

# THE PROMISE...POWERED BY YOU

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

We would not be where we are without each of you giving the promise each and every day, to our families. You know you've made a difference in a life when they want to pay it forward. One of our recent grads, is looking forward to being able to do exactly that.

### Did you know?

The three most cited reasons for family homelessness are: lack of affordable housing, unemployment, and poverty. More often than not the families we serve are working but underemployed, this underemployment puts our families at risk for homelessness and a continued housing instability.

What does that look like? The poverty line for a family of four is \$24,300. A worker needs to earn \$11.70/hour to reach the poverty level for a family of four. A renter needs to earn \$21.21/hour to afford a two-bedroom rental in the U.S. 11 million households now pay more than 50% of their income for housing—an increase of 20% since 2007.

For every ten extremely low-income households, there are only three affordable rentals available on the market. Navigating the murky waters of finding sustainable housing is the kind of work our Case Manager engages in throughout the week.

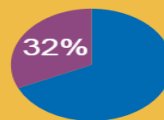
*"If it wasn't for this (Family Promise), I would have probably lost my kids..."*

*- 2018 Graduate  
dad of 3*

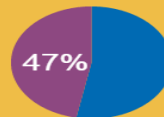
## The Reality for Working Parents.

The average annual cost of childcare in the U.S. is \$9,589 for one child.

Two parents working full-time at federal minimum wage make \$30,160. Childcare for one child is 32% of their income.



The poverty level for a family of 3 is \$20,420. Childcare for one child accounts for 47% of that income.



\$9,589

Childcare in 33 states costs more than the national average of in-state college tuition.



\$9,410

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## Partnership Offers New Promise

Often families come to us and need a temporary place for their four-legged family members.

A 2017 University of Washington video project titled “My Dog is My Home: the Experience of Human-Animal Homelessness” showed



what most pet owners know, the bond between people and their animals is strong. “In these stories, the humans care for dogs, but the dogs also care for the humans,” Professor Vicky Lawson, project co-producer, said. The importance of a family pet is echoed by those who call Family Promise of Genesee County, in a housing crisis, involving a pet.

“I was extremely worried because of the great possibility that I would have to rehome him. I would’ve been devastated! He’s not just a cat, he’s my four-legged child,” said one now-grad mom, of facing a housing crisis with a pet. Thankfully, FPGC was able to find a suitable foster parent for that cat, until the mom secured her own place. But, “finding a suitable foster isn’t always easy; so a partnership between The Humane Society of Genesee County and PGC is a wonderful development,” said Lindsay Moore, FPGC Network Director. **NEW** on page 2

## From the Director’s Desk...

Spring starts sports season for my girls. My 5-year old plays t-ball and my 10-year old plays softball. Watching them play is truly one of my greatest joys, especially the 5yr old with all the young ones just learning to play. It’s comical to see every kiddo in the field run for the same ball or forget to drop the bat THEN run. They are all just so excited to be playing and learning. Since my 10yr old has been playing since she was 4yrs old, I have been blessed to witness dozens, if not hundreds, of memorable moments, but this week I got to witness one that is close to the top of that list – a home run for the heart.

Lined up on the field, alongside my 5yr old, was a 4yr old kiddo whose mom graduated almost a year ago now. It took the two a moment to recognize each other but, once they did, they were like old friends excited to see each other and even more excited to be on the same team. My 10yr old was happy to be part of the moment too; she helps the t-ball coach corral the kids or retrieve errant balls that go farther than the kids want to run! There was no “hey, you used to be homeless, what are you doing here?” There was only “Hi! Remember me?!”

I had a chance to catch up with her mom too, because, even though she is active in the graduate program with our Graduate Family Case Manager, I hadn’t seen her in a couple of months. She is doing well and her kiddo was excited for the t-ball season too. Now, I’ll get to see her twice a week, just two moms cheering for their girls.

Your support helped make that moment possible!

Thank you!

**NEW** from page 2

“The mission of the Humane Society aligns very well with Family Promise. Both our organizations are interested in helping find a permanent, suitable home for the population we serve. A core principle in our mission is to provide shelter of companion animals, and we are honored to help Family Promise help their clients who may turn away services if they cannot find housing that allows pets,” said Ruth Wells Cantor, Executive Director, Humane Society of Genesee County.

While guest families work to re-stabilize their situation, The Humane Society of Genesee County will provide care for the family’s animals. “It will allow the Family Promise clients to focus on finding resolution to the problems they face, knowing the animal they love is safe and well-cared for. The bond between pet owners and their companion animals is strong, and we are thrilled this partnership will allow the pet to be reunited with its owner,” says Wells Cantor.



## Habitat for Humanity ReStore Builds Options for Family Promise

The Genesee County Habitat for Humanity mission statement, “Seeking to put God’s love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope,” aligns with the Family Promise of Genesee County mission statement to “Engage community and faith-based organizations in ending homelessness...one family at a time.” So, when we opened our doors nearly four years ago, we worked to establish a partnership with them, specifically the ReStore component. Since that time, dozens of graduate families have benefitted from that partnership.

ReStore is the retail arm of Habitat for Humanity. The storefront is open to everyone in the community. Shoppers can find used and sometimes new furniture, appliances, paint, cabinetry, wood and other housewares. Purchases support the work Habitat for Humanity does in our community. Items for sale come from community donations or store donations.

Fast forward to today and the partnership is going strong, “it’s a great partnership, not only for Habitat, helping us get more quality donations, different customers, and a bigger donor base, it’s also a great way to help Family Promise graduates transition,” says Greg Mosley, ReStore Director. Mosley credits an increase in revenue due to the partnership.

Here’s how our partnership works: anyone interested in donating furniture, beds, appliances or housewares can call and schedule a pick-up with Habitat (see contact information below). Donors explain the item is in support of Family Promise and it’s tagged accordingly and sold by ReStore. Once the item is sold, Family Promise receives a portion of the purchase price back, in the form of vouchers. When a family graduates, they are given those vouchers to select what they need for their new homes. Any mattresses, bed frames or appliances donated are saved specifically for graduates and stored at ReStore until a family needs them. Habitat requires there be at least three items for pick up and that the items are in a garage or near a door.

To arrange a donation pick-up (Tuesday-Saturday), call Habitat for Humanity ReStore at (810) 766-9089, ext. 250.

## Benefit in the Park

Flushing Riverview Park Band Shell.

Saturday June 16, 2018

230 S. Cherry Street—Flushing



**Register today** at  
[www.givemeshelter5k.com](http://www.givemeshelter5k.com)

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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.