



# Family Promise Ontario County News

December 2021

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**Our Newest Child Born when his family is without housing.**

## Oh What Love....

Brenda Spratt, FPOC Executive Director holds a sweet 10-pound boy who was born while his mom and siblings live in a one room hotel. No permanent home, nothing is available for them to rent.

**We must find a home for every child.**



**Our thanks to Ontario County congregations and service clubs that donated grocery gift cards this year.**

Because of you we were able to provide **13,671 meals valued at \$41,013** for families in our shelter apartments from January to November of 2021.



During this challenging year Family Promise expanded our services to help many more families.

1) We provided **emergency housing** to 13 homeless families in Family Promise apartments totaling 53 people, 2) **prevented** homelessness for another 100 families using Help Us Move In and Emergency Solutions grants funding, and 3) **stabilized** graduate families and provided rent and utility assistance totaling \$32,334. (27 families, 30 adults, 61 children).

We are grateful to be working with FLACRA, Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes, and Law NY. Together we **assisted more than 700 families in Ontario County with their applications to the State Emergency Rental Assistance Program** so families could catch up with overdue rent and utilities and remain in their housing.



**Housing is Health Care.** Some hotels are full to capacity with families and individuals who have lost their housing. Some families have resorted to living in their cars as a last resort. When there is no roof over your head, no way to prepare healthy meals, prolonged stress and lack of sleep, people become sick. When children are unable to attend school they fall behind. **Having a roof over your head is health care and one of the best ways there is to prevent the spread of COVID-19.**



*Kathleen Wagner, affiliate founder celebrates opening of Family Promise of Ontario County with volunteers.*

Family Promise of Ontario County was founded three years ago when a large group of concerned congregations, school representatives and community organizations joined together to use untapped community resources to achieve a goal none of them could have tackled alone.

Congregations opened their buildings to house and feed families in crisis. Schools identified homeless children in their classrooms and referred them for help. The United Way and Foodlink organized the distribution of emergency food in Canandaigua, Clifton Springs and Geneva.

**This is synergy. Together, we will once again achieve a goal none of us can tackle alone.**

***There has been great effort, and many have helped, and there is still great need.***

## Note of Thanks from Claas Ehlers, Family Promise National CEO

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the national homelessness crisis and left more families than ever without a place to call home. Family Promise Affiliates have ramped up services to meet the increased need and changed the lives of thousands of families nationwide.

Our CEO, Claas Ehlers, would like to offer his thanks to the incredible group of people that allow Family Promise to serve families. From our dynamic staff to our community of dedicated volunteers, to our generous donors and partners, it is the combined effort of the entire Family Promise community that allows us to continue helping families find housing and stability.

Our mission to end family homelessness is far from over, but we are grateful to have an enormous network of support empowering families.

One of our guests meets with a volunteer Nutritionist for a cooking and meal planning class at the Family Promise Day Center.





**70% of graduates say  
Family Promise had a  
'significant and lasting'  
transformation  
on their lives.**

### **NPR Features Two Moms Served By Family Promise**

This week, NPR published a story highlighting the U.S. affordable housing crisis and the growing number of families at risk of and experiencing homelessness across the country. Among those interviewed were two single moms served by Family Promise.

Maryanne and Romona showed incredible resilience in the face of adversity, but when they needed it most, they weren't afraid to ask for help. When they reached out to Family Promise, they found not only housing but a community of support and a chance to take a breath.

In 2020, families made up about 30% of the homeless population, and a large portion of those families were single-mother-led households like Maryanne's and Romona's.

***Yes, I want to help Ontario County children and their families to find housing!***

Bill my credit card:    VISA    MASTERCARD (**circle**)

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00                      Card # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00                      Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CIV/SEC# \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$200.00                      Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Give your gift online at **familypromiseontariocounty.org**

I would like to make this gift in memory/honoring: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make this a recurring monthly gift.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you*

**Family Promise of Ontario County-185 N Main St., Canandaigua, NY 14424**

Family Promise of Ontario County Inc. is a 501(c)3 Federal tax-exempt charity. Donations are deductible as allowed by law. EIN #81-4353748.

NYS Charities Bureau Registry #46-21-43: a copy of the most recently filed financial report can be requested from the Charities Bureau Registry on the New York Attorney General's website (www.charitiesnys.com) or by contacting them at (212)416-8401. NYS Attorney General, Dept. of Law, Charities Bureau, 28 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10005.



**How Can I Help?**

*Volunteer, become a mentor, teach a class to our guests in budgeting, cooking, read virtually to a child, help a child with their homework virtually, drive our agency passenger van to take a guest to work or to an appointment. There are countless ways you can make a lasting change in the lives of our families.*

Contact David at [fpoccem@fpocny.org](mailto:fpoccem@fpocny.org) or (585)943-0205.



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