



Family Promise Ontario County News

May 2023

514

Ontario County Individuals
given housing support in 2022

167
families served
in 2022

Family Promise Recognized by Mayor Palumbo & Senator Helming



Above: Front row left to right - Community Engagement Manager **Jay Garrett-Larsen**, Driver/Event Manager **Melissa Farrell**, Director of Case Management & Interim Director **Kate Bluett**, Prevention Caseworker **Jasmine Van Buren**. Rear left to right: Geneva Case Manager **Glenda Pelham**, Board President **Eileen Tiberio**, Board VP **Dave Sahr**, Bookkeeper **Donna Hritz**, Board member **Teresa Pare**, Rev. **Dawn Garrett-Larsen**, St. John's Episcopal representative **Debbie Cole-Wenderlich**. **Left:** Canandaigua Mayor **Bob Palumbo** reads his proclamation as Board President **Eileen Tiberio** looks on. **Page 2:** A copy of the senator's proclamation, now proudly hanging in our Day Center just up the street from City Hall.



FPOC staff, volunteers, and friends gathered on the steps of Canandaigua City Hall on April 20 to celebrate our fifth year serving the most vulnerable Ontario County families. We heard proclamations from **Mayor Bob Palumbo** and **State Senator Pam Helming**. The Mayor and Senator praised Family Promise's dedicated work to improve and enrich the lives of Ontario County parents and children.

*(Read Sen. Helming's
proclamation on page 2.)*



NEW YORK STATE
SENATE



Proclamation

Commending Family Promise of Ontario County on National Family Promise Day

WHEREAS, it is appropriate and fitting to duly recognize and commend local nonprofit organizations and volunteers devoted to serving their neighbors and the citizens of the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Family Promise is a national organization dedicated to assisting families experiencing homelessness and helping low-income families achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response; and

WHEREAS, Family Promise of Ontario County commendably and steadfastly serves the Ontario County community and area children and families; and

WHEREAS, I, Senator Pamela A. Helming, am proud to recognize Family Promise of Ontario County upon the celebration of National Family Promise Day on April 20, to acknowledge and applaud the essential work of the organization and its staff and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, Family Promise of Ontario County was established in September 2018, committed to the vision that "every family has a home, a livelihood, and the chance to build a better future," and will mark its 5th anniversary in 2023; and

WHEREAS, In 2022, Family Promise provided safe shelter through emergency housing services and referrals to 514 people in Ontario County, representing 167 families and 332 children; it provided over 5,800 bed-nights and 17,500 meals to children and families; and

WHEREAS, This community-centered organization further supports families through a continuum of care that includes connecting them to employment opportunities and healthcare services, as well as short-term financial assistance to pay utilities and rent; and

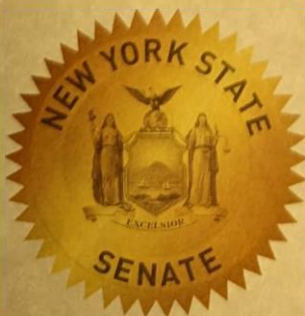
WHEREAS, Committed to every aspect of independence and well-being, Family Promise is expanding its services to include educational programming in child development, money management, and vocational skills classes; and

WHEREAS, In 2022, more than 550 Ontario County volunteers worked nearly 1,500 hours in support of their fellow citizens and the work of Family Promise, emblematic of neighbors-helping-neighbors and lifting one's community by lifting others; now, therefore, be it

PROCLAIMED, That I, New York State Senator Pamela A. Helming, commend Family Promise of Ontario County, on the occasion of National Family Promise Day, and thank its dedicated staff and volunteers for all they do to improve and enrich the lives of children and families; and be it further

PROCLAIMED, That a copy of this proclamation be transmitted to Family Promise of Ontario County

April 20, 2023



Pamela A. Helming
Pamela A. Helming

New York State Senator
54th Senate District



7 Moms, 7 Healthy Babies!

One of the priorities of Family Promise is to assist expectant unhoused mothers. In 2022 we welcomed 7 new children! Our special thanks to all the generous donors that provided shower gifts so that these young children have a great start in life. Family Promise networks with community agencies so mothers receive prenatal healthcare and parenting support. **Special thanks to the Geneva Presbyterian Church** for the welcome box they provided with numerous baby essentials!



How Does the Waiting List Work?

Each family referred to Family Promise of Ontario County for emergency housing and case management is first contacted by our Prevention Case Manager. She determines if the family can remain in their existing housing with financial assistance or if they need help paying for new housing.

If they do not have adequate resources yet to move into a permanent apartment, they would then be considered for FPOC Shelter. FPOC currently operates 8 Emergency Housing Units to shelter families: 1 in East Bloomfield, 4 in Canandaigua and 3 in Geneva. We can accommodate up to 43 adults and children at a time. This is 3 times the number of people we could serve in the Congregation Rotation Model of Shelter.

Assignments to short term emergency housing are based on family size, and the size of available units. We are committed to serving those who are most vulnerable. This means that a family living in a car, would take priority of a family living in a hotel.

Yes, I want to help families receive Essential Services

Bill my credit card: VISA MASTERCARD (circle)

Name _____

_____ \$50.00 Card # _____

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

_____ \$250.00 Phone # _____

_____ Give your gift online at familypromiseontariocounty.org



_____ **Mail a check to 185 N Main St., Canandaigua, NY 14424**

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

Please make this a recurring monthly gift.

Charge my bank account/credit card on the _____ (example: the 1st of the month) beginning in _____ (Month) 2023.

Thank You

Family Promise of Ontario County Inc., is a 501©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.

There's Nothing Like Walking Across the Threshold of Your Own Apartment!



We welcomed Jeanette and her sweet baby girl into our emergency shelter program in early January. They had been through a lot, and needed a place where they could make a fresh start. She and daughter stayed in one of our Geneva apartments for just under two months, working with Case Manager Glenda Pelham. In mid-February, the Geneva Housing Authority assured us that her Section 8 Housing Choice voucher would soon be ready. Family Promise deployed Emergency Solutions Grant money to pay her first month's rent and security deposit, and Jeanette walked across the threshold of her new apartment on the first of March!

Jeanette signed her own lease with her new landlord, Joseph Furmansky. Family Promise provided assurance that we would help her be a successful tenant. On the first of April, she paid her own rent. With her Section 8 voucher, she now pays just 30% of her income for rent and utilities.

Jeanette can make it on their own now, but she knows that we have her back when she needs us!

New York's Rental Arrears Crisis: Threatening the Stability of Affordable and Public Housing



New NYHC Policy Paper

The New York Housing Conference released a policy brief on March 9, 2023 with alarming data about the rental arrears crisis in New York State that began during the pandemic. The study looks at New York's affordable housing stock, including public housing and privately-owned publicly subsidized affordable housing.

In the data set of almost 50,000 affordable housing units, 31% of households are in arrears, owing more than two months of rent. On average, each household owes more than \$9500 in unpaid rent.

These findings are reflective of a growing need for direct and immediate assistance for tenants, landlords and public housing. Earlier this year, New York closed the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), designed to grant financial relief to renters during the COVID-19 pandemic. About 140,000 applicants did not receive any assistance before the funding ran out.

"It's clear that New Yorkers need immediate relief to address the growing arrears crisis across our state – otherwise, we will leave thousands of renters at risk of eviction and affordable developments at risk of losing financial stability," said Rachel Fee, executive director of the New York Housing Conference. "Although we applaud the Governor's plan for long-term housing growth in our state, we also understand that relief is needed right now to ensure housing stability."



NEW: Covid Mitigation Program

We have been included in the **state department of health covid mitigation and other infectious diseases** project. This grant will allow us to improve and maintain safety procedures over the next 18 months. The project will enable us to purchase a variety of personal protective equipment, cleaning services, and cleaning supplies. The project is being coordinated by CARES, NY in Albany and The University of Rochester Medical Center.

CARES, NY will visit our Day Center and Emergency Apartments in the next few weeks so they can familiarize themselves with our **shelter model**.



A special shout out to Hobart and William Smith College students **Joe Arams, Spencer Inoue, and Erin Willis**. They helped clean and organize our Day Center in Canandaigua during the college's annual Day of Service on April 15.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Children's Craft Time
- Homework Assistance with kids
- Office Volunteers
- Handyman's Assistants
- Donation sorting and delivery
- Tow and Carry Crew – guest moving
- Board of Directors
- Bed Race Coordinators and Volunteers

For more information contact Jay Garrett-Larsen at fpocem@fpocny.org, or (585) 953-1108.

Thank You Volunteers

Special thanks to **Jessica Edelman** for furniture donations and **April Rennie** for a generous donation of new household items.

Thank you, **Pam Dorado**, super volunteer for coordinating the mailing to 650 community members and organizing Day Center projects.

Thank you, **Alicia Pierce** for wrangling tables, hauling furniture, cleaning apartments, and now stepping up to help us as Board Treasurer!

Thank you, **John Helps Reene**, for being our new handyman extraordinaire!

Thank you, **Sonya Brooks** (pictured above), and the team from United Presbyterian Baptist Church for cleaning and resetting the Saltonstall Apartment for our next family!



FAMILIES NEED YOU

Use your smartphone to scan
this code and help families in
need, or go to:

www.familypromiseontariocounty.org



Family Promise of Ontario County
185 N Main Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Family Promise Ontario County
May News