the length of time it took to bring in a family.

This transition helped us immensely - since someone was not always at the day center during the first month of the shutdown. Initially, the application went viral on Facebook, and we received more than 100 requests in one day. Now we are averaging 2-3 applications per day from parents looking for help. Many still need shelter, but more and more are requesting help to prevent a pending eviction.

We are hopeful that we continue to move in the right direction so that we can go back to helping end homelessness...one family at a time.

Until then - thank you for all that you do to keep Family Promise in the hearts and minds of those in your network.

Peace, Love, and Housing,

Jeffrey M. Lewis

Charity Navigator: Encompass Rating

Many donors rely on Charity Navigator to help inform their giving decisions. Recently, Charity Navigator updated their rating system to include 150,000 non-profits. Though our annual budget is small our spending is frugal and we are rated at 100.



Graduate Updates

The success of our graduates keeps us going!

As of August we graduated 6 families from our shelter program. Thanks to your generosity, each graduate is doing well. You helped in transforming their lives and they are truly thankful to be in their homes.

One of the many things that set us apart from other shelters is our focused involvement not only while in shelter with us, but walking alongside the whole family for twelve months after graduation.

This key ingredient to our programming has never been more important than it is now. Making sure our families are able to maintain their employment is paramount to their



"This is so exciting. I have never lived in a house before. I really don't know what to do with myself."

It is so nice to sit on the porch and watch my kids ride their bikes."

Thank you for helping me get to this point—I couldn't have done it without you!"

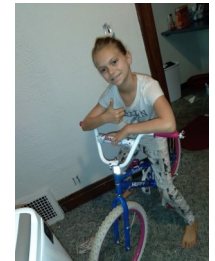
success. Currently, we are following up with all of our graduates with a weekly phone call or text.

Our last mom, who recently graduated, shared with us that it was the first time she had ever lived in a home, in her life.

Previously, she had lived in apartments or trailers. *"The kids really enjoy having a yard to play in and like I can do laundry without having to pack them up on the bus!"*

They live very near to the Day Center. It is nice to see them outside riding their bikes in the morning or afternoon.

Talk about a graduate follow up call! ♥



Partner of the Month



St. Francis Prayer Center

You may recall, we had a partnership with Habitat for Humanity/Restore that ended a few years ago. Thankfully, when one door closes—another opens. We are grateful that so many of our coordinators are so helpful in gathering large items, including beds and other household furnishings.

We are truly blessed to have formed a relationship with our friends at St. Francis Prayer Center.



A young lady and her "perfect" bedroom

They are a natural partner and the core of their mission is community outreach; and have been serving the North Flint community since 1974.

So far they have outfitted full homes for 5 of our graduates just this year! Washers, dryers, stoves, these items are hard to source and we are so thankful to Deb Hawely and her kind volunteers who drop off the furnishings. ♥

NEW to Us



One of the larger things on our annual budget is Transportation. Insurance, gas, repairs, and maintenance on the van add up fast.

Though we try our best to avoid it, the van is sometimes used to transport furniture and other items when families are moving.

Getting a more economical second vehicle, for quick trips, accepting furniture

donations, and other errands, has been on our wish list for a long time. Other more important items have always come before.

We are so thankful to Kim Carter, for her generous donation of her pick up truck. The wonderful gentlemen at Forge Flint Garage, gave it a tune up and repaired the gas line that was leaking.

And not a moment too soon as our next wave of outreach begins on October 8th.

We will be excited when we are back to 'normal' and can use it for our families!

We've grown!

You already know, love and support our Emergency Shelter Program—but we have many programs that focus on stabilizing families who are high risk or already experiencing a housing crisis.

In the last several months these programs have flourished. Being able to offer assistance to families this way still ensures the safety and well-being of children even though we cannot provide emergency shelter at this time.

FPGC Programs

- ◆ Emergency Shelter
- ◆ Beyond the Promise—Graduate Aftercare Program
- ◆ Promise for Home—Eviction Prevention Program
- ◆ Promise for Family—Education Program
- ◆ Family Education Lab
- ◆ Bridge Apart—Graduation Acceleration Program
- ◆ Pets with a Promise
- ◆ Sesame Street in Communities

Sesame Street in Communities

Family Promise National's partnership with Sesame Street in Communities builds on the almost 50-year commitment they have to addressing kids developmental, physical, and emotional needs with Family Promise's more than 30 years of experience in working to address family homelessness.



These resources have a measurable impact on the lives of parents and children alike. With the addition of our Education Lab we will be using these resources to speak to kids about Family Homelessness, Foster Care, and Parental Addiction.

Promise for Family focuses on education for the whole household.

We are all familiar with the adage, "Knowledge is power!" And education is can play a big part in stabilizing a family. You *don't know, what you don't know, right?*

We started off with wanting a safe place for kids to come and complete their homework or zoom for classes and the idea quickly morphed into that we could host training for our parents at the same time.



Adults can access can assess *Pathways to Workplace Success*—a series of workforce development videos. Kids can access *Sesame Street in Communities*.

Lastly, we will be teaching *Keys to Good Tenancy*—our tenant landlord relationship building program. By offering these resources and support to our families it is our goal that we will help them navigate and resolve even the smallest crises so they never experience another eviction or the trauma of homelessness.

Did you Know?

Did you know that most of our families spend more than 50% of their income on housing?

Through education we hope to educate them reduce the risk of them ever experiencing homelessness.

Did you know your time was so valuable?

From setting up beds, to making dinner, to washing sheets—the value of volunteer time adds up.

On an annual basis the gift of your volunteerism is worth more than \$200,000. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Value of Volunteer Time
\$27.20
per hour



Training Opportunities

Though we can't be with families right now we can keep our mission going— even if what we need looks a little different, during the pandemic.

Volunteers can log in from any online device, to watch the series of modules that are between 5 and 8 minutes long.

They outline common volunteer scenarios, at host sites and in Day Centers, because whether you're sharing a meal or a life-skill, your gift of time changes lives of children

Volunteer Training Now open!

To access the training portal please call the Day Center 810.234.9444 or email Info@familypromiseofgc.org

and their families experiencing homelessness.

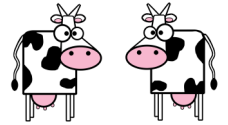
We are thankful to Family Promise and the National Guest Advisory Council members for sharing their stories and experiences. It is certainly one of the many benefits of being an affiliate.

This project also wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and dedication of FP National partner Capgemini. Who has helped to create many other training resources we use.

Through a partnership with a farmer who supports us at Goodrich UMC—Tiffani has been delivering milk, meat, and other essentials since July.

Starting Thursday, October 8, we will

be providing 30 pound mixed



food boxes. The contents will include: Dairy, Fruit, Meat, Potatoes, and Veggies.

If you have anyone in your network that needs some extra assistance, only requirement is a child under the age of 18 in the household.

If you are interested in helping with this outreach opportunity, please email us at info@familypromiseofgc.org.



We hope you join us at 4:30 pm every **Wednesday** for **Virtual Story Time!** Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 821 8006 1306 Passcode: FPGCREAD



We will also be streaming to Facebook Live and YouTube. Or follow *this case sensitive link to our YouTube page* <http://bit.ly/fpgcyoutube>.

If you are interested in volunteering to read—please email us at info@familypromiseofgc.org.



Staff

Tiffani Ferrier <i>Executive Director</i>	Crawley Anthony <i>Maintenance & Transportation</i>
Nicole Breslin <i>Development Director</i>	Dylan Johnson <i>Program Assistant</i>
Nicolette Stoutenburg <i>Case Manager</i>	

MAIL TO

Phone: 810.234.9444
 Fax: 810.234.9514
 Email: info@familypromiseofgc.org
www.familypromiseofgc.org

Board of Directors

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 Sonja Markwart, Secretary
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Pam Diment-Flores Phil Stadler
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Family Promise of Genesee County is a 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, FPGC empowers families experiencing or at risk of homelessness to reclaim and maintain their independence.

Our mission is ending family homelessness...one family at a time.



Dates for 2020

- Family Promise Week**—October 18th—24th
- Night with out A Bed**—Fundraiser—October 24th
- Adopt a Family**—contact the Day Center if you are interested in participating again this year. info@familypromiseofgc.org

Tentative Dates for 2021

- FPGC Annual Gala**, Saturday, March 27, 2021
- Family Promise Giving Day—April 21, 2021**—a 24-hour online fundraising challenge for Family Promise affiliates across the country. Designed to unite us in our goal of changing the lives of children and their families.
- 8th Annual Give Me Shelter 5K**, Saturday August 14, 2021
- 2nd Annual FPGC Fore the Kids! Golf Outing**, Friday, July 16, 2021
- Night with out a Bed**, Saturday, June 19, 2021—Night with out a Bed—joint fundraiser with Family Promise Affiliates across the country.
- Family Promise Week**, October 24-31, 2021



Thank you for carrying on the tradition! We appreciate o all that attended and donated at the 1Ftfty Concert!



Thank you all for participating in our virtual fundraisers this year! It means the world to us.

