

# Faith In Action

*Family Promise of Warren County Newsletter*  
Formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network



## Affordable Housing Update

The Out of Reach report, jointly released by the National Low-Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) and the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO), found only four of the 10 most common jobs actually paid employees enough to afford a basic two-bedroom apartment. Of the 10 occupations with the most employees in Ohio, only registered nurses earn considerably more than the \$16.64 an hour **housing** wage. Ohioans working in many other widely available jobs – retail salesperson, cashiers, restaurant, and hotel workers – were already struggling before getting laid off or downsized during the pandemic.

COHHIO Executive Director Bill Faith said the situation facing Ohio’s tenants is undoubtedly worse than the report shows since the wage and rent data was collected prior to the pandemic and does not account for the economic upheaval caused by COVID-19.

“The spike in home prices is driving the cost of rents higher in many areas, making the affordable housing shortage even worse for people who are already struggling to pay rent” Faith said.

Nationally, 1 bedroom rent prices increased 7.6% just during the first quarter of 2021, rising at a much faster pace than normal, according to market analysis by CoStar Group. Over the past year, Columbus rents are up 5.4%, Cincinnati 3.9% and Cleveland 3.2%. The Midwest has not seen as rapid an increase as the Sunbelt market, **but growth in Ohio is outpacing places like Los Angeles and New York City.**

“...”After a year of job losses, furlough, and reduced hours, many struggling Ohio workers are on the brink of losing their homes when the eviction moratorium ends, July 31” Faith said.

“We need to start thinking long term so that we’re not caught flat-footed again when the next crisis hits.”

203 E. Warren St.  
Lebanon, OH 45036  
www.ihnwc.org  
513.934.5250

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## President’s Page

By David Yelton

In our last newsletter we announced our name change to Family Promise of Warren County. In this letter we will tell you about our vision that may allow FPWC to better serve Warren County homeless families. One of the Board’s long-range objectives has been to double our capacity and serve more homeless families each year. Some Family Promise affiliates have added a static site in addition to their IHN host church rotational network. As we worked through the COVID-19 pandemic we realized that a static site may have helped us to manage the process of using motel rooms as the shelter for the IHN rotational network families. As mentioned in prior newsletters, the IHN volunteers have provided critically needed encouragement as well as nutritious meals as the homeless families worked their way to attain sustainable housing. Members of the Board have been working to develop this concept into a strategic action plan. We have begun to work that action plan and will share information as we move forward together to better serve the homeless of Warren County.





## Linda's Letter

By Linda Rabolt

This week during our meeting with the families, outdoors, socially distanced, and masked at the hotel one of the topics was Christmas in July. I shared the process and expectations with the families and then I moved onto another topic. From the corner of my eye, I see a little hand raise. It was 5-year-old Trey. "Yes Trey, you have a question" I say. Trey asked, "will Santa bring his reindeer?" Caught a little off guard, I reply, "well no, those reindeer have to stay at the North Pole as it is just too hot here for them" Trey nodded in complete agreement. Then he had another very important question, "can I save some cookies for Santa?" I replied that I thought that was a wonderful idea. How kind for this little guy to want to share his cookies with Santa.

I moved onto the rest of our meeting when that little hand was raised again..."is it ok to hug Santa?" Little 5-year-old Ava got involved before I had a chance to reply and stated "it's COVID Trey, we can't hug, it's too dangerous!" I assured the little ones, who will barely come to Santa's knee, that it was ok to hug Santa. The children then resumed playing with their bubbles and I resumed my meeting.

This has weighed heavily on me. COVID has weighed heavily on all of us, hasn't it? And now we face what is called the 4<sup>th</sup> wave of this deadly and scary virus. And we do so as the moratorium on evictions is lifted, more mandates are going into effect and many who depended on the extra pandemic unemployment payments have lost them. Referrals to our program are at an all time high. In June alone, our staff fielded 229 referrals for service. This is more than double what we fielded in June 2020 and brings us to a total of 795 referrals for the year. At this rate we will field more referrals for services in a year then ever in our history.

Now to be clear, not every referral is a family in Warren County who is going to be homeless or is homeless...at least that is what we have always said. In the past, some referrals were for coats or asking for food or other basic needs. What we see now, is primarily families, couples and individuals who are at risk of becoming homeless or sadly staying outdoors in a tent in the woods as is the case with one recent Family Promise family. The IHN shelter program has remained at full capacity, and I expect that will be the case and then some for the rest of the year. Our Homeless Crisis Response Program is equally busy as they work to assist individuals and couples to be rapidly rehoused or in many cases help them to maintain their homes.

*Linda's Letter cont. on next page*

## Vision:

"A county where every family has a home, a livelihood and a future full of promise..."

## Thank You

"Thank you so much for all the yummy food and the special gift. You do amazing work! Thank you for taking the time out to prepare meals for my family. I am so grateful for everything you do. You are awesome!"

-Kyla (mother of 2)

## Mission:

"To assist Warren County homeless families achieve sustainable independence through a community based response..."

“Thanks for everything you all do for myself and family. We can’t thank you enough. The food is always SO GOOD! May God continue to bless you.”

-The A Family



## Board of Directors

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 Tom Ludeke – Vice President  
 Rev. Mary Joseph – Host Recruitment  
 Todd Rockstroh – Facilities Chair  
 Jennifer Goepper – Member  
 Rev. Jackie Matisse – Member  
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 Jesse Taylor – Day Center Coordinator  
 Doug Gilham - HCRP (A-M)  
 Danielle August – HCRP (N-Z)  
 Andrew Rabolt – Statistics, HCRP  
 Josh Beckett – Driver  
 Dave Hawkey – Driver  
 Marianne Duerre – Special Projects  
 Linda Rabolt – Executive Director

Our families are still housed in a local motel. The Family Promise staff continues to support them with case management and assistance as they endeavor to find housing. Housing is at a premium in Warren County and is very difficult to find, but with perseverance and patience we are getting our families housed. Our network congregations continue to bless our families with wonderful meals, great activities, and support through notes of encouragement. Oh, how grateful we are to our network congregations. They are now and have always been the backbone of this network.

Motel funding through the CARES Act and other grants has indeed been a blessing as we have moved from our network rotation to the motels. One grant is now completely spent. We have now moved onto our final grant to assist with motel payment. It is uncertain how far into this year and next that this grant will take us as it will solely depend on how many families we serve in the upcoming expected surge.

As David shared in his President’s article, the Family Promise Board of Director’s has been working for some time to address the need to double our capacity. This plan would include both our foundational rotational network coupled with a static site. The Board of Directors has identified a potential building that would meet our current and future needs. Doubling our capacity can no longer be a dream, it must become a reality.

I was so saddened with Ava’s statement. I long for the days when we can hug our shelter children again. I long for the days when we can be back in your church homes, enjoying conversation around the dinner table, having a few laughs, playing with the children, and enjoying these relationships. And, like you, I know that there are better days ahead. Byron at First Baptist Mason said to me many years ago, “We will love these families through this difficult time”. Yes, indeed we do, and we will. This is what we are called to do.

Please continue to pray for our volunteers who continue to “hug” our families from afar with all that they do. Those “hugs” are awesome! Pray for our families who daily work towards housing, employment, and self-sufficiency during these challenging times. Pray for our staff as they listen and love each person who calls or stops by the office with needs. And pray for the Family Promise Board of Directors as they work towards next steps, steps that will make a positive impact on those in Warren County who need us the most.

“My children and I thank you for all of your love, caring and help that you have given us. Though our lives are in transition, it is your compassion which has helped us to feel more comfortable and “at home.”

Emily & Family

## Family Promise of Warren County *So Much MORE Than Shelter!*

While the IHN Shelter program is the primary program of Family Promise of Warren County, we also provide the following programs:

### **Homeless Crisis Response Program (HCRP):**

This program assists in two areas, Rapid Re-housing and Homeless Prevention. The Rapid Re-housing program helps families, couples and individuals who are literally homeless. This can be in shelter, in a tent or anywhere that is not habitable. We can assist with rent, deposit, and utilities to get the client into their own affordable housing unit. In 2021, Rapid Re-housing assisted a total of 33 families and 51 individuals. The Homeless Prevention program can assist families, couples, and individuals to KEEP their homes when they fall behind on the rent due to job loss, illness or anything related to COVID or other areas of concern. There are income requirements and self-sufficiency requirement to this program. In all, Homeless Prevention assisted 32 families and 70 individuals.

### **Heaven and Hearth:**

Through the generosity of persons in the community who donate furniture in good repair, household items and bedding, we can assist both those who graduate from the IHN Shelter and those who are setting up households in the community or have needs. This program is imperative to those that we are blessed to serve.

### **Transportation:**

The IHN shelter program provides transportation to employment, school, appointments for the doctor, housing, classes, and all other needs. This program enhances the ability for our IHN families to be self-sufficient. Through this program we also provide our truck to move our families once they become housed.

### **Coats for a Cause:**

In the fall and winter, we are blessed to provide warm coats, hats, scarves, and gloves to all those that come into the IHN Shelter Program, as well as anyone who contacts us with this need or comes to the door of the day-center in need. We are so grateful for the caring individuals who donate these needed items.

### **Transient Fund:**

This program provides hotel rooms for those in the community who are transient or on the streets. We provide short term assistance while we work on getting the clients into a more permanent shelter situation or connect them to the HCRP program.

### **After Shelter:**

Once families move into their own homes, FPWC continues to provide support and stabilization through this program, at first weekly and then monthly to assure that they remain housed and self-sufficient.

### **The dictionary defines a hero as...**

“A person who is admired for their courage, outstanding achievements or noble qualities.” At FPWC, we are pleased to work with heroes every day. IHN volunteers are our heroes. They are admired for their courage to adjust their programs during this pandemic, as they continue to provide food, support, and hospitality to our guests and they do so selflessly as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. We wish to say THANK YOU to each and every volunteer. We thank you for sharing your love and your gifts.

WE APPRECIATE YOU!

“Thank you so much for the kind notes we received from you. The kids loved the gifts and the food was super yummy! I have all the notes you sent us put in my notebook and appreciate all the prayers y’all prayed for our family.”

-Love, Corrie and Family

“Our family wants to say THANK YOU for everything you have done for us. The food has been great and we love the blankets, books, crafts and toys that we have received. It is great that there are people out there that care. Please spread our thanks and the love back to everyone that has volunteered in the program. Thank you for taking your time away from your families and putting the stuff together for our family. Thank you and God Bless”

-Danielle and family



## Where are they now??

I found myself in a bad living situation a little over a year ago. My 4 children and I were without a home to live in. I was absolutely terrified and knew I didn’t have a lot of options as far as places to go. I stumbled upon some information for Interfaith. After a couple weeks of research I reached out and talked to someone at the office. Finally after bouncing from house to house and staying with friend to friend, I reached back out and entered the program. I was so scared and unsure of what we would do. To top it all of we were in the middle of a global pandemic.

I remember meeting with my case worker to sign the initial paper work and feeling so welcomed and comforted by Nichole. Knowing she didn’t look down on me and had a genuine passion to help me and my kids was like a huge weight lifted off my shoulders. It was a very frustrating process for us to find a home big enough, in my price range. It seemed everything I found was already rented before I could even get there to look at it. I would be so frustrated and just want to cry. Nichole and Linda were always so encouraging in reminding me that it would all work out and they were absolutely right.

One day we finally found a place that worked for myself and my family. It was beyond exciting being able to tell my kids we had our very own place to call home. Being able to move in, with furniture and a fridge full of groceries was absolutely a blessing I will not forget. Interfaith not only supported us as a family but the staff supported me as a mother and person so that I could be the absolute best and strongest mother to my kids.

Now we are all settled into our home, on a normal schedule, and moving forward with things. I’m blessed that over the last year Interfaith has still invested in helping myself and my children with their programs for families.

We will always remember all the love and support from, not only Interfaith staff, but from the churches. My kids still talk about it and remember the kindness that we were shown.

-Love, Holly



“To everyone who showed us love, hospitality and gave us prayers, we are very grateful and appreciate everything done for us this week. We know how fortunate we are, for people helping make this chapter of our journey as comfortable as they can. We are full and feel very blessed.”



## Host Recruitment & Retention

By Rev. Mary Joseph

My mom would grow the most beautiful roses, caring for them, keeping them safe from bugs and beetles, and sharing small bouquets with our neighbors, friends from church, and for our kitchen table. I believe I have been blessed with her DNA as I love to garden. There is such peace and calmness that flows through me as I tend God's work, as well as my own, in the flower and vegetable gardens each summer. From a favorite prayer of mine, "Come Summer with me, Lord" written by Bob Hostetler, come these words:

*"Come summer with me Lord; summer deep down in my soul; restore my faith in summer's time, in rest, in joy, in play with you..."*

During these summer days the work and ministry of Family Promise of Warren County continues. The tasks set out for the Host Recruitment & Retention (HR&R) team have not ceased as we continue to keep contact with our congregations, both hosting and supporting families of faith. We call each congregation's coordinators after their rotation week to say "Thank You" and we email those folks as well. It's our way of tending this connection as we make ourselves available to hear joys and concerns that the church might have experienced. And we provide listening ears for suggestions on how we might serve such an important group of volunteers.

On the Recruitment side of our team's work and in tandem with Linda Rabolt, Executive Director, our team members continue to seek out some new groups as well as congregations that might consider joining the network. As a result of our Zoom meeting in May which we posted in our previous newsletter, we had several people join Linda, Jenn Fry and me for a casual conversation about Family Promise and a time to answer questions. Three or four congregations have indicated their interest in assisting Family Promise in the near future. And two more congregations from Springboro have joined us as support to First United Methodist Church in Springboro.

Host Recruitment & Retention cont.. on next page

## Host & Support Churches

Heritage Presbyterian Church  
 St. Susanna Church  
 Mason United Methodist Church  
 Hope Church, Mason  
 Compass Christian Church  
 Grace Baptist Church  
 Open Table Church  
 Lebanon Presbyterian Church  
 Lebanon United Methodist Church  
 Pleasant Plain Presbyterian  
 St. Patrick's Episcopal Church  
 Lakeveiw UCC  
 True Kingdom Ministries  
 St. Mary Magdalene  
 Nexus Church  
 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints  
 Resurrection Lutheran Church  
 Bethany UCC  
 Sycamore Presbyterian Church  
 St. Vincent de Paul of St. Philip's Catholic Church  
 Our Lady of Sorrows  
 Monroe United Methodist  
 Monroe Presbyterian  
 The River Church  
 First Church of God  
 North Cincinnati Community Church  
 Springboro First United Methodist  
 Springboro United Church of Christ  
 Pilgrim South  
 Red Lion United Methodist Church  
 Living Water Lutheran Church  
 Cobblestone Community Church  
 New Freedom Church  
 Lifehouse Church

## COVID 19 Support Churches:

First Baptist of Mason, G3 Community Church, Saint Vincent de Paul of St. Philips Catholic Church, Living Water Lutheran Church, St. Augustine Catholic Church, St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church

If you have question about any of the core Family Promise of Warren County programs, do not hesitate to contact Linda Rabolt at (513) 934-5250

“Thank you for all the yummy meals and treats. Thank you for getting my family through this tough time. I send you blessings and good vibes for all you are doing.”

-Kyla (mother of 2)



Shelter families enjoy the many art and craft projects that our volunteers provide weekly. Thank you to our volunteers that put these projects together! Look at that smiling face!

We are so grateful to all of you who have, with care and dedication to this portion of Family Promise’s ministry, provided wonderful meals for each family with children facing homelessness. The families are most appreciative for the comfort of good food but also for the craft items donated for their children. This is a difficult time for those who find themselves homeless and we strive to make this time of transition in their lives a bit calmer, a bit more peaceful, with some time to rest, to find some joy and an opportunity to play, as the prayer above suggests. Our guests receive support and encouragement as they move through all of the steps necessary to find employment, housing, and care for themselves and their children.

With our families staying at a local motel in Lebanon, we are very aware that many of you are frustrated with not being able to visit with the family members as you have done at your church buildings before the pandemic arrived. We are hopeful that by the beginning of 2022 churches will be open to hosting our guests once again. This will take planning to be sure that everyone is safe and well.

Thank you again for your contributions, including your financial gifts, as we intentionally journey together, taking care of our families, our volunteers, and our chefs and craft folks.

Our HR&R team is hosting another Zoom meet-up for those interested in finding out more about Family Promise of Warren County (FPWC), formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHNWC). We have selected Monday, September 13, 2021 at 10am and 7pm for one hour each time. Go to the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87833685115> and enter the Meeting ID: 878 3368 5115. If you have questions, please contact the Family Promise day center at 513-934-5250 or visit our website at [ihnwc.org](http://ihnwc.org). You may also contact me at [revmaryjo@yahoo.com](mailto:revmaryjo@yahoo.com) or 937-901-2798 (cell #).



When my husband, son and I moved to the area 25 years ago, I was at a loss as to how to spend my time. I had left a psychology practice in Detroit and felt overwhelmed to initiate a new one. A neighbor suggested I call Interfaith and volunteer until I figured out a direction. I followed through with her guidance and also exposed my young 12 year-old son to helping others. After several years, I established a practice in Springboro and my adult daughter bestowed upon me the title of grandmother. With new roles and only so much time, sadly I had to suspend my volunteering.

Fast-forwarding to 2019, I retired and closed my practice and again wondered how best to spend my time. My answer came quickly and I contacted Linda at Interfaith to renew my volunteer status. I have been helping clients with time management, child-rearing techniques and basic life skills. What I have gained from volunteering, far outweighs what I have given. I have learned that the population at Interfaith struggles because they have never had the opportunity to learn skills that would make their lives more manageable. They do their best with what they have, but often falling short.

A good example of this is a couple that was struggling with their relationship, as well as with their two young children (because of COVID, my interaction with this couple was by phone only). This couple was very motivated to do differently and after six sessions was able to communicate more effectively by establishing family meetings and actively listening to each other. Providing opportunity is what Interfaith is all about and I am so happy to plug into that philosophy. Although not every family is a success story, I believe a seed is planted and a safe place established, so when the timing is right, clients may return and be responsive.

As an aside, my then 12 year-old is now a 36 year-old and has been a ten-year employee at St. Vincent de Paul's homeless shelter. I firmly believe his experience with Interfaith led him into a career of helping others. He has fond memories of his time at Interfaith and finds his work interesting and rewarding. Volunteering is a win-win situation and I highly suggest giving it a try!

## Volunteer Spotlight

*Getting to Know*

*Judy Green*

## Board Spotlight

*Getting to Know*

*Jackie Matisse*



**How long have you been a board member of FPWC?**

- I joined the board only six months ago.

**What do you enjoy most about being a board member?**

- It's good to be part of a group who are committed to work that builds community, offers hope and calls forth the best in people. In my short time on the board I have experienced this group has that commitment.

**Why did you join FPWC?**

- I recently retired as the priest of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, one of Family Promises' host churches. We joined the network when it first began in Warren County and I saw first hand for twenty years, the commitment of the staff and churches and the difference it can make in a families life. As a Christian I know we are called to work together for the common good. This program does that.

**What is your current occupation?**

- As I mentioned above, I'm recently retired from serving a congregation. One of my major interests now is involvement with an international organization that builds local communities of peacemakers, with the desire to create opportunities for mutual flourishing for different groups and to cross divides that sometimes seem intractable.

**What do you love most about FPWC?**

- The hope it offers and the possibility for people to learn more about each other's situations. As I've watched over the years, I've seen how having a safe place for a time can allow new possibilities to open and challenges to be met.

**What's something about you (a fun fact) that not many people know?**

- I love to explore! When on vacation I most often take a "blue highway" or turn down a road or trail that is not on the map. Yes, I often get lost but I also have experiences I'd never have on the main road.

## Note from a recent guest!

“On our first night we had a Thanksgiving bake, it was delightful! I don’t think I have ever had a delicious hot meal on the same day that I moved! Ever! We were elated and though displaced as of now, this meal truly helped my children and I feel a sense of home. We have played Connect 4 numerous times already and my 7 year old and I have colored many pictures! We have not felt GOD so deeply without lives continually guiding and protecting us as we have this week.”

God Bless and Thank You!  
-Emily (mother of 4 children)



“We had a great time, it was a wonderful place to run, and it was very organized!”

-Becky Snodgrass  
(5K Medal Winner)

“I sure do wish that I could see and hug each of you! Julian and I couldn’t have been more comfortable or felt more special due to your kind support. He got some of his FAVORITE snacks, and we learned a new way to make smores! We love and appreciate your support and generosity and also are forever grateful for sweet people like you!”

Sending love and prayers  
-Courtney & Julian

## Coordinator Corner

by Kelley Fitzgerald—New Freedom Church

I love this ministry. I feel like if Jesus were here in the flesh today, this is the kind of work He would be doing. Supplying Needs – Serving Meals – Showing Love – and Hanging Out with the Children. I enjoy serving and it makes it easy being able to do so right in our own community.

I was privileged to be a part of this ministry from the very start when it was first established in Warren County. I was a member of the Praise and Worship Center then. They were one church in the first rotations. So that means I started participating in the Interfaith Hospitality Network over 23 years ago and I still love this program. I believe in this ministry. I worked under some great coordinators back then. I provided dinners and did evening hosting. I loved planning after dinner activities so I moved into the Activity Coordinator role.

I became a member of New Freedom church when the Praise and Worship Center merged with them. When Pastor Joe Shutts at New Freedom church was considering re-joining the rotation four years ago, I wanted to get involved. (I may have been the only person that actually went to talk to him about participating/supporting the IHN ministry.) I wanted to make sure our church, my church, would be joining the rotation. I told Pastor Joe how I loved the ministry and how I felt this ministry allows us to do what Jesus would do. I started asking questions about who would be the coordinator and who would be in charge of meals and evening activities, and getting the food for breakfast and lunches. I may have made it sound like I knew too well how the program worked. Right in that first conversation with him about this, he told me he felt like God was telling him I should be the coordinator of our church’s participation.

Did I say I love this ministry? This program works. It equips the parents and helps the families find housing, to put it simply. This is a great organization and I am happy to be able to help keep it going. I know the churches can’t get involved if they don’t have coordinators step up and organize their weeks, and the program can’t work without the churches taking responsibility for the evenings, breakfasts, and lunches. When we all do our part, the work load is spread, the families are helped and the program works. I am sure God is smiling down seeing how it all comes together with us working together.

The volunteers at New Freedom love to help by providing meals. There are groups and individuals who are always ready to give their time and resources to join in with the efforts. We get a lot of the congregation involved by donating items for breakfasts and lunches. We pass out posted notes with items we need and ask our members if they can pick the items up when they are at the grocery. We couldn’t participate as a church if everyone didn’t do their part. We let the Holy Spirit work through us and each time our week comes up, God always works all the details out. That is how we know He is blessing the effort.

One of the things I like about the families being at our church is getting to know them. We all love when the kids hug us and are happy to see us in the evenings. I also enjoy when the parents sit down and talk with me. It is nice to have a good conversation and get to know who we are helping. I remember one year we had two YOUNG couples for our week. It was heart-warming to see one evening after dinner one of the young husbands talking with an older gentleman who was there to dinner host. That one on one time with the children or the parents is really the heart of ministry. That is a need that goes deeper than just providing their physical essentials. That is what I picture Jesus doing.

I am thankful Miss Linda and New Freedom church leadership allow me to use my giftings to help support Family Promise’s IHN in Warren County. I am also thankful God is using you in whatever way you participate to support this needed and worthwhile ministry.

## Donation Drop Off

Please call in advance when you are dropping off a donation. Please be aware that due to strict social distancing policy, FPWC staff will not be able to assist you with your drop off. Please realize that we are so very appreciative of your kindness and that while we would LOVE to visit with you as we have in the past, we simply cannot at this time. Be sure to leave your name and address with your donation so that we can send you a proper thank you! If you prefer to send a monetary donation to help us defray our additional costs please send to:

FPWC, 203 East Warren Street, Lebanon, Ohio 45036.

Check out our web page [www.ihnwc.org](http://www.ihnwc.org) for PayPal instructions. THANK YOU for your continued support of homeless families in Warren County.

Your donation of just \$35.00 will house a family of 4 in a hotel room for one day during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your donation of \$250.00 will house a family of 4 in a hotel room for a week.

## Amazon Smile

Shopping Amazon?

Please be sure to select IHNWC as the beneficiary!

Your shopping can generate funding for families in need with zero personal expense. Register with our organization on Amazon Smile before placing your order with Amazon Smile.

## Heaven and Hearth

We are doing limited pickups of furniture and household items. The items MUST be outside or in the garage. The driver and volunteers WILL NOT enter your home. This is for the safety and well being of you as well as our staff. Items MUST be in good condition with no tears, stains, animal hair and the like. Please call the FPWC office at 513-934-5250 and ask for Andrew to make an appointment for pick up. **No pick ups will be made when the State of Ohio is in level 3 Red or level 4 Purple COVID status.** We thank you for your understanding and ask that you hold on to your important donation until the level drops to level 2.

## Other donations

Due to COVID-19 we are unable to take donations (other than items to Heaven & Hearth) unless they are listed on the FPWC Wish List. Items that are new and in the box will be considered on a case to case basis. Unfortunately we are unable to take any used clothing at this time.

Kroger and Dorothy Lane Market will also allocate a portion of sales to FPWC. For more information on all of these programs visit [www.ihnwc.org](http://www.ihnwc.org) and see our Community Benefits page.

# 2021 RUN4HOME HYBRID 5K KIDS FUN RUN

July 3, 2021, was a beautiful day for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Run4Home 5K and Kid's Fun Run. There were a total of 261 participants both virtual and in person. Congratulations to all who participated and in particular to Jack Butler, first place male with a time of 16:31 and Brittany Graham, first place female with a time of 20:32.

It takes many hands to make this event a success. Many thanks to Brad Bowman of Eastgate Graphics who donates his time to create the logo, signs, forms, and t-shirts. We are truly blessed to have someone with his talent to share his time with us. Beth and Ken Armstrong have been volunteers with the Run4Home since we began 15 years ago. Ken did a great job as the bike leader and Beth was a wonderful Race Director. Together they marked the path and distance of the race. Their help was invaluable this year as in the past years. And lastly, I cannot thank enough all of our other volunteers; especially those from The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints who provided help beginning with parking, to include packet hand out, setup, greeting and clean up. And let us not forget those happy faces at the end of the race from Heritage Presbyterian Church who handed all participants a cold bottle of water!! Every volunteer is greatly appreciated.

This year's event was supported by the following: Broadway Family Medicine, Inc, Bunce Chiropractic LLC, Kevin Cox State Farm, Creech's Lawn Care and Landscaping, Inc, Eastgate Graphics, Fraternal Order of Eagles, George Steel Fabricating Inc, Girdwood Orthodontics, Heritage Presbyterian Church, JBM Packaging, JRS Wealth Management LLC, Lebanon Rotary Club, McMahon insurance and Financial Services, Miami Valley Gaming, Minuteman Press, Pleasant Plain Presbyterian Church, R&W Heating, Reliable Electric, Rittgers & Rittgers, Russell's Auto Repair, Warren County Democratic Party, Job and Family Services, and Warren County United Way.

In all this event raised a **total of \$11,545.71** which will help to support the 2022 Christmas in July program which provides all the shelter children from the current and prior year with much needed clothing and supplies for beginning the school year successfully.

We look forward to seeing you next year at Armco Park on July 4th for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Run4Home 5K and Kid's Fun Run!!



# Christmas in July

Christmas in July is a very important program of Family Promise of Warren County. Under the care, love and guidance of Jennifer and Bill Keezer and with the help of 7 shoppers, 5 girl scouts and 1 volunteer stocking stuffer, 21 families consisting of 51 children received all that they need to start school successfully.

Jennifer reports that she was unsettled by the rise in the costs of clothing and supplies for the children this year. However, with using her good budgeting skills, every school age child was blessed with 5 outfits, a jacket, a haircut card, a shoe gift card, socks, underwear and a backpack full of grade appropriate school supplies. Each family also received a \$50 gift card from Kroger.

With COVID concerns, Jennifer and Santa delivered the gifts to each family so as to avoid a gathering. Jennifer and Santa were met with smiles from the children and relief and thanks from the parents.

Several years ago, an elementary student who had just joined the IHN shelter program, came off the school bus in tears. When asked what happened she shared that the children made fun of her shoes and her backpack – both of which were dirty and worn. She was not going to return to school. Our children have so much that they need to contend with. No home, the challenge of being in shelter, the change in their routine. School should be a place of comfort.

Due to the generosity of Christmas in July, this child and every child that is in and has been in shelter over the past 12 months, is afforded the opportunity to go to school being as prepared and looking just like every other student. We have been told by teachers that with this, our children perform better and feel better about themselves. They are successful. For this, we are so very grateful to all who support this much needed and effective program.



Volunteers from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints dropped off 300 hygiene bags for the homeless. The bags contained notes of encouragement!

Thank you for this kind gift!



In late May, Linda contacted Mike McGinty from Lebanon United Methodist Church. She asked if he thought that his small group would be interested in doing some spring clean up around our day center and community building. On May 30th our friends at LUMC cut bushes back, planted flowers, laid mulch and gave our buildings the TLC that they needed. This act of kindness not only lifted the spirits of the staff but made those who needed our services feel warm and welcome. Thank you!



On a snowy day in late April, Linda had the pleasure of receiving a check in the amount of \$3500 from the Captain's Council of Lebanon High School. This generous donation went to the Christmas in July program.

We thank these community minded students for their care and concern for the families that we serve!



Thank you to the volunteers from LPC that helped clean up Heaven and Hearth!



Congratulations to Tim Siddall of Lebanon for raising the most funds by one individual in the Run4Home!  
Thank you, Tim!

See our FPWC Wish List for our items of need. We are grateful for your continued support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Congratulations to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for being the winner of the trophy for the second year in a row of having the most participants in the Run4Home 5K and Kids Fun Run. This includes 33 runners/walkers and 37 volunteers! With a total of 70 participants!

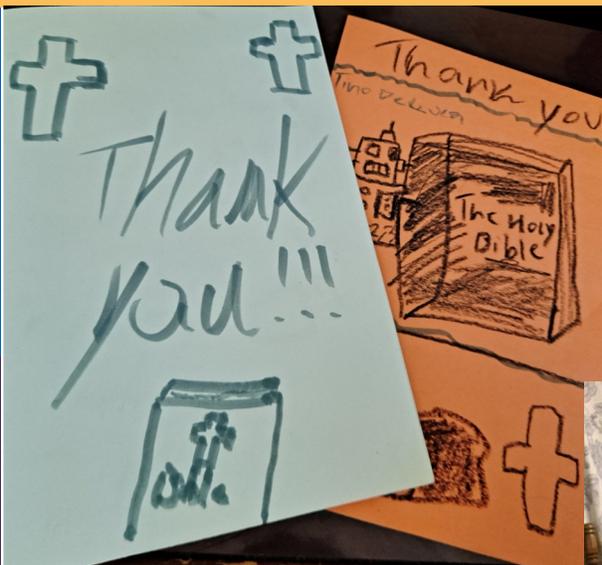
## Wish List

Congratulations to Eastgate Graphics for being the winner of the trophy for the most participants from a business! Thank you Eastgate Graphics for your support!

- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Bathroom Cleaner
- Windex
- Kitchen Cleaner
- Floor Cleaner
- Soft Soap Pump—Disinfectant
- Boys Underwear  
Sizes 2T-16
- Girls Underwear  
Sizes 2T-16
- Children's Toothpaste
- Children's Toothbrushes
- Children's Body Wash
- Children's Shampoo
- Gift Cards for McDonalds, Burger King, KFC, Taco Bell, etc...
- Gift Cars for Walmart, Kroger, etc...
- Gas Gift Cards



Family Promise of Warren County wants to thank The Wandering Griffin for this great opportunity! Our Executive Director, Linda Rabolt, truly enjoyed visiting and learning more about the brewing process. The owner, Dave Jennings, is a very impressive man who she enjoyed speaking with!



"Thank you to everyone who made the 2021 summer so memorable!"





**Did you know** January-June 2021

FPWC assisted:

- 19 families in network
- 54 individuals
- 32 children
- 18 under age 6
- 2 unborn babies
- 795 referrals\*

\*every referral was assisted appropriately and may not have required the shelter program to achieve success. Referrals for services are up 49% over the same period in 2020.

In 2021, the State of Ohio housing wage is \$16.64 per hour. To afford a 2 bedroom home without paying more than 30% of income on housing, the average renter must work 76 hours PER WEEK or 1.9 FULL TIME jobs at minimum wage.

Thank you to all the many volunteers at our host and support churches for providing meals, fellowship, hospitality and unconditional love to our families. If you would like to get involved please contact Linda Rabolt, Executive Director, at 513-934-5250 or [linda@ihnwc.org](mailto:linda@ihnwc.org). For more information about FPWC go to [www.ihnwc.org](http://www.ihnwc.org).