



**BUILDING COMMUNITIES. STRENGTHENING LIVES.**

## From the Director's Desk

"Encourage one another day after day"  
Hebrews 3:13. Those few, important words are a great reminder, especially on tough days. A very dear friend gave this desk decoration to me several years ago. The treasured token has traveled with me from my last TV station, to my home and now here, to my Family Promise office.

Encourage is defined as giving support, confidence or hope. In my experience, encouragement looks a little different for everyone. And even with the same person, the way they feel encouraged may change from day to day, sometimes a pep talk will do the trick, other times a thoughtful gesture may be what a person needs. And (one of the many) the great thing about Family Promise of Genesee County is encouragement comes from all angles!

While the FPGC staff is always happy to lend an encouraging word, the most valuable encouragement often comes from the 1,500 volunteers connected with the Network. And, often times, it's what a graduate reports remembering most; a 2014 graduate said, when asked what was most valuable to her, in Family Promise, "...the tools, knowledge, encouragement, support and hope that I have gained from being in Family Promise and ALL of the people involved."

Because the volunteer network is so vast, a parent or child may find they can connect over a significant experience. We have encountered moms who have experienced pregnancy loss and been able to connect them with a volunteer who experienced the



same type of loss to help provide support and encouragement. There are also volunteers who have their own homeless or near-homeless story and they have been able to connect with a family in that way. It is truly amazing to me how our volunteers weave encouragement into their service, in such a meaningful way.

Thank you volunteers for "encouraging one another day after day!"

Sincerely,

Lindsay Moore, Director  
Family Promise of Genesee County

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## Community Connection:



My name is Leila Hathaway, Assistant Vice President Compliance/BSA Officer, and I volunteer as a Budgeting Instructor for the Family Promise program. I have been teaching the course to families for almost two years. Teaching others about good money habits is a privilege that I cherish.

My lesson plan begins with identifying income and expenses. Then we move on to capturing, on paper, where our money goes every month. We talk about good and bad choices, differentiating between wants and needs. We also discuss the different nature of expenses, fixed and variable. I have several different methods of budgeting that I offer to families so that they can find the one that fits them best. Next, we talk about ways to keep expenses down by shopping around and how to determine a good deal from a bad deal. We spend some time with the concept of paying yourself first and preparing for emergencies with a rainy day fund. Finally, we talk a little about bank accounts or even banking without an institution.

The families I work with at Family Promise all share one thing: a desire to improve themselves and their life situation. I have been so impressed by their strength and commitment. One of the benefits to taking the budgeting course with me is that in the end, we open the bank doors to the family and make it possible for them to get a checking account. Usually, these families have had negative experiences with banks in their past. It is not uncommon for the individuals to have negative indicators on their banking records that would prevent a bank from opening an account for the person. The State Bank overlooks these indicators and gives the individual a second chance to establish a positive banking record.

During my time with Family Promise, several families have taken the opportunity to open an account. Every time a family comes in to start this process, the event is full of optimism. I realize that each step forward is another step away from homelessness and the belief that they are powerless. Usually, the families have been using non-traditional banking sources such as party and convenience stores, and getting back into a bank provides a sense of normalcy. The best part for these families is that the cost for them to be in the banking system is much less than the costs of banking at their local party store.

I'm happy to be working for a bank that wants to use its resources for all the members of its community. The State Bank is committed to helping Family Promise fulfill its mission to end homelessness. I'm looking forward to many more success stories, one family at a time!



### WHICH ONE IS YOU?

**JOIN us and SEE how your actions  
can BUILD Family Promise!**

Family Promise of Genesee County is expanding its current Board of Directors. If you can spare one hour every other month and consider yourself dedicated and energetic about making a difference, then Family Promise is the board for you!!

Our current Board Members are enthusiastic, take an interest in our programs, and contribute to the organizations growth and improvement. All members volunteer their time, financial resources, or both. We are organized, understanding, hardworking, dedicated and willing to serve on a sub-committee, as well as share with their community about Family Promise and its mission!! A vital board is critical to the program's success and thus the success of the children and their families we serve, as well as our staff and volunteers.

Board Meetings are held at Calvary United Methodist (Flushing Rd, Flint) on the third Tuesdays of the odd-numbered months. We assist with two major, annual fundraising events; a gala and silent auction, in the winter and a 5k road race, in the summer. There are no regular board meetings scheduled during September. In December, there is an informal meeting.

We are looking for members who like to have fun and want to make a difference in their community. Are you open, honest, and accepting of diverse views? If so, consider joining us! Our members build connections, relationships, and have fun with each other all while supporting a first-rate program focused on ending homelessness...one family at a time.

***The only qualification required is your  
desire to help someone in need.***

We are an organization that is small enough where the right person can make a real difference.

**No previous board experience needed.**

Visit our website is [www.familypromiseofgc.org](http://www.familypromiseofgc.org).

For further information e-mail or call Diana at [dianalsnider@gmail.com](mailto:dianalsnider@gmail.com) or 810.653.8107

## NY Federal Reserve Bank Taps FP President For Role On Panel

Family Promise's President, Claas Ehlers, was recently named to an advisory group for the New York Federal Reserve Bank. In this role, Ehlers will be providing insight and advice on how financial policy affects low-income families and the connections between the economy and family homelessness. This underscores National's commitment to engaging more broadly on issues around financial capability, housing and opportunity. Family Promise has also participated in the Opportunity Finance Network and the National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders conferences and met with the staffs of Senators Sherrod Brown and Cory Booker to advocate for the Homeless Children and Youth Act and eviction expungement.



*Pictured above is Ehlers (back row, center) with the advisory group from New York Federal Reserve Bank*



### COORDINATOR CONNECTION

God has a way of putting us right where we can serve Him best. As co-coordinator with Susan Pollard, at Davison United Methodist Church (host, Davison), I have been blessed by His placement of me to serve as a volunteer for Family Promise. Jesus commands us to help and care for our neighbor; Family Promise has given us, at DUMC, that opportunity.

Most volunteers share their time directly with the families. Susan meets the families every evening (and often beyond that time) to extend a sincere listening ear. Joys and concerns of their day are shared with her. Other volunteers provide a dinner or interact with the families during evening hours. But, volunteers who meet guest families are not the only ones who make a host week successful. There are many volunteers among the unseen layers and their acts of loving service make a huge impact on a host week. That "unseen" group is what I wish to share with you.

Our set-up team creates a warm, welcoming bedroom home, right down to the special hotel-style fold of towel sets. A faithful laundry volunteer returns fluffy towels, sweet smelling sheets, and blankets in hopes of supporting a good night of restful sleep. Our food coordinator discovered, in fulfilling families request for snack favorites, (not always the healthiest) is an act of love and comfort.

My ministry is to clean and organize the bathrooms and common living areas each morning. I remember coming home from work and feeling the stress of the day lifted, if my home was clean and in order. That is my wish for the guest families. As a coordinator, I do get to meet the families on Sunday night and am blessed to see the parents' smile of appreciation for their bedroom home, a stocked food table and a shower! Their children are delighted to see a nursery and living area full of toys and the teens express of relief when Wi-Fi is available! I also have been blessed to be a dinner, overnight, evening and Saturday host. As a hairdresser, I was able to give haircuts to a family; a small gesture on my part but the family said, "it was a much appreciated treat."

These are but a few of the stories at DUMC and I know all host churches provide many forms of love to the families.

May God continue to richly bless the work and workers of Family Promise and more importantly bless the families as they go through a stressful time in their lives

Ellen Wagester  
Co-Coordinator  
Davison United Methodist Church



# Family Promise<sup>®</sup> of Genesee County

Building Communities. Strengthening Lives.

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(810) 234-9444



Follow us at Family Promise Of Genesee County

To donate to Family Promise, visit  
[www.familypromiseofgc.org/donate](http://www.familypromiseofgc.org/donate)

Family Promise of Genesee County is part of a national volunteer-based nonprofit organization founded on the belief that Americans are compassionate people who want to make a difference. We are committed to help low-income and homeless families reclaim and maintain independence.

If you would rather receive this newsletter electronically, please send your email to [info@familypromiseofgc.org](mailto:info@familypromiseofgc.org) or call (810) 234-9444.

## Save the Date!



**SATURDAY,  
August 12, 2017**

**DAVISON ABERNATHY  
REGIONAL PARK  
Free Lake Callis & Splash Pad  
Day Pass Per Participant!**

### RACE DAY SCHEDULE

**8:00 AM**  
**Free Kids Fun Run**  
**"Super Hero"**  
Costumes encouraged!

**8:30 AM**  
**5K Run/Walk**

**10:30 AM**  
**Awards**

**Guaranteed Tech T-shirt**  
Register by 7/24/2017

**Free**  
**Pancake Breakfast & Childcare**

REGISTRATION OPENS  
March 20, 2017

[www.givemeshelter5k.com](http://www.givemeshelter5k.com)  
[www.familypromiseofgc.org](http://www.familypromiseofgc.org)

See website for Team Details

PACKET PICK-UP  
Friday, August 11, 2017  
The Complete Runner