



# Family Promise of Genesee County

## How You Can Help Family Promise of Genesee County

Dear Friend of Family Promise,

First of all, we would like to thank you for your generous support of our organization this year. We have been an operating entity providing food and shelter to families in need for more than 18 months! This was made possible due to contributions of precious time and treasure, from people like you. Whether you made a general contribution, attended and/or sponsored one of our two major fundraisers, volunteered with a host or support congregation or assisted us with a grant, we appreciate your support. While we are currently on a solid financial footing and continue to minimize our expenses through the use of our dedicated volunteer network, we are reaching out to you at this time to request that you prayerfully consider remembering Family Promise of Genesee County in your giving as the end of the year approaches.

Your generous support has allowed our organization to provide the following over the last year:

- 2,944 nights of safe lodging to families in their time of greatest need and, more importantly, these nights were spent together as a family.
- 8,832 meals to families which allowed them to save their earnings to get back on their feet and into their own home.
- Support to 12 families' transitioning to their own permanent housing with continued aftercare where needed.
- Life-skill courses to help graduates successfully maintain a household.

We hope to continue to provide a caring environment for families to get back on their feet through the use of our dedicated network of host and support churches, but need your continued support to do so. The Family Promise model costs 1/3 of what it costs to operate a traditional shelter and more than 90% of our budget is directly related to programming not operating, so your support makes a direct impact on families' lives.

The easiest and most convenient way to donate is by visiting our website at <http://www.familypromiseofgc.org/donate/>. This safe, secure page will allow you to make a one-time or recurring donation with a credit card. If you prefer, we can debit your checking account provided you complete a simple form authorizing us to do so. That form is also available on our website. We will also gladly accept cash or checks using the enclosed envelope. Finally, as you are doing your holiday shopping, please note any purchases from Amazon can provide 0.5% of the purchase price to us at no additional cost to you by using <http://smile.amazon.com/> and selecting "Family Promise of Genesee County" as your desired charity.

Thank you again for your support over the past year. It has been invaluable in providing families in need in the Genesee County community with a hand towards a new beginning. We hope God continues to bless you and your family and that you will prayerfully consider continuing to be a member of our Family Promise family.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors  
Family Promise of Genesee County

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## Director's Report

In my office, there's a white dry erase board tracking graduate and active families. It tells the short-hand version of where we've been and where we're going. Right now, it reflects exactly why Family Promise is so important to Genesee County.

We have six males over the age of 12 on the 'active' side of the board. We've never had this many males! Two of the guys are fathers in a two parent household, the other four are pre-teen and teenaged boys. If Family Promise of Genesee County did not exist, those families would be broken apart,

doubled up with others, sleeping in a vehicle or, even worse, on the streets.

But, we do exist! We exist because of generous donors and grant opportunities. So, tonight, those six males will be safe, supported and solidly with their families. All of them are squarely focused on what's next for them; for the dads, building a firm foundation, for the students, maintaining their academics.

Thank you for your support!

Blessings,  
Lindsay Moore, Director  
Family Promise of Genesee County



*Harvest time! Thanks to the Ruth Mott Foundation and Applewood Estates. These apples came directly from the farm and they were delicious!*

## Friends of our Family

The Host and Support churches are an integral component of the success of our Family Promise Network.

*“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”  
~ || Corinthians 9:8*

God continues to abundantly bless Family Promise of Genesee County! Recently, we welcomed four new churches; three Host Churches and one Support Church. With those new churches, we now have 30 congregations directly involved with FPGC; that's 15 Hosts and 15 Supports, from all over our county.

Welcome to our newest congregations:

- West Vienna United Methodist, Clio (Host)
- Calvary United Methodist, Flint (Host)
- St Mark Lutheran, Flint (Host)
- St. Christopher's Episcopal, Grand Blanc (Support)

These congregations answered the call, in a big way, to be God's hands and feet in our community. We give thanks for their willingness to assist us in our mission, engaging community and faith based organizations in ending homelessness – one family at a time.

May God bless your ministry with us!



*Special thanks to Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Burton for the beautiful blankets with special messages for our families.*

## National Family Promise Director Retiring



Karen Olson, Founder and President of the Family Promise, will retire this January. Under her leadership, the first network opened in 1986. It went national in 1988, as word spread about the effective structure and program success. Fast forward more

than 30 years, Olson oversees 192 Family Promise affiliates, in 42 states.

Claas Ehlers, current Director of Affiliate Services, will step into that role. Claas has been with Family

Promise for 14 years. "...his knowledge, commitment and strategic vision make him the ideal choice to lead us into the future," Olson says.

Ehlers was instrumental in helping Family Promise of Genesee County begin in development, back in 2011. FPGC is excited to work with Ehlers as we continue to grow our network. He has been to Genesee County more than once, as we worked to launch FPGC.

Olson will continue as President Emeritus. She will also continue to speak at Family Promise events and her volunteer work with the Union County, NJ Family Promise affiliate.

Thanks Fernco, in Davison, for sponsoring our annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. Everyone had a blast!



## Meet Our Newest Board Members

**Michael Evrard**, Certified Public Accountant, is an audit manager for Yeo & Yeo CPA's and Business Consultants, out of the Flint office. Mike works closely with many area non-profit organizations and brings a diverse business skill set to the table. Mike is excited to be involved with our unique organization. Michael is serving our board with the finance committee.

**Pam Diment-Flores** has her Masters in Social Work and is employed at Durant-Tuuri-Mott Elementary School. She has a

passion for helping children and singing in her church choir. Pam is serving our board with the board development and road race committees.

**David Courter** is currently pursuing his Social Work degree with a minor in psychology and substance abuse. He has vast managerial experience with various non-profit programs, including a Wyoming Family Promise affiliate. David is serving our board with the network/ congregation relations committee.

**Sonja Markwart** is an Attorney at Regent Law, PC. She has knowledge and skills in several aspects of family law. She has built numerous business contacts within the community. Sonja is serving our board with the personnel and public relations committees.

Our success comes from those who serve with willing and passionate hearts! Thank you for joining our Board of Directors.

Karen Vobach  
Board President

If you would rather receive this newsletter electronically, please call (810) 234-9444.

*Building communities. Strengthening lives.*

If you would like to donate to this ministry, please visit [www.familypromisegc.org/donate/](http://www.familypromisegc.org/donate/) or call (810) 234-9444

Family Promise of Genesee County  
**Winter Gala  
& Silent Auction**

With a  
Fabulous  
50's Theme!

Save the  
Date!



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

Prepare your hearts for an evening of fun and excitement with friends as  
**Family Promise of Genesee County** presents its annual charity  
**Winter Gala & Silent Auction** with all proceeds  
benefitting the mission of Family Promise.