

Ending homelessness...one family at a time.



A MESSAGE  
FROM THE DIRECTOR  
*Tiffani (Ferrier) Wharry*

Hello Dear Friends,

I hope all my housing heroes are doing well and looking forward to the summer sunshine. May I dare even say it seems we are coming to the light at the end of the tunnel? It has been almost a year since we have sheltered a family, and we are definitely looking forward to getting back to our shelter rotation. At this time, we are planning for a start date in October.

When we shifted our focus to stabilization last summer, we never imagined it would keep us so busy. Our closure has allowed us to develop and build our programs - these are creative solutions that are focused on diverting families from shelter situations. Our focus while remote has been on supportive services and resources to many local agencies and our community. We are small, but we have always been mighty!

We received a Basic Needs Grant from the county that allowed us to partner with some of our host/support churches already operating food pantries. This joint effort helped us serve more than 400 people in the last five months alone, with items that cannot be purchased on an EBT card.

Many of the families we served told us that it was the difference between them paying their rent or being able to buy food. In addition, we continue to stabilize 40+ families that either graduated from our program or have been a part of our new programs.

While a lot has changed, one thing that has always been our constant is providing solutions to family homelessness. We couldn't do it without you.

We are taking advantage of our limited time without families at the day center and using it for some much-needed TLC. So far, volunteers from New Life Community Lutheran and Flushing United Methodist have come to paint, clean, organize and refresh. I am pleased to report that we no longer have glow-in-the-dark stickers on the ceiling in the quiet room. We also have matching bedding, and it looks more like a welcoming bedroom/play area.

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## Paying it Forward: one family at a time

Often families come to us because they have experienced an absolutely traumatic event. We frequently talk about the "trauma of homelessness" which losing a home in and of itself is certainly traumatic - however there are instances when a home is lost for other reasons than nonpayment of rent/mortgage.

We have a lot of single moms that come through our Day Center. We also have moms whose skin color does not always match the color of their children; it doesn't matter to us; we only look at the trauma they are going through and want to fix it as fast as we possibly can.

This mom came to us for help because her children were experiencing racial hatred at both their home and in their school. Mom works full-time at a large company in Grand Blanc, where she manages a team of individuals, so good problem-solving skills are definitely in her wheelhouse. Yet, these verbal assaults toward her children continued.

### **The World is a Small Place, and Volunteerism is a powerful thing!**

A couple of years ago, a kind man donated a trailer to the Franklin Avenue Mission. A volunteer there had the perfect family in mind for such a gift. *(It's probably not surprising that many volunteers have participated with both FPGC and the Franklin Mission).*

This volunteer had been working with a family who was, unfortunately, living in a home that should have been condemned. It had holes in the roof, so big that the couple would take turns during heavy rainstorms (or snow) to bale the water right back out the window. There was mold, no hot water, and because they had nowhere else to go, they lived there. It took this kind volunteer more than a year to earn their trust so she might be able to help them.



The Franklin Avenue Mission helped pay the lot rent for one year, and the couple and their adult son (caretaker) moved into their new home. It has been two years since then, and the family had been able to save up money and decided to move out of state to be near family. So they contacted their friend to see what could be done with the home.

Back to our hard-working mom with two kids, living in fear because of hate, in desperate need of a safer living arrangement.

Yes, you guessed it. The family is gifting the home to her and her children. It was important to them to be able to pay this gift of a home forward.

She and the boys moved in on June 15th. We granted her money from "Promise for Home" to take care of the move-in costs as her landlord refuses to return her current deposit because she is breaking her lease.

Our mom is so thankful that she is already looking to the future where she can purchase something for herself and be in the position to pay this home forward once again.

We are so thankful for the Franklin Mission's work to help our community and our long-time volunteer who helped make this happen.

## Family Promise

of Genesee County  
Founded 2014

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tiffani (Ferrier) Wharry

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

### A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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It has been on our wish list for a while to be able to honor our graduates by placing their family names on a Wall of Stars. We hope that when we are back to hosting and graduating new families it will give them hope and inspiration while they are going through one of the most difficult times in their lives!

Now that our education lab has been upgraded we are focusing on making the common areas more family-oriented that they can be utilized for classes and during normal day center operations. Volunteers from various churches already started painting, cleaning, and organizing throughout our space.

If you are interested in a project for your group, adult, teen, or family, we would love to have you! There are many opportunities for volunteers right now. We have a new system that will allow us to better track your volunteer hours to give credit where credit is due!

We will start going back to the office with regularity the week of July 12 and could use some help there as well. If you are interested, please let me know!

Until next time!

Peace, Love, and Housing!

*Tiffani M. Ferrier*

# Save the Date!

## Night without a Bed

June 19-26, 2021

You can spend your Night without a Bed anywhere - the most important part of this social media challenge is to raise awareness of family homelessness. You can sleep on a sofa, the floor, in your car, in a tent - anywhere but in a bed - and share photos on our social media - tag @familypromiseofgenesee county and hashtag #NightWithoutABed. For more details or to sign up visit <http://bit.ly/fpgcnwoab>



## Give Me Shelter - 5K

August 14, 2021



Saturday, August 14, 2021  
[bit.ly/givemesher5k](http://bit.ly/givemesher5k)  
Abernathy Park - Davison

We are so excited to be hosting our race in person once again at Jack Abernathy Park in Davison. A crowd favorite - our 5K runs through the beautiful park and adjoining neighborhood. Onsite daycare in the playscape during the event. For more information or to register visit: <http://bit.ly/fpgms5k>

## Golf FORE Families!

September 10, 2021

Atlas Valley Golf Club  
8313 Perry Road | Grand Blanc, MI



Back by popular demand and at the newly revamped Atlas Valley Golf Club! The entire facility and course underwent a dramatic revitalization in 2020 and are receiving rave reviews. It is a perfect backdrop to play golf and help local families experiencing a housing crisis. For more information or to register, visit: <http://bit.ly/fpgcgolf>



## Family Promise Week and 1st Host Week of 2021

October 17-24, 2021

We are beyond excited to announce that our first host week of 2021 will be October 17-24 at Calvary UMC / Day Center. This will coincide with Family Promise Week - which celebrates the work we do and increases awareness of family homelessness across the country. Stay tuned for more details and volunteer opportunities.

## Volunteer Training

Available Now

Exciting news - the national office has overhauled affiliate resources and we are excited to share that Virtual Volunteer Training is now available. Each module is between 5-8 minutes and you can complete them from the comfort of your own home.

Visit [www.familypromise.org/volunteer-training-videos/](http://www.familypromise.org/volunteer-training-videos/)  
Any questions? Give us a call 810.234.9444.



# Stopping Homelessness Before It Happens

Did you know that there is more to Family Promise than emergency overnight shelter? When we started in 2014, emergency shelter was our focus and only program.

In 2017, we developed our graduate program, "Beyond the Promise" (a stabilization program), which enabled us to follow up with families for up to one-year post-graduation. This program helps ensure families are able to maintain their housing, and if any "road bumps" happen we are there to lend a hand.

In late 2018, retired board member Diana Snider and President Emeritus Karen Vobach took on the challenge of bringing a new program into our lineup. Many options were considered. During visits and board meetings, they would hear updates about families ready to graduate but lacked the financial resources for move-in deposits or to resolving past -due obligations that would enable them to graduate sooner.

After a lot of brainstorming, a plan was developed to help graduate more families annually. This plan was the foundation for the Bridge Apart program which provides financial resources for families meeting program criteria and enables them to graduate in 30-45 days rather than the average of 69-70 days.

## The Family Promise Continuum of Care



## FPGC Programs

### Prevention

**Definition:**  
*Eviction is IMMINEENT. Services provided prevent a loss of home/current residence*

- Financial/Rental Assistance
- Case Management
- Landlord Mediation
- Security Deposit

#### FPGC Programs

- Beyond the Promise
- Promise for Home
- Bridge Apart

### Shelter Diversion

**Definition:**  
*Currently or Recently Homeless Avoid a Shelter Stay*

- Landlord Mediation
- General Housing Location
- Rental Assistance
- Intensive, Fast Case Management
- Creative Solutions

#### FPGC Programs

- Beyond the Promise
- Bridge Apart

### Shelter

**Definition:**  
*Living in unsafe conditions - street, car, etc.*

- Hospitality
- Case Management
- Community Engagement
- Landlord Mediation

#### FPGC Programs

- Emergency Shelter
- Pets with a Promise
- Bridge Apart

### Stabilization

**Definition:**  
*Programming to support continued household success.*

- Case Management
  - Graduate Programs
  - Rapid-Rehousing
  - Home Ownership
- Financial Capacity
- Career Pathway
- Community Engagement

#### FPGC Programs

- Beyond the Promise
- Keeping the Promise (basic needs)
- Bridge Apart
- Promise for Family
- Family Education Lab

In the early summer of 2019, we applied for and were awarded a matching grant that focused on both homeless prevention and providing move-in costs to families with a child under 18 years old in the home. This grant propelled us even further forward into providing prevention for families. Though we do not shelter these families, they receive case management, life-skills classes and qualify for any other programs that might help.

In 2020 and so far this year, we have applied for and been awarded funding that will help us divert families from needing to enter shelter altogether. Any families served will be part of the "Beyond the Promise" program, receive regular case management, life-skills building, and be eligible for a FPGC mentor. We are excited about this because they will avoid the trauma of being in a shelter and can get to rebuilding a stable independent home.

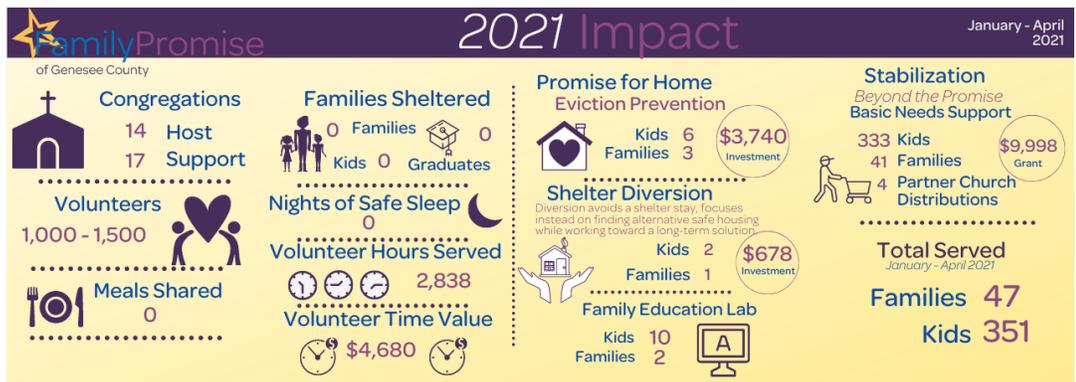
We are so very thankful for all that you whether you are a volunteer or donor or both, you and these programs are key ingredients in our mission of ending homelessness...one family at a time.

## Our Impact

It continues to amaze us that we are serving so many families than ever before and the list of graduates keeps growing.

This is the impact we have had in our community through April of this year.

If you would like a copy of this graphic to share, please email Nicole at [development@familypromiseofgc.org](mailto:development@familypromiseofgc.org), she will be happy to share it with you.



# FamilyPromise

of Genesee County

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 fpgenesecounty

 DirectorFPGC



Basic Needs Distributions



Work in Progress at the Day Center

