

Family Promise

Volume 5

Issue 1

Fall 2019

of Genesee County

Ending homelessness...one family at a time.



A MESSAGE
FROM THE DIRECTOR
Tiffani Ferrier

Greeting Friends!

We have had a lot of change in the last year, one of which is the celebration of my first anniversary! I am so thankful to be a part of such a wonderful organization whose foundation is strong because of all of you.

A question we often hear is, "What is Family Promise?," and as an answer to a prayer, this spring, we were graciously offered the services of Hathaway Cinematics. Zach, the owner, has been busy interviewing and filming our coordinators, volunteers, families, and graduates. The goal of these videos is to create awareness about family homelessness and educate our community on the holistic approach that Family Promise provides.

Have you called lately to hear a voice you don't recognize? There are many new faces here at the Day Center. Bo Slomkowski joined our team as a Family Advocate late this summer. He (and his organizational expertise) has been an incredible addition to our team. What is even more amazing is that we have been graced with seven (7) interns this term. (!! Thankfully, Valencia Pullom, our BSW Case Manager, had a chance to get settled in her new role and do a bit of planning before they arrived. She not only manages all of our families, but runs our graduate aftercare program, and oversees intern training.

To say that she was sent from above would be an understatement! She has been so successful leading our intern program that she has given me (and Nicole) the gift of time, which we are spending working on developing new relationships for both volunteers and funding in our community!

On the same note, our Board of Directors is actively seeking committee members to help grow the whole organization. Committee members will help plan, organize, and affect overall function so that we can continue to operate both efficiently and effectively—ultimately helping more families in our community. If you or someone you know may be interested, please feel free to contact us via phone or email. We would be so happy to have your help. Feel free to stop by the Day Center at any time! Thank you for all that you do!

Peace and Love ,

Tiffani M. Ferrier

Hello Friends,

We are so blessed to have you be a part of our organization. Though we try to say thank you often, we cannot say it enough. **Thank you!**

Each of you, no matter how big or small gives something from your heart that impacts the lives of the children and their families.



Whether you spend the night, cook a meal, read a story, help with homework, play Candyland, or coordinate and "rally all the troops," we would not be here without you! John Heywood is right, "many hands do make light work!" Our sincere thanks to each of you who do so much to keep our program moving forward.

If the timing was not right in the past, but you have wanted to give a gift, we now have even more opportunities to put your resources to good use. Enclosed is a gift envelope that we hope you will use to support us.

We are very proud that every \$1 that is donated to Family Promise, we are able to match it three times over through community and in-kind resources. We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events. Until then, please give us your feedback on our videos—you can find them on our website and Facebook page as they are released.

Again, thank you for all that you do!

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

Graduates

We never honestly know what our families feel as they make the journey through our program. We didn't find out until Amanda graduated how badly she and her family struggled. As a team, it was eye-opening.

We wanted to know: What could we have done to make them feel better? More welcome? At home? Supported? Loved? Did we not listen because we were rushing around our selves? How could we improve our processes? Our communication? Our kindness? What if it was our own family in their situation?

The team consensus was we need to remember our families are going through the hardest day of their life, **every day**.

Sure we provide a roof over their head and take care of the their "needs", but every day they get shuttled around. Every day they are not in control of their journey; every day, they have someone telling them what to do or asking for a recap on what they did do—**every day**.

So if they are quiet when they arrive, maybe they got the tenth NO about a job or housing application. Perhaps they got in trouble with their boss because they were late again because the bus wasn't on time, or maybe their Case Manager said they were on a deadline to complete tasks on their to-do list so they could remain in the program.

Thank you for the safe haven, hope, and prayer you share **every day!**

Though Amanda's words may sound harsh, the courage it took for her to write these heartfelt sentiments mean the world to us!

Every day we grow and learn.

Oh Happy Day!

Monday, April 15, 2019 6:47 AM

In the beginning I hated to be here. I hated meeting all the new faces , voices , looks , stares , and the questions! I hated feeling so helpless to my family. I hated that my family had to endure and absorb it all. It has been very trying , it has been one of the most difficult things/situations I've ever been a part of. It has even felt degrading to me. Some of the people we've met weren't kind at all. They have tried to pretend they were sincere but I see the look in their eyes. I could tell it was all phony. But I smile anyhow, with great happiness. My family and I have received what God sent us here for. That's all that matters. God has worked out all the kinks and I'm very appreciative for Family Promise and for the very genuine beautiful hearted people (Angels) that we've had the pleasure to meet. God perfectly molded their hearts, hands, minds, and gave them unconditional love to truly love a stranger as they would their own. This is what makes me so happy. And I feel no ill will to the unkind ones because whether they know or not they have been a true blessing also. Every bit of this experience was meant for us. It has been a great learning experience for my family. I've smiled when I wanted to cry , I've comforted when I needed comfort. I've prayed and prayed and prayed and prayed more. I've been in constant motion , doing , going , calling , up early , down late , thinking , overthinking , starting , stopping , starting all over again. WHEEW!!

It's amazing how God knows exactly what one needs, how to prepare one, the direction that one needs and will take. Marvelous how God leads our footsteps and guides us to and through the most pleasant happy times as well as our life struggles. God has brought me and my family to Family Promise for so many reasons.

But ultimately and (I KNOW NOW)

Keeping a promise can be really difficult for us humans. But not for God, OH NO! Even if God has to work through people. His promise shall be fulfilled.

God loves us unconditionally , provides every one of our needs , keeps us safe , warm , fed , clothed , sheltered , and together as a family. This is what God has done for me and my family. I'm sure God placed Family Promise here to do his works. Everyone that God has placed in a position with Family Promise is carrying out a gift/job given by God. Whether they know it or not , they are blessed to be a part of something this great. And something this great is only God's doing.

I smile with great joy , my heart is so open. I'm just beyond myself. I know what true love is. The people of Family Promise didn't know me and my family , but through God's calling they have gotten to know us. And we now know so many people who truly do care , who truly enjoy making themselves available to the needs of others.

To other families that experience Family Promise id like to say be blessed with courage , patience , understanding , strength , compassion , motivation , and happiness.

I mean this from my whole heart. You and your families have BIG MOVES to make. Keep striving , keep praying , keep getting up when you are knocked down , when you are tired God will strengthen you. Keep your eyes on your prize , let God lead and guide your thoughts , words , and footsteps. You will get there! I BELIEVE IN YOU!!!

Amanda

SHELTER

HOSPITALITY



200,000 volunteers create a temporary home for the families we serve.

CASE MANAGEMENT

Our 200+ Affiliates provide comprehensive guidance and resources.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

6,000 congregations & organizations serve families at 1/3 traditional shelter cost.



Prevention & Programs



BRIDGE APART

Our Board of directors is a passionate group!

After many meetings, discussions, and prayers on the next direction Family Promise would take, we are excited to announce FPGC's Bridge Apart program.

This provides funding, up to \$1,000, available to families who are in both good program standing and meet specific criteria.

These funds can cover expenses like vehicle repairs, rental deposits, and other expenses that would make it possible for families to move into permanent housing with in 45 days. This is substantially faster than our traditional model which can vary between 60-90 days, but averages 68.9 days.

Often the biggest barrier for our guests to maintain both employment and sustainable housing is a reliable vehicle. Bridge Apart will allow us to help those families graduate faster and begin rebuilding their lives.



The mission of Family Promise and Help Us Move In (HUMI) are very similar—they are working to raise awareness about the growing population of children experiencing homelessness and just like us—they motivate and encourage community support to create sustainable funds that help children and their families maintain stable housing.



We are pleased to announce that we are the latest recipient of this unique matching grant program. We have begun the work of raising funds that are matched by the community through a series of challenge grants.

This will be our second step towards providing stabilization funds and support to those in need.



Keys To Good Tenancy

One of the many benefits of being part of a local affiliate are the resources we receive. Two of those are the Keys to Good Tenancy program that will help our families be better prepared to be good tenants as they graduate from the program.

The curriculum includes budgeting, leases, maintenance/home repairs, neighbor relations, and more. In January of 2020, FPGC's Tiffani Ferrier, along with board member, Shawn Rowden from ReMax Edge in Davison will pair up and begin teaching this curriculum. It will be open to current guests, graduates, and community members.

If you would like to participate in this program, we would love to have you! Call us at 810.234.9444 or email us at info@familypromiseofgc.org for more information.

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SAVE THE DATE

**Giving Tuesday,
December 3, 2019**

#GivingTuesday
kicks off the charitable season and end-of-year giving



Adopt-a-Family

For more information call the Day Center
810.234.9444 or email **Tiffani** at
director@familypromiseofgc.org

Painting with a Purpose
Thursday, December 5, 2019 7pm
To register visit our Facebook page
or <http://bit.ly/PaintFPGC>



Silver Point Shopping Center
17155 Silver Parkway - Fenton

7th Annual Gala
Saturday, February 29, 2020
Genesys Banquet Center
805 Health Park Blvd. Grand Blanc, MI

