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In our work at Family Promise, we see evidence of amazing partnerships, incredible generosity and hope-filled families woven together with incredible results!

D'Andre and Ja'lena are a young couple who moved from Muskegon with their baby daughter, Jreem. Growing up in Muskegon was tough for both D'Andre and Ja'lena. Ja'lena lost her mom at a young age and struggled with a support system; D'Andre was looking for new opportunities. At times they were able to stay with friends and family in Grand Rapids, but they were often without a place to sleep at night. Being without a home address made it difficult to apply for a job; and without a job, they were turned down for apartments.

Through their work with Family Promise, Ja'lena - who was 7 months pregnant at the time, D'Andre and their one year old daughter were able to move home!

A few months later, an opportunity to honor a community member and support a family was brought to Family Promise. The employer of the late James Frugé, Eenhoorn, wanted to bless a family the way James had blessed his family and his community. This spring we awarded D'Andre and Ja'lena with the James Frugé housing award. *Through this award, this young family will have half of their rent covered for a year.*

We are so grateful to the Frugé family and Eenhorn for weaving their stories with Ja'lena and D'Andre's. *We are Woven Together!*

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Family Promise has been here FOR and WITH us since day one. They never gave up on us and everything they said, they lived up to it.

-JA'LENA

Dear Family Promise Friends,

As we journey through our 25th year of service to kids and families experiencing homelessness in West Michigan, we are overwhelmed and grateful for the many individuals and families, congregations, businesses, and foundations who have impacted the lives of close to 10,000 individuals!



We are *Woven Together* with each and every one of you - those who have given of your time, your talents, and your resources to our families; those who have walked alongside a grieving mom or a frightened child; those who have prayed.

More than 40 Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) congregations are *Woven Together* with us and our families as they stand in the gap between homelessness and a new home for families. We are humbled to continue braiding together the work the founding IHN congregations began 25 years ago!

We are *Woven Together* with our incredible community partners who have joined with us to expand opportunities for families, and helped us meet the demand for shelter and affordable housing through very difficult times in this quarter century.

You are *Woven Together* with us in our commitment to keeping families together in emergency shelter, and in our commitment to helping parents find and maintain a home for their families, one family at a time. Thank You!

Woven Together in Love, With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl".

Cheryl Schuch
Chief Executive Officer

25 of Impact years

3,500
Families served

5,000
Children provided with emergency shelter

60%
Of original IHN congregations continue to host in 2022!

Nearly 200
Families moved into Partners in Housing homes



Volunteer Highlight: A Family Legacy of IHN Investment



For Tess Lundgren, the new IHN coordinator at Trinity Lutheran Church, volunteering is a family affair. As one of the founding congregations of the Interfaith Hospitality Network 25 years ago, Trinity members recognized the crucial need for family shelter in our community, and responded in a big way. For more than 15 of these 25 years, Tess and her family have been volunteering with IHN. When the family took a break from volunteering, her

then 8 year old daughter asked why they weren't volunteering.

"Mom! The families need us. They don't have anything. We have to take care of them 'til things get better!" her daughter said. Tess had tears in her eyes as she listened to her daughter, and re-committed to showing up for our Family Promise families. Tess and her daughter, now 16, volunteer with our families each time Trinity hosts the IHN shelter.



A Very Influential Woman: Cheryl Schuch

This March, our CEO Cheryl Schuch was honored by the Grand Rapids Business Journal as one of The 50 Most Influential Women in West Michigan! Cheryl and her fellow honorees were described by GRBJ's Editor Tim Gortsema as critical, vital, and inspirational. We couldn't agree more! As it pertains to Cheryl, we would add bold, faithful, and humble to that list.

Congratulations, Cheryl! We are honored to partner with you in this incredibly important work serving families and children in our community!



New Congregations Embrace Our Families

As we began hosting our IHN shelters in congregational spaces again in fall 2021, we also began engaging with new congregations interested in hosting families in their buildings. We are so excited to be working with **Fairway CRC in Jenison**, who will host families for the first time this summer.

We will also be hosting families at **Wyoming Park United Methodist Church** this year. This congregation served as a supporting church to Wesley Park church in the past, and knows well the impact that IHN can have on families in need of emergency shelter.



Learning as We Grow

Family Promise of Grand Rapids is all about hospitality! We show hospitality to our families and volunteers every day, but it's been difficult to host our friends and supporters in the last two years. We invite you to join us for a tour of our Day Center and an update on our programs through a *Learn as We Grow* event! Are you interested in learning more about Family Promise? Have a friend or colleague who you'd like to introduce to our mission? Join us to *Learn as We Grow*!

Lunch & Learn: Wednesday, April 20 from 12:00 -1:00pm. Lunch will be served!

Happy Hour: Wednesday, June 15, 5:30 - 6:30pm. Drinks and appetizers served!

RSVP to Andrea Robinson at 616.608.0574 or andrear@familypromisegr.org.



EVENT



Save the Date:

2022 Family Frolic at the Zoo

You will not want to miss the 5th Annual Family Frolic at the Zoo! This family-friendly community event at the John Ball Zoo is a fun afternoon of zoo exploration, prizes, and delicious treats for the whole family! At this event we celebrate and raise awareness about the opportunity our community has to help families in West Michigan move home after experiencing homelessness.

Save the Date for Family Frolic at the Zoo!

Sunday, July 24, 2022 at John Ball Zoo.



Weaving Together a Future for Families!

For 25 years, Family Promise of Grand Rapids has been *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! Your gifts make a difference. All gifts are tax deductible and are greatly appreciated. Please make your gift online at familypromisegr.org/donate or use the envelope provided.



Infants & Kids

Diapers (size 4 & 5)
Baby Wipes
Pajamas



Small Appliances

Toasters
Coffee Makers



Kitchenware

Pots & Pans
Dishes
Cups
Silverware



Bath

Shower Curtains
Shower Hooks
Bath Towels



Hygiene

Shampoo
Conditioner
Deodorant
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Bodywash



Bedroom

Pillows
Sheets (Twin & Queen)
Air Mattresses



Cleaning

Laundry
Detergent
Mops and Brooms
Windex
Disinfectant Spray
Paper Towels



Food

Mac n Cheese
Cereal
Canned Chicken
Jam / Jelly
Trail Mix

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, and we love to learn about donation drives in advance so that we can support your efforts! *Our highest needs at the moment are queen and twin-sized bedding and towels!* Please contact Lily at lilyf@familypromise.org or (616) 608-8917 regarding these donations.

