



Family Promise Ontario County News

March 2022

Because every child deserves a home

How long can a family stay in the Family Promise Emergency Residential Program?

I am often asked this question. There is no specific time limit, because not everyone comes to the program with the same needs.

Shirley and her two sons had many roadblocks that kept them in a state of homelessness.

She is ready to graduate once she finds an affordable home for her family.



Shirley grew up in Flint, Michigan. Her mom suffered from physical and mental health disorders, and alcoholism, and wasn't there for her. Her dad wasn't in the picture either. Shirley got pregnant at fifteen, kept the baby, dropped out of high school, moved out on her own as soon as she could, and raised a boy who developed his own serious mental health issues.

She moved around from Flint to North Carolina to Oklahoma then back again, working in fast food restaurants and truck stops and getting by as best she could. Shirley had two more boys. Her oldest son turned 21 and moved into a group home.

Her middle son struggled mightily in school, and by age 12 still couldn't read. Shirley attributes his struggles to the lead in Flint water. By the time the pandemic hit, she and her boys were living in a decaying, infested, moldy apartment. Shirley lost her job and had to leave that substandard housing.

By the summer of 2021, she and her two boys were living in a tent.

With no place else to turn, Shirley accepted an old boyfriend's offer to help. He had moved to Canandaigua and told her that he had a decent place where the family could live. She packed the boys and a few belongings into her old car and drove east. Then the ex-boyfriend told her they couldn't stay with him. Late that afternoon, while she was looking for an alternative place to stay, (continued pg 2)

In 2021, Family Promise provided Emergency Shelter for 53 people, 4977 Bednights 14,931 Meals Average length of stay: 97 days AND Prevented 102 families from becoming homeless with rental assistance.

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her unsafe car got a flat tire near the Canandaigua Middle School, and she walked inside to borrow a phone.

A school social worker met Shirley and her boys, learned their story, and immediately reached out to Family Promise. We picked the family up in our van, arranged for a tow truck, and took them to a hotel for the weekend. On Monday we connected them with DSS, took them to pick up their car, and began planning for the family to move into one of our emergency apartments which would be available later in the week.

To have a shot at securing an apartment Shirley would need a job and income.

To get a job, she needed reliable transportation. Our first priorities were to apply to every available subsidized and low-income apartment complex and get on their waiting lists, to help her find a job, and to get her licensed and legal in New York.

Getting licensed took months because of a few old traffic fines from other states that she hadn't known about. (When a homeless individual has no steady address, court notices, benefit cards, checks, bills, and other important correspondence don't reach them. Late fees pile up, resources go unclaimed, and debt snowballs.) Pandemic closures at out-of-state Motor Vehicle Bureaus and Courthouses slowed paperwork to a crawl until a Family Promise affiliate in Oklahoma helped us cut some red tape.

Friends at Trombley Tire and Auto looked over her car and offered a discount to repair it, and our friends at the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Fund helped with that significant bill. Shirley got a job in Victor and was able to pay the remainder.

Shirley recently got news that she's next in line at a Canandaigua apartment complex that will accept her housing voucher. Her kids will be able to stay in the school district, where they have been thriving. Her middle son is getting great support there and feels good about school for the first time. She is transitioning to a job with better pay with longer hours, and with a childcare subsidy provided by Ontario County her family should soon be back on their feet!



HELP US MOVE IN

Designed to Help Families Move Into Sustainable Housing

Matching Challenge in April! This is a national partnership with Family Promise National and HUMI, a Washington state-based nonprofit organization working with communities to fund and create programs to help families facing a housing crisis.

We received a **Second Challenge Grant** opportunity for our local affiliate to fund a sustainable prevention and rehousing program for families facing homelessness. HUMI is a model of supportive case management and community funding to ensure self-sufficiency and sustainable housing for homeless families.

The goals of the HUMI Challenge Grant are:

- Prevent family evictions with rent assistance
- Assist families with move-in costs
- Families stay housed & avoid the trauma of homelessness or get back into housing with supportive services.

Family Promise Day

On-line giving
Wednesday,
April 21, 2021.

All proceeds fund the
HUMI Challenge
Grant.



Melanie McGuire 2020-2021



Welcome new Board Members & Officers Jeanne Guastafarro & Dave Lefebvre

Special thanks to our retiring Board President, Melanie McGuire who led Family Promise faithfully through the most difficult health crisis we have ever encountered. Her courage, vision and adaptability were outstanding.

Eileen Tiberio



Welcome new Board President, Eileen Tiberio, Commissioner of the Ontario County Dept. of Social Services. She is one of our founding Board Members. Eileen has been instrumental in bringing Family Promise together with other Ontario County Housing Providers.

David Sahr will serve as Board Vice President, and Beverly Burrall as Board Secretary.

IT'S BACK BOTH LIVE AND VIRTUAL IN 2022!



Tall Trainer has been a Business Sponsor for the Family Promise Bed Race for the past two years. Get your business noticed through a personal or business sponsorship for the 2022 Bed Race. Contact Brenda: fpocdirector@fpocny.org



- CHECKERED FLAG WAVERS \$2,500-\$4,999
- PACECAR KEY HOLDERS \$1,000-\$2,499
- PIT CREW TEAMMATES \$500-\$999
- GRANDSTAND RACE FANS \$150-499



Yes Brenda, I want to help children and families 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

Volunteer Opportunities

We are happy to have our Day Center open serving families with case management and providing an opportunity for volunteers to work with our guests.

New Opportunities Needing Volunteers:

- Mommy and Me Baking
- Children's Craft Time
- Homework Assistance with kids
- Dinner at Day Center with Guests
- Office Volunteers
- Donation sorting and delivery
- Tow and Carry Crew – guest moving
- Treasurer, Board of Directors
- Bed Race Coordinators and Volunteers

Call David at (585) 905-3988
to **get connected!**



Did you know that all Family Promise Affiliates in the Finger Lakes are independent?

Family Promise of Ontario County

Family Promise of Wayne County

Family Promise of Greater Rochester
formerly RAIHN serving Monroe County

Your gifts to Family Promise of Ontario County stay in our County to serve families at risk of, or who are experiencing homelessness.

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.



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185 N Main Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424



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