



# Family Promise of Genesee County

## From the Director's Desk

One August morning on my way in to work, I stopped at “my” Meijer to pick up fish food for our Day Center finned friends. I grabbed the food and was making my way to the checkout when I spotted one of our current



*Decorating the Day Center windows with stickers.*

families strolling around the infant aisle. They were picking up the special formula they need for their son and it really reinforced what I tell people a lot. Our families truly ARE “regular” families experiencing a housing crisis. No one would have been able to label this family as “homeless,” unless you were intimately connected with them.

To further enforce this, our intern makes screening phone calls and handles intake phone calls. She hung up the phone after one of those calls and said “wow, sometimes you just think

they have it all together and you just don’t know what’s going on in their lives.”

Turns out she took a phone call from a former school mate whom she has seen more than once since school ended. She said “her kids are always so clean and she is always smiling.”

Family Promise of Genesee County exists for families fighting through a crisis; families who never thought they would need a shelter program. It is so wonderful to hear our guest-families frequently say, “we never thought a shelter would be like this,” or “I don’t really consider this a shelter,” and

“it’s nice to know that there are genuine people who still care.”

The impact our volunteer family has on the guests means more to them than some guest families are able to express. To date, we have 13 program graduates. So far this year, we’re graduating more than half of the families coming into our program and I have faith that number will continue to grow! Whether you volunteer, donate or just help us spread the word, you’re part of our mission “...ending homelessness one family at a time.” THANK YOU!

## 3rd Annual “Give Me Shelter” 5K Run/Walk a Huge Success!

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**219 PARTICIPANTS REGISTERED**  
**\$23,800 WAS RAISED FOR FAMILY PROMISE!**  
 A special “Thank You” to our Race Sponsor, McLaren Flint, and to our T-Shirt Sponsor, D&W Windows & Sunrooms  
**Congratulations to our Winners:**  
**Chase Smith** - Overall male runner with a time of 16:48  
**Merin Khon** - Overall female runner with a time of 20:11  
*(More on this event on page 3)*



## *Family Promise of Genesee County Awarded Two Key Grants*

Engaging community  
and faith based  
organizations in  
**ENDING  
HOMELESSNESS ...**  
one family at a time.

Our summer months have been filled with fun! Families, both graduate and current, have been enjoying camps, programs and field trips. These opportunities would not have been possible without two significant grants. In May, The Child Welfare Society awarded

Family Promise of Genesee County \$10,000! Those grant dollars are divided between transportation costs and enrichment programs for children. Susan Pollard, board member and coordinator for Davison United Methodist Church, worked diligently to write this grant. So far this summer, those dollars have sent five children to camps, some sleep-away and some day camps. We've also taken our families to the movies and a waterpark, on Sundays instead of them spending the day at the Day Center. The joy on

these kiddos faces has been so great to see. These experiences help them feel like "normal" kids, help them forget they don't have a home.

Thanks to the hard work of Carolyn Malaski, member of the grant-writing team and coordinator for Flushing United Methodist Church, Family Promise of Genesee County was awarded \$5,000 by the Tummala Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint. This grant is funding our Emergency Support Program and also our

enrichment programs for children. Since its award in June, we've been able to help 5 people acquire their birth certificates and one person replace a lost driver's license. This grant will also fund a horseback-riding field trip later this August. Because of these grants, Family Promise of Genesee County is stronger.

We look forward to sharing the benefits of additional grants in the next edition of our newsletter.

### *Friends of our Family*

The Host and Support churches are an integral component of the success of our Family Promise Network. The coordinators from the following churches shared some of their reflections about the invaluable hosting experience.

**Trinity Lutheran** of Davison and **St. Timothy Lutheran** in Otisville came into the Family Promise affiliate together as a team, and it has been nothing but a plus for both congregations. They have witnessed a "pulling together" by their volunteers, to help others who need a safe place to "land" during financial crisis. They are thankful for the opportunity to serve those in spiritual, emotional and material need, the mark of a true Christian faith!

*Trinity Lutheran Church is located at 706 W. Flint Road in Davison. St. Timothy Lutheran Church is located at 450 Wilson Road in Otisville.*

**Transfiguration Lutheran Church** is a new Support Church that was not on board when we spotlighted their Host Church, Fenton United Methodist. But after their involvement in just two hostings at FUMC, the response from their members upon being thanked for volunteering was: "The pleasure and 'reward' for participating in Family Promise was all ours. We would be honored to be involved another time, whenever and however needed." Working alongside the families has, clearly, touched the hearts of their congregation.

*Transfiguration Lutheran Church is located at 14176 Fenton Road in Fenton.*

Last but not least.....Welcome to our newest Support Church, **St. Christopher's Episcopal!** They have yet to help out with a hosting, but are anxious to help our most southern Host Church, Holly Calvary United Methodist. We are pleased to have another church from the Grand Blanc area join our affiliate.

*St. Christopher's Episcopal Church is located at 9020 South Saginaw Road in Grand Blanc.*



### *Happy Anniversary to our Network Director, Lindsay Moore!*

Lindsay's leadership, faith and passion for Family Promise have enabled our board members and our congregations to focus on their respective roles, making our network a very successful team. She does an excellent job helping families to create goals and measurements and then supporting their progress toward those specific goals. Our network is blessed to have Lindsay's positive attitude, skills and dedication!

## “Give Me Shelter” 5K Run/Walk Race a Success

(Continued from Page 1)

The gray skies did not deter the commitment of the participants and the many helping hands that made our August 8<sup>th</sup> 5K event a success. Fifty-three people chose to share their time by volunteering for the many jobs that needed to be done. In addition to our major two sponsors stated on page one, there were 57 other sponsors who generously donated their money and/or services, including the following levels:

### PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORSHIPS (\$1,000)

Davison Optimist Club  
 Dr. David Slezak, DDS, PC  
 Dr. Kenneth Vobach  
 Fernco, Inc.  
 Karen Michelson  
 Mass Mutual  
 SE Genesee Co Association of Retired School Personnel  
 Snider Financial  
 State Bank  
 YWCA of Greater Flint

### GOLD LEVEL SPONSORSHIPS (\$500)

Davison Odd Fellows  
 Event Tents LLP  
 Hall Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram of Fenton  
 Hank Graff Chevrolet  
 Mass Mutual SE Michigan  
 STAT EMS  
 Tee, Tempo, Beach, Bear & Carley  
 Todd Wenzel Buick GMC  
 Total Benefit Systems



## October Awareness Week

Mark your calendars!

Our second annual “THANK YOU” picnic will be **October 24th from 12:00 - 2:00pm** – to coincide with National Family Promise Week. This event will be an indoor picnic so weather is not a factor in our fun. It’s being held at First Baptist Church of Davison, one of our support churches. Everyone connected with Family Promise of Genesee County, whether a volunteer, a donor or both, is welcome to come out and enjoy the FREE family fun. We’ll have a bounce house, face painting, and balloon animals for people of all ages! And, of course all of the picnic fare! **We hope to see you there!**

## Winter Gala & Silent Auction

*Fabulous 50s Theme!*



**Saturday, February 20, 2016 \* 6:00pm**  
**Riverfront Banquet Center \* Flint, MI**