



IN THIS ISSUE...

- Shari's Story
- A Note from Cheryl
- Volunteer Highlight
- What's Happening: Thornapple Covenant Church
- FPGR Events

In March of 2021, FPGR celebrated *A New Day* during our virtual gala. The event was filled with updates, celebrations and the hope of new days upon us. It's in that spirit that we want to introduce you to an extraordinary woman and her two amazing children: meet Sharie, DJ and Aaliyah. Sharie was our 2021 Karen Olsen Shining Star Award recipient! As with most of the families we serve, Sharie was thriving before entering shelter. Life was going well, her kids were happy and healthy.

Then, a storm hit. A literal storm and Sharie's living conditions were no longer suitable for her and her children. In the blink of an eye, Sharie was homeless and living in unsafe situations. Sharie will tell you that being homeless is scary, exhausting and expensive. Homelessness causes so many unknowns and families are overwhelmed from daily activities. They can't stay afloat. When Sharie landed at Family Promise she could breathe again. Her and her children regrouped. For Sharie, knowing her kids were safe, comfortable and that she didn't have to worry about them meant that she could get back to getting life on track, and that's what she did. Sharie will tell you that her kids are her world. We relate that on such a deep level. Sharie and her family are now home and thriving. Please join me in congratulating Sharie for being the most courageous, resilient, authentic, passionate mom and raising her children to be the same.

"We love our
new home!"



Dear Family Promise Friends,

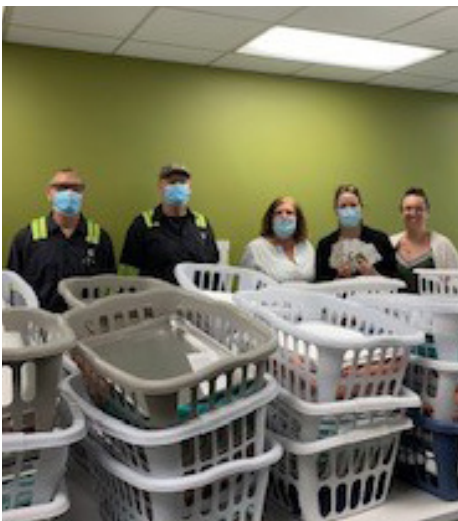
It's *A New Day* and we are celebrating the important work that you've supported. We are also honoring the many accomplishments our families have made, during this past year!

Last March, COVID-19 stopped us all in our tracks, but it hit our most vulnerable families the hardest. We knew that our services were needed more than ever and we had

an important role to play in our community. I'm proud to share that because of you, we never missed a beat. We are providing double the capacity of emergency shelter and basic needs. Along with the emergency shelter, we are providing housing assistance to help families move home. In addition, we added critical services and increased housing units during 2020. We invested in and expanded prevention services, early childhood services, family stabilization services, and permanent housing. We have been hard at work and are excited to relaunch our IHN shelter rotations this fall. Thank you for your ongoing support and for joining us in this important mission to support children and their families! We are thankful for you, and we're thankful for a time to heal and time to hope. It truly is *A New Day*! With your help, we will build more homes, provide more shelter, and end homelessness.....one family at a time!

Cheryl Schuch
Executive Director

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS Thank you Thank you



Thank You, Cummins!

We are so grateful for our partnership with the team at Cummins! This spring they put together 75 kits that included some of our highest needs items like laundry baskets, bath towels, blankets and more! A huge thank you to their team for setting aside resources and allowing their employees to take the time to support families at Family Promise in this way!

We Need Your Help

We are excited to have our Partners in Housing program running in full force. With a goal of completing 40 mobile homes this year, we are looking for more volunteers to help with skilled labor, yard work, painting and cleaning. For more information, please contact Chelsea Jandernoa at chelseaj@familypromisegr.org

IHN Relaunch Meeting

We are so excited to relaunch our Grand Rapids IHN rotation this fall! Make sure a representative from your Host/Support Congregation will be present for our GR IHN Relaunch Meeting.

Grand Rapids IHN
June 23rd at 7:00 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church
2700 Fulton St E
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

North Kent IHN Relaunch
June 24th at 7:00 p.m.
North Kent Connect
10075 Northland Dr NE
Rockford, MI 49341

RSVP to Lisa Cruden at
lisa@familypromisegr.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Come one come all! On **Sunday, August 1st** we are hosting our 3rd annual Family Frolic at the Zoo! This family friendly event will take place at John Ball Zoo from 6:30-9:00. If you are looking for something fun to do with the grandkids or your children, this event talks about the issue of family homelessness in an age appropriate way AND supports families with children who are moving home from emergency shelter.

Our friends at Eastbrook Homes and Vos Glass have joined forces to create a \$10,000 match. For every dollar raised we can double the impact! Tickets for adults are \$10 and kids get in free thanks to Eastbrook Homes! Free ice cream courtesy of our friends at Jersey Junction and some fun prizes too! We hope to see you there!



We are very excited to share that Family Promise of Grand Rapids has been recognized once again as one of the Best & Brightest Companies to work for in 2021! Best & Brightest strives to recognize the most influential, trend-setting companies across the country, and we are so proud to be on this list. Receiving this recognition is extra special to us because awards are decided based on feedback from our very own staff. FPGR is proud and grateful to be among the Best and Brightest and we hope to continue to be recognized by our staff for years to come!



THORNAPPLE
COVENANT CHURCH

We are giving a huge shout out to Thornapple Covenant Church who raised over \$20,000 to support our prevention work! Over the last 3 years, FPGR has led the charge in preventing families from either losing their home or leaving the place where they have found safe shelter. We were blown away by the speed and generosity of the congregation. We're anticipating helping lots of families right here in Kent County. This is life changing work and we are so grateful for partner congregations, like Thornapple. If you're looking to get your congregation more involved, please reach out to Kate O'Keefe.

Changing the Course for Children Golf Outing

Changing the Course for Children Golf Outing will take place **Wednesday, September 15th** at Thousand Oaks golf course. We are accepting sponsors and foursomes for this event. We typically fill up quickly, so if you want to Change the Course for Children make sure to sign up soon! Foursomes are \$150 per person or \$600 for the foursome. This event supports emergency shelter and basic needs for kids and families experiencing homelessness.

For more info, reach out to Chelsea Jandernoa at chelseaj@familypromisegr.org



"Family Promise saved us. We love you guys. If it wasn't for you all, I don't know what we would have done. The feeling I have about my home is unexplainable. It is a good feeling...something I've been longing for all my life. It is the feeling of peace...of 'you can breathe now.' I love my flowers outside, sitting on my porch...I just love my home. We will be forever grateful for you." - FPGR Mom

Your Gift Matters

Your gift impacts so many families and children in our community who are experiencing homelessness during COVID-19. Due to the pandemic we are serving double the families we are typically able to and they need your support. 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.

How to Give

We have online giving! Please visit familypromisegr.org and click 'Donate' to enter your info!

We love mail! Using the envelope enclosed, please make checks payable to Family Promise of Grand Rapids.

Wish List Items



Children

Fall and Winter Clothing
Winter Boots
Winter Coats



Transportation

Bus tickets
Gas cards (Meijer)



Gift cards for basic necessities

Meijer, Walmart,
Family Dollar



Kitchenware

Pots & Pans
Can Openers
Dishes
Cups
Small Cookie Sheets
(9x7 or similar)
Silverware
Aluminum Foil
Non-Stick Cooking
Spray



Small Appliances

Toasters
Coffee Makers



Infants

Baby wipes
Diapers



Cleaning

Laundry Detergent
Mops and Brooms
Buckets and
Cleaning Supplies



Bedroom

Pillows
Air Mattresses



Bath

Shower Curtains &
Hooks
Bath Towels



Hygiene

Deodorant



Food

Mac n Cheese
Cereal
Canned Chicken
Jam / Jelly
Trail Mix



Adults

Winter Coats
Winter Boots