



## Your Gift Matters

As we resume services, we are constantly reminded of our vital role in helping families build a future that is stable and secure. Our families need safe shelter, basic needs and help finding a new home now more than ever! Please know your gift makes a difference. All gifts are tax deductible and are greatly appreciated.



### Bath

Shower Curtains  
Shower Hooks  
Shampoo  
Conditioner  
Bath Towels



### Cleaning

Laundry Detergent  
Mops and Brooms  
Windex  
Disinfectant Spray



### Food

Mac n Cheese  
Cereal  
Canned Chicken  
Jam / Jelly  
Trail Mix



### Kitchenware

Pots & Pans  
Dishes  
Cups  
Silverware



### Hygiene

Deodorant  
Toothpaste  
Toothbrushes  
Bodywash



### Infants & Kids

Diapers (size 4 & 5)  
Baby Wipes  
Pajamas



### Bedroom

Pillows  
Sheets (Twin & Queen)  
Air Mattresses



### Gift Cards

Meijer  
Walmart  
Family Dollar



### Transportation

Bus Tickets  
Meijer Gas Cards



### Small Appliances

Toasters  
Coffee Makers



## In-Kind Donations

Considering a donation of items, or organizing an in-kind donation drive to benefit our kids and families? We are taking donations by appointment only, and we love to learn about donation drives in advance so that we can support your efforts. Please contact Lily at [lilyf@familypromise.org](mailto:lilyf@familypromise.org) or **(616) 608-8917** regarding these donations.

## In This Issue

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- A Note from Cheryl
- Volunteer Highlight
- FPGR Happenings
- Ways to Get Involved



**Do you remember the feeling of settling into your first home?** The pride you took in caring for the space and the intentionality of positioning your furniture and decorations in just the right places to make an empty house into a home?

When Octavia and her 3 year old daughter Omarea entered shelter at Family Promise, the idea of a permanent place to call home was furthest from her mind. "We were moving from house to house, and the people I trusted most put us out on the streets," Octavia shared. And living on her own and taking on the added responsibilities of managing a household were new to her.

"I love the Welcome Home program, because they (FP staff) helped me work through issues that kept me from getting a home, and helped me understand that by managing my money and paying my bills first, being responsible with my

money, I could do this." Octavia built confidence in her ability to afford a home on her own, in herself as a person, and that she can provide everything her daughter needs. "I can honestly say I am who I am today because of Family Promise."

Today, Octavia and Omarea are building their home. A quote on the living room wall reads 'Families who Pray Together Stay Together' and Omarea's preschool artwork, toys, and her cat Bella give the space the feeling of home. We are so impressed with Octavia's strength, resilience and persistence!

“  
*I can honestly say I am who I am today because of Family Promise.*

- OCTAVIA

Greetings Family Promise Family,

Family Promise is in a Season of Building! Every day it amazes me how our families, many with stories not unlike Octavia's, are persisting through personal struggles to build a future for themselves and their children. At the same time, Family Promise of Grand Rapids is...

- Supporting our IHN Networks as our Host Congregations prepare to offer shelter again this fall,
- Building homes and housing opportunities for families,
- Growing our staff to offer more prevention services to keep children out of homelessness,
- Developing incredible collaborations with congregations and community partners,
- And expanding our Family Stabilization and early childhood services.

Family Promise and its networks are built for this work! After the last 18 months of unprecedented challenge, we have rediscovered our strength and resilience, and so have our families! There is a lot of work to do, and we are positioned to do it, with your support!

I am humbled by the commitment of the Family Promise community to find resilience, to grow, lead with faith, and to keep building - regardless of the challenges set before us. Thank you for your ongoing support, prayers and encouragement as we travel through this Season of Building and continue in our commitment to end family homelessness... one family at a time.

Grace and Peace,

Cheryl Schuch, CEO



## Volunteer Highlight: Quinn Pugh



Family Promise has the best volunteers and supporters! This summer, Family Promise received a donation of more than \$650 from an eight year old girl Quinn Pugh, with the help of her mom Amy, hosted a bake sale to benefit the kids and families at Family Promise. The turnout was incredible - neighbors, family and friends bought up so many treats, Amy went inside mid-sale to bake more items!

Quinn is no ordinary 3rd grader. She shared that she often thinks about people experiencing homelessness; last year she put together bags of essentials to give to individuals in need. But she didn't know until recently that families could be homeless, and now she is "always thinking of ways to help families and kids" experiencing homelessness. Thank You Quinn!



### 2021 Impact

35

homes purchased by year's end, leading to 35 new homeowners

32%

increase in capacity with new staff positions

300+

kids served through early childhood services

85%

of the families we served have moved home!



NATIONAL  
BEST AND  
BRIGHTEST  
COMPANIES  
TO WORK FOR

### Best and Brightest National Award

Family Promise of Grand Rapids has been recognized as a national award winner of the National Best & Brightest Companies to work for in 2021! While we had been recognized regionally over the last two years, this national designation is further recognition that our organization is thriving! Best & Brightest identifies the most influential, trend-setting companies across the country, and we are so proud to be recognized! Our commitment is first to the families we serve, and naturally then to the staff who represent us so well, who work tirelessly for families experiencing homelessness.

Hearts  
of Gold  
FOR HEALTH & HAPPINESS

### Hearts of Gold in East Grand Rapids

In October, the East Grand Rapids community will come together at the high school varsity football game to support FPGR through their Hearts of Gold Campaign. This annual community-wide effort raises funds and awareness for an organization that benefits children's physical and mental health; the campaign also teaches students about the importance of giving back to their community. We are so incredibly grateful for this opportunity to raise awareness about the issue of family homelessness and for the generosity of the East Grand Rapids community!



Crossroads  
Bible Church

### Crossroads Church Joins as IHN

After several years of investment in our mission, Crossroads Bible Church in downtown Grand Rapids, is joining IHN as a host church this fall! Crossroads is a Biblical community where Jesus Christ transforms lives, renews the city, and impacts the world and we are grateful they are bringing these valuable actions to life with our kids and families. Pastor Jeremiah Weismann shared with us that he and the members of Crossroads are "excited to see what God wants to do in our own hearts and lives and also in the hearts and lives of the amazing families that come through our church." Welcome aboard, Crossroads Church!



EVENT



### Save the Date: 2022 Dreams Dinner

We are looking forward to gathering in person on the evening of Thursday, March 24, 2022 at Studio D2D Event Center for our 9th Annual Dreams Dinner Gala! Please save the date for this evening to celebrate an incredible year serving kids and families through Family Promise of Grand Rapids, and help us to continue to fund the mission of ending homelessness... one family at a time. Also, consider friends you would like to invite to learn more about the impact of Family Promise on the issue of family homelessness in the Grand Rapids community, and encourage them to save the date, too! We can't wait to see you!