



IN THIS ISSUE...

- Family Story
- Cheryl's Letter
- What We Have Achieved Together
- Volunteer Highlights
- What's Happening!
- 2020 Changing The Course for Children Golf Outing
- How to Help

Today we are excited to share with you the story of two resilient parents, Anna and Tyler. Last year Tyler, Anna and their four young children lost their home. They were homeless and didn't know what to do next, and without support from family they weren't sure where to turn. They just knew they wanted to protect their children and find a place to call home. Anna was referred to 2-1-1 and she was placed on the shelter waitlist with her family. Soon a spot opened up at Family Promise where they met their case manager. They immediately felt safe and confident, and although they knew there was hard work ahead of them they finally had hope.

While in shelter Anna and her young children were connected to services through Ready by Five Early Childhood Millage Outreach & Navigation funding. Anna knew her young son was struggling with speech and social-emotional issues, but she needed help getting him connected to the support he needed to thrive. Once they entered shelter their case manager helped get her son connected to the resources he needed to help him get back on track, and he is now making amazing progress!

During their time in shelter they put a lot of work into meeting all of their goals and after a couple of months they found a new place to call home! Anna says the day she found out that she and her family could move home was a day she'll never forget. She and her family are doing well and continuing to work with their case manager through our Welcome Home Program. In Welcome Home, Anna was also connected to prenatal services when they found out they would be welcoming a new child. Now Anna, Tyler, and their children are doing amazing in their new home, and the biggest blessing of all is they have a safe and sustainable home to raise their new baby!

**Names and photos have been altered to protect family privacy*

**We Love Our
Ready By Five
Family!**



Supported by the Kent County Ready by Five Millage.



Dear Family Promise Friends,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well as we enter into the final stretch of 2020, and make our way into the exciting and busy holiday season! This year we have been rolling with all of the punches COVID-19 has thrown at us, and we have adjusted our work accordingly to keep homeless families and children safe. We know that long term effects of COVID-19 will continue to impact us all, but we have learned that together, as a community, we can do anything! We will continue to work together to find solutions to best serve our families with

children experiencing homelessness. Although this marathon has had its challenges, we are ending this year with hope and focusing on getting back to the secret sauce that helps make our families successful - YOU!

We know that having the hundreds and hundreds of volunteers, congregations, and organizations walk alongside us in this work is essential to families finding a new place to call home. You are the reason we have been able to serve 276 families this year! Our hearts have been full seeing the creativity and dedication you have for supporting families and children in our community. In today's newsletter you will see some of the incredible work community partners and individuals have done over the last several months.

While we still have a heavy lift ahead of us, our community has given us hope. Hope that when we come together as a community and support one another, we can do great things. As we continue on this marathon, the health and safety of our families, staff, and volunteers will remain our priority and we are excited to have you all safely plug back into our work. Thank you for all of the hope and joy you have brought to our families and staff and for helping to end homelessness, one family at a time!

Blessings,

Cheryl Schuch
Executive Director

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED TOGETHER

276

We have provided shelter for 276 families in 2020.

655

This includes 655 children.

90

90 families have moved home in 2020!

150

Since 2009 150 families have moved home through our Partners in Housing program.

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

★ Thank you ★ Thank you



Grand Rapids Christian Helping Hands

Look at these amazing young ladies! They wanted to find a way to support their community and help families during COVID-19, and Helping Hands was born! They were able to raise money through socially distant lemonade stands all summer, and with the money they raised they blessed our families with much needed basic items!



IHN Plan C: Come Together Virtual Host Weeks

For the remainder of 2020 we will be engaging congregations virtually with IHN Plan C: Come Together! On the week when congregations would have been hosting families in person they will now be hearing from families in shelter, coming together in prayer, and taking a trip to their church for a thank you from FPGR! We could not do our work without this special ministry and we look forward to a time when we can congregate together again to support families and children.

★ WHAT'S HAPPENING ★



Today we are sending a big thank you to Yellow Brick Partners, LLC. This small, local business has worked with our Landlord Advocate to help families find a place to call home. Thank you for helping so many families in the community get back on their feet again with a fresh start in a new home!

"I would recommend working with Family Promise to any landlord in our community, we have had great success working together to place families, and we love knowing there is wrap-around support to help families succeed!"
- Greg Gough, Yellow Brick Partners, LLC

**BEST AND
BRIGHTEST[®]
COMPANIES
TO WORK FOR
IN THE NATION
WINNER 2020**

We are very excited to share that Family Promise of Grand Rapids has been recognized nationally as one of the Best & Brightest Companies to work for in 2020! 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!

2020 Changing the Course For Children Golf Outing

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported our families and children through our 18th Annual Changing the Course for Children Golf Outing! We want to send a HUGE thank you to the golfers, sponsors and in-kind donors who supported our families and children. Even though this year looked a little different, we had a beautiful day on the Thousand Oaks golf course with a full roster of teams! One of our returning golfers even got a hole in one!

We were honored to have Cunningham Communications and Grand Hospitality Management as our presenting sponsors this year. We raised money for families who are homeless, and truly changed the course for children with the help of everyone who participated!





"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



Cleaning

Laundry Detergent
Mops and Brooms
Buckets and
Cleaning Supplies
Magic Erasers



Bedroom

Pillows
Air Mattresses



Hygiene

Deodorant

Food

White Rice
Green Beans
Canned Chicken
Jam / Jelly
Trail Mix



Bath

Shower Curtains &
Hooks
Bath Towels



Adults

Winter Coats
Winter Boots