

Ending homelessness...one family at a time.



A MESSAGE FROM
THE DIRECTOR
Tiffani Ferrier Wharry

Hello Friends,

Season Greetings! I hope this finds you well. It has been so wonderful seeing so many of you as of late! We want to give many Thanks to those churches who agreed to modify traditional rotation and get the word out to their volunteer network! For those churches on the calendar this fall, thank you for helping to provide stabilization supplies, meals, and other essentials to the families in our network. We will continue this until we get back to “normal” —which is scheduled to begin in April 2022.

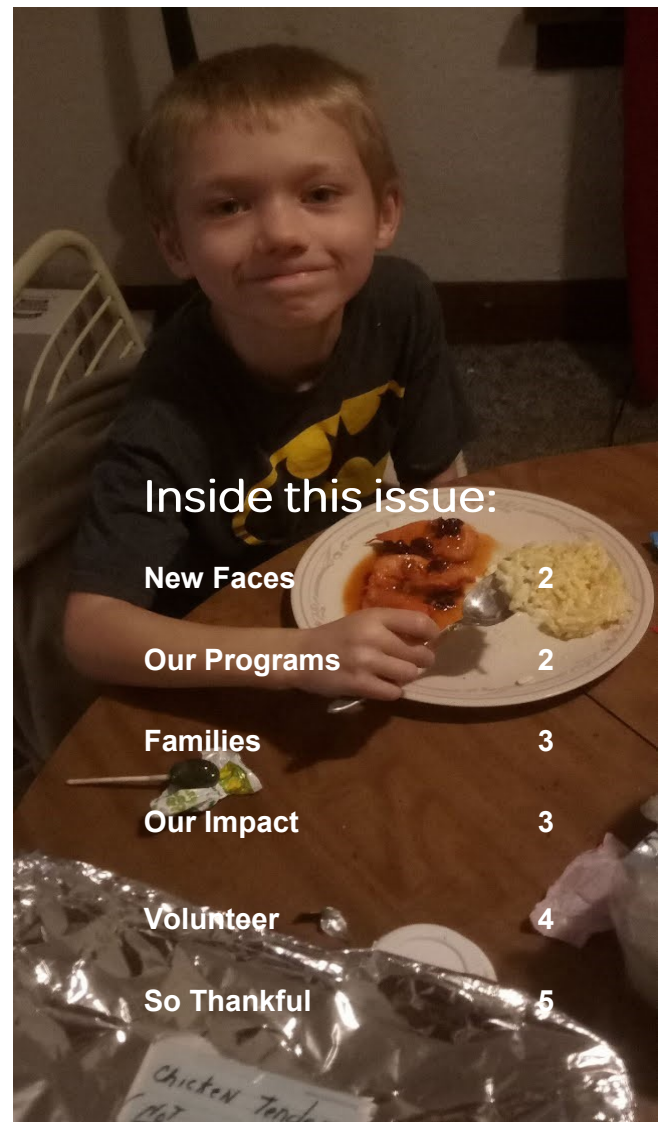
Since the pandemic started, the number of families we are serving has skyrocketed. Last year Nicole put it into perspective when she said we served more families in 2020 than we had in the first seven years combined. For all the math lovers out there - the increase in families translates to 621% more than our pre-pandemic annual basis. 2021 has not slowed down, so far we have served 351 kids in 47 families, and the “busy” season has only just arrived.

We have heard from so many of you that you are missing the interaction with the families, and we completely understand. When all of this started, we never imagined how it would impact how we helped people.

If you have time and would like to spend it with us, please consider joining in on the rotation or providing stabilization items for our families. You can include small notes of encouragement if you like; we know it is not quite the same as sitting down and sharing a meal, but I can tell you for sure, it absolutely brightens the faces of the families we are sharing them with!

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Beyond Excited to see more of your faces in 2022!

Peace, Love, and Housing,

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New Faces



I am a 2019 graduate of Carman-Ainsworth and currently a junior at Eastern Michigan studying Social Work. I love to help people and hope to one day work with children. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with family. I am thrilled to be with Family Promise of Genesee County and can't wait to get to know everyone.



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 Mariah
 Assistant Case Manager, Family Promise of Genesee County

I graduated from Northern Michigan University with a bachelor of science degree in Criminal Justice and a double minor in Spanish and sociology. I've volunteered and completed an internship with two different domestic violence shelters. My hobbies are hiking in nature and running. In the past, I've participated in the CRIM races and look forward to doing that again next year. I'm the wife of a wonderful man and mother to two spectacular boys. My true calling in this life is to help as many people as I can!



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 Abby
 Case Manager, Family Promise of Genesee County

Old Faces



We couldn't help sharing these pictures of Xavier—and the one on the inside cover! Kids sure do grow fast, and he is no exception! Both he and his sister are doing well in school.

We are blessed that we get to see him

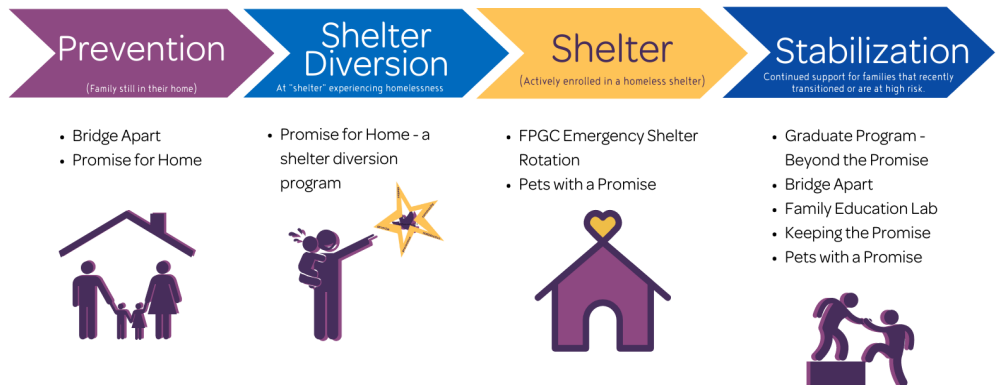
on a regular basis as their “forever home” is just right around the corner from the Day Center.

He also wanted to share that he really enjoyed the mac n' cheese—and to thank whoever made it for him!



Our Programs

How We Help Kids and their Families



2 / Fall/Winter 2021

Families

At the heart of Family Promise are the families, of course. Since you haven't been able to interact with many of them since the pandemic started, we wanted to share some stories about them.

In addition to many of our past graduates, any new family enrolled in an FPGC program receives case management. Abby, our Case Manager,

asks tough questions that are part of an intensive case management program and firmly (yet with grace) holds the families accountable for their goals.

However the conversation goes, it is the coaching that makes Family Promise unique. Case management contributes to our family's high success rate (92%).

Fun fact: this is something that affiliates across the country have in common.

This approach along with life skills training is what makes us unique (from other homeless agencies) and helps families make good choices and maintain their independence.

Family A —two-parent household, five kids (2 girls/3 boys).

Dad lost his job after his mother got sick and he had to help take care of her. He had a hard time finding a new job. With five children, it's no surprise that Mom works in the home. We started by helping with utility assistance and then ultimately paid a month of their rent that was behind.

You might be wondering how does 'paying a bill and rent' qualify a family for our program? The rent payment falls under Homeless Prevention and the utility payment assistance as Stabilization.

This family is enrolled in both **Promise for Home** and **Beyond the Promise** programs. As with all of our programs, it includes intensive case man-



agement to help ensure their stability.

Abby was able to build a relationship with the landlord when she paid the rent. This relationship can be helpful if anything comes up in the future.

Abby will work with the family not only to build budgets but review them, in addition to checking in about employment and any future goals for advancement, how the car is running, and other everyday things to help stay on track. She also helps with things like truancy issues—with only one working vehicle, getting a family that big to things on time can be a challenge.

Case management helps build good habits and relationships to support the family to be more successful in the future. This "coaching" can help identify potential issues and put a plan in place before a crisis happens.

Family B—a single mom experiencing domestic violence with the child's father. She has a one year old son with possible autism.

She is young and has no healthy family support. When it comes to domestic violence, we do our very best to ensure that we get mom and any children placed out of harms way which usually means being placed with an agency equipped to handle the situation. Having the ability to help this family is a wonder-

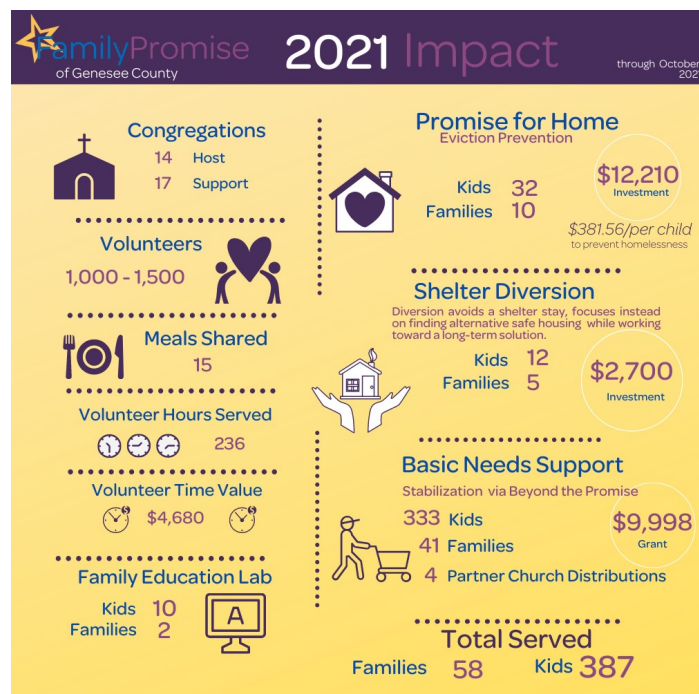


ful example both our diversion and stabilization programs.

They enable us to work quickly for the good of the family.

Mom and son went into a hotel immediately and then mom worked with Abby to

find a safe long-term place to stay. Mom is enrolled in weekly now case management working toward her goals.



Volunteer

Volunteers are the Heart of Family Promise!

Your generous gift of time enables us to provide so much to so many. Our team includes only one full-time (Tiffani) and three part-time staff members (Nicole, Abby, and Mariah). Without you, we would not have been able to serve 351 kids in 47 families this year!

At one of our long-standing host churches, we have a "changing of the guard." Long-time coordinator and past board member Reba Walling will be handing the coordinating reins to long-time board member Pam Diment-Flores who steps off the board at the end of the year.

We so appreciate the service and dedication that both ladies have shown to FPGC.

If you have an interest in serving on our board, please look for upcoming recruitment information. Perhaps, you would like to join a committee? Without volunteers like Pam and Reba, Family Promise could not continue to operate or help all the families we bring hope to all year long! Our special ingredient is you!



How You Can Help

It takes a village to keep things going, and there are many ways to stay involved.

- Volunteering at the Day Center
- Help with donation sorting and putting together Stabilization Baskets for our Keeping the Promise or Beyond the Promise families.
- Provide a home-cooked meal
- Donate Supplies—see back page



Volunteer Training

As we are preparing to get back to our rotation it is helpful that Family Promise (National) launched a new online training platform.

Training will be available **online 24/7** and accessible from your **computer, tablet, or cell phone**.

The enrollment link for the Family Promise National Volunteer Training Platform is listed below. **Please use the link below to sign up on the platform** and start your journey by taking our training courses.

<https://family-promise.coassemble.com/unlock/pZa8yFQ>

Please note, the platform allows you to stop or pause your training at any point and then quickly resume the training module you were on.

After you complete the Volunteer 101 training course, you will be prompted to **complete a feedback survey and volunteer information form** – these forms are embedded in the training, no additional steps are needed. Volunteer data will **not** be shared, sold or used for solicitation at any point. Privacy and security are of the utmost importance

to us at Family Promise.

If you have any questions about the training platform, please contact the day center.

We hope you enjoy your online training journey and are excited to get back to hosting families!



So Thankful

Special Delivery

We have so many amazing organizations that help us on a routine basis. The Knights of Columbus—Holy Family Council and Knights from the Mt. Morris Council have played a prominent role over the last several years, and without whom, we would be scrambling to help families furnish their homes.

Our relationship started from the amazing connections via Holy Family Church and the St. Francis Prayer Center in Mt. Morris.

Between the Knights and St. Francis, many of our families have received full houses of furniture as they graduated into their “forever homes.”

To our families, the cost savings of beds, bed frames, dressers, sofas, kitchen tables, stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, and sometimes even dishwashers is absolutely priceless.



We are incredibly thankful to Joe Buffoa and the Knights of Columbus at both Holy Family and Mt. Morris for not only securing these household good but delivering and in many instances, installing them!

Nicole was blessed to attend a Knights of Columbus meeting in April, where she was able to talk about how Family Promise helps families and the new programs we've introduced over the last twelve months, including our Diversion and Stabilization programs. During that meeting, they presented her with a check for \$500.

We are so grateful to Joe and all of the Knights for their generous gift!

If you have household goods to donate, please get in touch with us at the Day Center, (810.234.9444) and we can put you in touch with the best place to receive your gift.

Service Project: Holy Family

The 8th-grade students at Holy Family Catholic School—chose Family Promise for their Service Project.

Fifty-four students in total made these super cozy fleece tie blankets for our families.

“Holy” cow, were we excited when they arrived.

We are thankful and so blessed for these gifts!

They have gone out to a few families, but the bulk of them will be arriving with Christmas care packages.



Consider Renewing your Promise this Christmas

We could certainly use your support to continue to provide programs like Beyond the Promise and Promise for Home.

There are many ways to make a monetary gift. You can also give on a monthly basis if that fits better into your plans.

- **\$25 gift will provide a month's worth of hygiene products for a family**
- **\$50 can give a working parent monthly transportation**
- **\$100 provides one day of shelter, meals, and case management for a family in need**
- **\$250 provides one wee of safe shelter at a local motel and case management**

If you are interested in other ways to renew your Promise this Christmas, please call Nicole at 810.234.9444, or you can use the envelope enclosed.



of Genesee County

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Treasurer Stacy Darmafall
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 Phil Stadler
 Shawn Rowde
 Stacy Darmafall

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

Christmas Dinner: Ham or Turkey, Rolls, Canned Green Beans, Canned Gravy or Packets, Canned Cranberry Sauce or Cranberries, Sweet Potatoes, Regular Potatoes.



*We appreciate your generosity
and gift of time!*

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.