

Family Promise

of Genesee County

Our mission is ending homelessness...one family at a time.

A message from the Director

Tiffani Ferrier-Wharry
Greetings, Friends
of Family Promise
of Genesee
County! We hope
this newsletter



finds you in good health and high spirits. We are full of joy and gratitude as we strive to impact our community positively.

There are so many things going on! The mobile shelter continues to move around the county. So far in the four months since rotation restarted, four families have graduated (soon to be five), which is AMAZING even to say!

Families tend to stay a little less time and our days in shelter are hovering right around 33 days from entry to graduation.

It has gone so well that our grantor asked us to purchase a second unit. We found a used one that had been modified so nicely that we couldn't pass it up. It is smaller - and much easier to tow - so that is the unit you will see during rotation. The second unit has allowed us to double our capacity, which is much needed because we are still receiving 3-5 requests a day for emergency shelter.

The original mobile shelter is now parked at our new Farley Street house in Burton.

We've hosted two smaller fundraisers already this year, and we have two more coming up. It has been wonderful to see so many of you in different venues. Food, community engagement, and the spirit of giving.

Tiffani M. Ferrier

Community Gatherings

We are blessed to have hosted two unique fundraisers this year and are looking forward to our Annual 5K race and golf outings in August and September, respectively.

With so many grant dollars for programming, fundraisers like these are important because they pay for things like staff, rent, and utilities.

THE SATURDAY BRUNCH

We were so blessed to host our first ever brunch with a purpose. It was a resounding success and we are beyond thankful for your presence and generous contributions. We could not do what we do without you - your support inspires us with every family we help!

Brunch goers dined on chicken and waffles, while Tiffani caught everyone up on the families, need in our community and the rotation status.



Isis Albert, Tiffani Wharry

At that time we were finishing our 3rd week of rotation with a family of five in the Mobile Shelter. Our special guest speaker was a face you may remember; she is growing into a wonderful young lady. She spoke from the heart about what Family Promise means to her, leaving no dry eyes in the crowd. Truly, it has been our pleasure helping her, her mom, and brothers over the years. Undoubtedly, when they can, they will pay kindness to others.

Making a Difference, Together



Supporting homeless families...

One Brunch at a Time!

UNCLE PHIL'S BOWL-O-RAMA

Phil Stadler, long-time FPGC Board of Directors, is no stranger to hard work in the community. In addition to his board duties at FPGC and his day job, he volunteers his time on the Ennis Center for Children and La Casa Amiga Community program.



He dreamed of giving back to the community, and we were blessed that he chose us to be his first recipient of an annual fundraiser that he organized and hosted.

Bowl-O-Rama was held on April 28, bringing together the community for a night of fun and philanthropy.

Participants of all ages gathered at the local bowling alley, eagerly lacing up their shoes and preparing for a friendly competition. Laughter echoed through the venue as families, friends, and supporters took turns aiming for strikes and spares.

The event featured various activities, including raffles and silent auctions, adding an element of anticipation and excitement. The Bowling Fundraiser brought the community closer together and strengthened the mission of Family Promise of Genesee County, ensuring that families facing homelessness receive the support and resources they need to rebuild their lives.

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Day Center Team



We are delighted to announce that we have a new edition to the FPGC team, Bill Johnson.

Bill is a retired Electrician, a St. Paul's Episcopal Church member, and lives in Mt. Morris with his two adored cats .

He is our 'Director of Family Transportation' and has already proven himself an invaluable asset to our small but mighty team.

Velva Thompson, a past graduate, is a success story that keeps our cups full. Before FPGC, she and the kids experienced several bouts of homelessness because she had no family to rely on; we have become that stability for her. We were excited when she could rejoin us as a Family Advocate. Having someone who can relate to our families in Emergency shelter is always helpful.

We are sad to report that Kelly Judkins, our Case Manager, has left us for a new opportunity. She will undoubtedly be missed.

Family Promise of Genesee County Finds a New Home

We are thrilled to announce that Family Promise of Genesee County is moving to its new location at St. Paul's Episcopal Church!

After carefully considering and collaborating with our dedicated partners, we have found an ideal space to house our Day Center in a safe and welcoming environment. This move not only ensures a comfortable and supportive space for those in need but also allows us more space for our expanded programming as we strive to make an even greater impact on the lives of families here in Genesee County.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, with its rich history and strong community spirit, shares our vision and commitment to serving the most vulnerable. We are immensely grateful for their partnership and to the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan, our largest single grantor to our mission for the past several years.

The new location at St. Paul's Episcopal Church will offer numerous advantages for our families.

The church boasts ample space to accommodate our program, including comfortable sleeping areas (if needed), common spaces for dining and activities, and dedicated rooms for

counseling and case management services. This larger facility will better support our capacity, which has increased dramatically over the last several years, as we support more and more families on their journey toward stability and self-sufficiency. Additionally, the church's central location in the heart of downtown Flint ensures easier access to transportation, educational resources, healthcare facilities, and other essential services. This proximity will further empower families to regain independence and create a better future for themselves and their children.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated volunteers, donors, and community members who have supported us in our mission to combat family homelessness. Your unwavering support has played a pivotal role in making this move possible. We invite you to continue walking alongside us on this journey as we embark on a new chapter at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.



Family Promise of Genesee County

Founded 2014

Board of Trustees

- Anne Figueroa, Chair
- Dave Rayner, Vice-Chair
- Sonja Markwart, Secretary
- Montrice Walker-Sanders
- Phil Stadler
- Pastor Robbie Carnes
- Lisa Sivosky

Staff

- Tiffani Wharry, Executive Director
- Nicole Breslin, Development Director
- Velva Thompson, Family Services Assistant
- Bill Johnson, Family Transportation

Family Promise of Genesee County is nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization addressing the crisis of family homelessness in Genesee and Lapeer Counties. Through a comprehensive set of solutions involving prevention, shelter, and stabilization, we empowers families experiencing or at risk of homelessness to reclaim and maintain their independence.



Hallway of the new Day Center

Help change the future for children and families facing homelessness!

You can make a difference! Visit familypromiseofgc.org/donate or use the QR code :



Welcome!

The Board of Directors is excited to welcome Lisa Sivosky, MSW, back to the FPGC family. Lisa's experience as a former case manager will bring a wealth of knowledge and insight to the organization's efforts to support families experiencing homelessness in Genesee County.

As a case manager now for Genesee Health Systems, Lisa has firsthand experience working directly with individuals and families in need, advocating for their rights and connecting them with vital resources.



Lisa Sivosky

Her expertise in social work and understanding of the unique challenges faced by homeless families will be incredibly valuable in guiding Family Promise's programs and services.

2nd Mobile Shelter Unit

Our second mobile shelter unit is absolutely adorable. The couple we purchased it from took amazing care of it (you can tell) and modified it for comfortable long-term living, which was a key selling factor for us!

This MSU will continue rotation while the large unit stays at the Farley House. In case you don't have a chance to see it, below are some pictures of the interior.



Family Updates

We have lots of success stories to share since our last update.

We have a mom who started with us via our SHIP program from a school in Davison with four children. They were living in a doubled-up environment that was not good for a family so large.

Mom needed some help, budgeting focus, and a game plan so that she could finish her training to be a certified Nursing Assistant; under Kelly's care and guidance, she was able to complete training, is now working at Genesys and found a home at Stratford Square apartments in Davison so the kids could stay in the same school district.

Mom N, a single mom of two, moved into her forever home at MariDann in Swartz Creek. One of her children has a high level of autism and with no support. Mom N struggled to make ends meet on her son's SSI, and with no vehicle, getting even the smallest job was a challenge. This housing unit is income-based, meaning she and her children will never be homeless again.

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Spring Break Fun



Farley House Street Home of the large Mobile Shelter Unit

In March, Pastor Knox contacted us about a property his church owned, wanting to partner with us.

He met a pastor from Arizona, at a conference, was very active with Family Promise at his church and was delighted to learn about all the families we have been helping locally since 2014.

At the beginning of July, we entered into an agreement with the Ebenezer Ministries and began renting a home on Farley Street in Burton. It is adjacent to the Ministry properties off Center Road.



In addition to eventually being able to house an additional family, it is now home to our large mobile shelter unit.

We have been struggling to find volunteers to tow the unit from church to church, and it is too much to ask the same people, including Mr. Ferrier (Tiffani's dad) to haul it each Sunday.

We could certainly use some assistance cleaning up the outside of the property and furnishing the inside. Anyone interested in adopting a room in the home should reach out to Nicole Breslin at development@familypromiseofgc.org.

Volunteer SpotLight

Ask any non-profit who the MVP of the organization is, and they will tell you, volunteers. We are no different - in fact, volunteers mean so much to us that we call them Heros, Housing Heros!



Carolyn Malaski
Host Church Coordinator
Flushing United Methodist
Church. Carolyn never
fails to answer our call
when we come knocking!
She has been a housing
hero volunteering since
2014, when Flushing UMC
signed on to be a host church when Family
Promise was getting started in Genesee
County.

She has many stories from the years, but one that stands out in her mind each host week is how happy the kids are to see the bikes that we have for them to ride.

They enjoy the space both inside and out to be able to work off some of their energy. She is inspired to volunteer because she wants to help make a difference, especially for the kids in the families. They don't deserve the circumstances they are in. She says that she and the rest of her housing heroes do their best to make things easier for the families and enjoyable for the kids during their stay with Flushing UMC.

Carolyn, thank you for all you do for our Family Promise Family. We appreciate you more than you know!

Volunteer Training

Virtual Volunteer Portal

Last year Family Promise (National) added new Virtual Volunteer opportunities to the [Family Promise Volunteer Portal](#) on top of the existing options. Volunteers have appreciated having new ways to give back.

Barb Manor is a long-time Housing Hero whose home base is St. Paul's Episcopal Church, one of our host churches. She is one of those quiet types of people that shows up and gets things done.



Other times you can be a quiet presence and just let them know they have a safe place for the night." When folks ask who can volunteer? She asks them,

When people ask her what it is like to volunteer with Family Promise, she tells them, "You do things that you would do with your own family."

"You might go shopping for food or household items, make an evening meal or organize the playroom. You might read a book or play a game with the children. Sometimes you might share recipes and talk about places to visit in Flint and Michigan.

Are you good at raising funds, computer entry, or driving?" Think about things you like to do and let the Family Promise staff know, and I am sure they could put your talents to work to provide housing for families.

We couldn't agree more - we would be more than happy to put your talents to work!

Barb, our heartfelt thanks to you for all that you do for Family Promise and the families we serve each and every day!

Calling All Volunteers

We could really use your support! We know that COVID changed many things for all of us. One of those things was the habit of volunteering.

The significant change (post-COVID) for Family Promise was the number of people we serve.

We went from helping roughly 150 children and parents, roughly 20 or so families annually, to serving 685 children in 250 families.

As John Heywood once said, "Many hands make light work."

Whether you have an hour or three, can only give time once per month - or once each week.

We welcome all hands!



Volunteers at Work

It is hard to believe that we have completed a full rotation of our churches with our Mobile Shelter Unit. We raised many eyebrows when we announced we were seeking a grant to purchase a "toy hauler" to house families.

Fast forward three months, and we have graduated 4 families into their forever homes.

We changed the format slightly in that each host church now hosts for two weeks at a time.

The Housing Heroes at Goodrich United Methodist, led by coordinator Sue Monczunski, graciously kicked off our mission. They received wonderful support from St. Mark Evangelist.

Our journey then took us to Fenton, where the kind assistance of Fenton United Methodist backed dedicated volunteers from TLC (Transfiguration Lutheran Church). Continuing our efforts, we proceeded to Flushing UMC and Court Street UMC, where the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint provided valuable support. We then moved on to Holy Spirit Lutheran, and the compassionate individuals at St. Mark's Lutheran drove to lend a helping hand.

Our next destination was St. Dunstan's in Davison, where the caring people of St. Paul's and St. Jude's made the journey to support their fellow Episcopalians. Afterward, we packed up and made our way back to Flushing Presbyterian, where Fenton Presbyterian graciously offered their support. Finally, we concluded our rotation at Davison UMC.

The second rotation is now in session, and the small camper is currently at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church.



Coordinator Experience



We asked several of you to share your experience of what it was different about hosting with our Mobile Shelter Unit vs how it was before. Thank you Carolyn Malaski at Flushing UMC who was kind enough to share her thoughts with us. In addition, they were able to host a community mobile pantry - which was a super big bonus. And they went from serving only 1 family who was in shelter with us at the time to serving an additional 12 families from their immediate community.

We call that a Win-Win!

Probably the biggest difference for me personally was that I knew very little about RVs and all that would be involved in using the mobile shelter. Since we have a cabin, I had no experience with anything to do with camping other than to visit those who were! We were fortunate to have a volunteer, who owns an RV similar to the shelter, and his son who prepared the unit to be moved and set it up at Flushing UMC.

His knowledge and experience made things much easier for me as a coordinator. Since we didn't use the Sunday School rooms for bedrooms, we spent much less time setting everything up.

Since we were hosting fewer guests, everything was adjusted to meet their schedules and needs. We were reminded that what happened during the week wasn't about us and our usual schedule of activities but what our guests preferred. This is the first time that our awesome breakfast crews who make special sandwiches and prepare Saturday brunch, weren't needed. While we did not have Saturday hosts, overnight hosts and a larger set up crew, we still had dinner and evening hosts every night. Several volunteers served multiple times during the two weeks since we had fewer volunteers available.

We were able to open the Mobile Pantry for the community on Saturday from 2-4 PM and served a total of 12 families.

Carolyn Malaski
Family Promise Coordinator
Flushing United Methodist Church



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Please visit us on:

 FamilyPromiseOfGeneseeCounty

 fpgeneseecounty

 DirectorFpgc

2023 EVENTS

Saturday, August 12, 2023

Friday, September 22, 2023

9th Annual Give Me Shelter 5K

3rd Annual Golf Outing

NEW location

Sugarbush Golf Club

For-Mar Nature Preserve

Davison

Family Promise Week

October 16 - 23

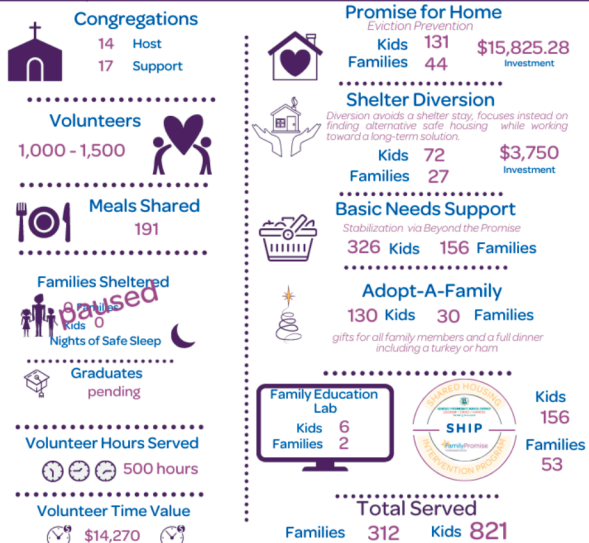
Night Without a Bed

Saturday, October 22

Scan,
to access our
LinkTree



Family Promise of Genesee County 2022 Impact



URGENT NEEDS

Household Items

Dish Soap
Hand Soap
Clorox Wipes

Gift Cards

Gas
Grocery
(Kroger, Meijer, Walmart)

Clothing

Kids Boots (any sizes)
Hats/Gloves
Backpacks

Personal Hygiene

Body Wash
Shampoo / Conditioner
Hand Soap

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