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*Building communities. Strengthening lives.*



# OF GENESEE COUNTY

SPRING 2016

ISSUE 6

## FAMILY PROMISE

### *From the Director's Desk*

It's hard to believe we're cruising into the summer months but here we are, heading toward May! It's great to have the Day Center windows open for fresh air. As I am writing this, I can hear children outside for recess at St. John Vianney Catholic School, some singing birds and street traffic. To me, those sounds are refreshing. They all remind me of how much life there is around us, even in tough situations such as a housing crisis.

Inside, it's mostly quiet save computer keys clicking, Pandora streaming and an occasional one-year-old outburst. Two out of the three guest-parents are at work. The other guest parent, a father, is here with the one year old, since he has Mondays off from his job. The rest of the children are in school. Those am-

bient noises have been punctuated by a flurry of phone calls, mostly from people who need shelter. Callers share their stories, their journeys, their needs and we record all of the initial information we require for our process. Then, they wait. They wait for us to schedule an interview, wait for follow-up information we may be able to provide them and if our program isn't quite what they need they wait for someone to give them a ray of hope.

Currently, we have space available in our program and a new mom scheduled to come into our program later this week. So, some of those families on our waitlist will hear encouraging news. Other times, we do our utmost best to connect those families with concrete possibilities and leads for resources. All the while, those kids

keep playing, cars keep driving and birds keep chirping, reminding us we're moving forward and changing lives, one family at a time.

I hope to see some new faces volunteering at our Day Center this summer. We are creating some projects and activity opportunities now for those volunteers. Here comes summer!

Lindsay Moore, Director  
Family Promise of Genesee County



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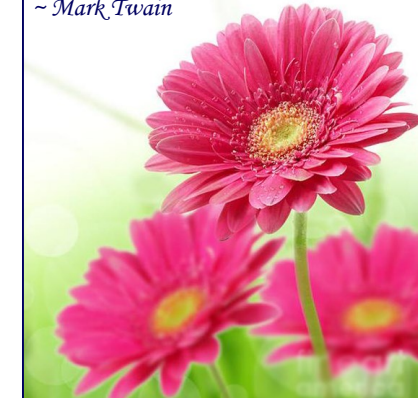
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### *Good News Travels Fast!*

Several months ago, we received a phone call from Rachel Perantoni, a member of Tyrone Community Presbyterian Church, in Fenton. She called after learning about Family Promise of Genesee County in the Tri-County Times. Sally Rummel, member of host church Fenton United Methodist Church, is a Tri-County Times columnist and wrote a feature about one of our now graduate families. When Rachel saw this, she knew her church should be part of Family Promise. The conversation started with the program basics,

how churches and houses of worship come together to help families facing a housing crisis and what her church's role could potentially be. Rachel and the Network Director exchanged a few more phone calls and through Rachel's diligence, they officially joined our network as a support church! They just completed their first support week and, according to Rachel, "It was wonderful. We loved it!" Currently, we have 31 churches connected with us but we are always looking to grow our network. We would be happy to help the good news travel fast!

*"It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want - oh you don't quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!"*  
~ Mark Twain



**Donations are vital to enabling Family Promise of Genesee County to help families in crisis. We are a 501(c)(3) organization, so your contribution is tax deductible.**  
Please consider what you can do to help our families!

#### Mail Donations

Donations by mail are gratefully accepted. Please make the check out to Family Promise of Genesee County and mail to P.O. Box 4519, Flint, MI, 48504

#### Donate by Phone

Donations via phone are also appreciated. You can do so by calling 810.234.9444. Ask how you can also donate "in-kind" items for our families such as personal care items, home cleaning items, etc.

Our online donation option will be available soon!

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
2017 FAMILY PROMISE  
OF GENESEE COUNTY  
WINTER GALA & SILENT AUCTION

THE THEME WILL BE

*Black  
& White*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2017  
RIVERFRONT BANQUET CENTER

*Part of a Bigger Picture*



Nationally, Family Promise has 200 affiliates and 39 developing, including one in Battle Creek.

The National Conference engages Directors, Case Managers and Board Members. It offers a little something for everyone. I spent my time focusing on how to grow the opportunities for our guest families and how to expand the network they're connected to, when they graduate. I also learned that Family Promise of Genesee County is putting a lot of the right building blocks in place. When conference presenters talk about a healthy affiliate they talk about actively engaged board members. We have 12 members of our Board of Directors, some of whom have been with us since the beginning and are so excited to see our steady growth. They also talk about establishing a good base of volunteers and we hit the jackpot there! The volunteer door is always open and we have an amazing group of volunteers between our community connections and our host and support churches.

One of the most impactful moments was hearing from a panel of four Family Promise graduates - three moms and

one father. Talk about inspiring! Two of them earned higher education degrees, one is nearly done with her Masters of Social Work. All are gainfully employed, two with the Family Promise affiliates from which they graduated. Each echoed how the network of caring which surrounded and motivated them made more of a difference than any of those volunteers may ever know. They reminded us that homelessness is hard. Homelessness with children is even tougher, but Family Promise provides hope!



Graduate panel shares stories of success, stories of hope

Family Promise of Genesee County is part of a bigger, national picture. There are now 200 affiliates nationwide. For the second time since becoming Network Director in September 2014, I had the privilege of taking part in our National Conference. This year it was held in Long Beach, California. The energy and excitement created by hundreds of people committed to a mission, committed to changing lives, all sharing strategy, ideas and struggles is so powerful.

*Friends of our Family*

**The Gift of Hospitality**

A continued warm and special thanks to our host and support congregations for the months of January, February and March 2016:

- ◆ St. Paul's Episcopal (Flint) with St. Dunstan's Episcopal (Davison) and St. Jude's Episcopal (Fenton)
- ◆ Court Street United Methodist (Flint) with Christ the King Catholic Church (Flint) and Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint
- ◆ Davison Free Methodist with Journey Ministries (Davison) and St. Andrew's Presbyterian (Davison)
- ◆ Davison United Methodist with Otisville United Methodist (Otisville) and St. Andrew's Presbyterian (Davison)
- ◆ Trinity Lutheran Church (Davison), St. Timothy Lutheran (Otisville) with St. Andrew's Presbyterian (Davison)
- ◆ West Vienna United Methodist Church (Clio)
- ◆ St. Mark Lutheran Church (Flint)
- ◆ Calvary United Methodist Church (Holly) with St. Christopher's Episcopal (Grand Blanc)
- ◆ Flushing United Methodist Church with St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic (Flushing)
- ◆ Flushing Presbyterian with Fenton Presbyterian
- ◆ Swartz Creek United Methodist Church
- ◆ NewLife Community Lutheran Church (Swartz Creek) with Holy Family Catholic Church (Grand Blanc)
- ◆ Holy Spirit Lutheran Church (Grand Blanc) with First Baptist of Davison
- ◆ Fenton United Methodist Church with Transfiguration Lutheran Church (Fenton) and Tyrone Community Presbyterian (Fenton)

**THANK YOU to each of the coordinators and the wonderful, welcoming team of volunteers who surround our families!**

*Family Promise of Genesee County Gains a Director of Development*

Helping those in need is a passion for Nicole Hoste-Breslin. For more than ten years, she has been a volunteer member of The Junior League of Flint, where she first learned of Family Promise. Nicole is truly passionate about her community, and has a track record of helping non-profit organizations grow - whether it's raising money, hosting events or recruiting volunteers.

Nicole believes that when you give more, you get more. Most recently, she worked with another local shelter and she looks forward to using her skills and background to help build Family Promise of Genesee County. Originally from the Metro Detroit area of the Mitten,

Nicole has always been an entrepreneur, leader, and community volunteer. Her degree from Cleary University focuses largely in marketing, management and leadership. She is a lifelong volunteer, beach lover, golfer, traveler, founder, and peddler of shiny baubles and personalized gifts via her online boutique.

"Family Promise started with a few people who had a vision and a mission to help families. I am excited to add my experience in fundraising and creating awareness in our community to the passionate Family Promise team and dedicated board of directors."



New Director of Development, Nicole Hoste-Breslin



**August 13, 2016  
Davison Abernathy  
Regional Park**

*Includes One Free Lake Callis & Splash Pad Day Pass Per Participant!*



- Free Kids "Super Hero" Run at 8:00am (costumes encouraged!)
- 5K Run/Walk at 8:30am
- Awards
- Guaranteed Tech T-shirt For those who register by Monday, July 25, 2016
- Free Pancake Breakfast & Free Childcare

**Thank you to these current Sponsors for supporting the Family Promise of Genesee County "Give Me Shelter" 5K Run/Walk:**

**Race Sponsor:** McLaren Flint

**T-shirt Sponsor:** D&W Windows & Sunrooms

**Platinum Sponsors:**

- Baker College • DaVita-Grand Blanc • Davison Optimist Club
- Davison Twp. Parks & Rec • K. Michelson • Mass Mutual SE Michigan
- Snider Financial • SE Genesee County Assoc. of Retired School Personnel

**THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER TO RUN OR WALK OR BECOME A SPONSOR!**

To register or for details on how you can support this event with different sponsorship levels, visit [www.GiveMeShelter5K.com](http://www.GiveMeShelter5K.com) or [www.FamilyPromiseofGC.org](http://www.FamilyPromiseofGC.org) and download a registration/sponsorship form.