

600 Cincinnati Ave. Lebanon, OH 45036 www.familypromisewarren.org 513.934.5250 facebook.com/FPWCOHIO

> FAITH • Hope • Love Justice • God peace • Kindness **HOSPITALITY**

New Life • encouragement Family

Inside this Issue:

- President's Page
- Linda's Letter
- Stories of Promise
- A Letter from the Treasurer
- Host Recruitment & Retention
- Coordinator Corner
- Board & Volunteer Spotlights
- Christmas Wish List
- Make Memories Together

President's Page

by Carol Spicer Board President

As we wrap up a remarkable year, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of our dedicated friends, family, businesses, congregations and volunteers. Your unwavering commitment and tireless efforts have made a profound impact on our organization and the community we serve.

The success we have achieved in 2024 would not have been possible without YOU. You have shown exceptional compassion and resilience, embodying the spirit of Community Service. Whether you have lent your time, expertise or resources, you have played a crucial role in our Mission to assist families experiencing homelessness in Warren County, Ohio, to achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response. Thank you for every hour you've given and every smile and prayer you've shared.

Looking ahead to 2025, we have ambitious goals and exciting projects on the horizon. However, we need your continued support—both financially and through volunteering. Every dollar contributed enables us to expand our programs and services

to our Warren County families, while your time helps us create lasting change for our families. Together, we can build on our successes and work towards an even stronger future.

I encourage each of you to consider how you can contribute to our collective efforts in the coming year. Whether it's renewing your financial support, exploring new volunteer opportunities, or spreading awareness about our Mission, your involvement is invaluable.

Thank you once again for your dedication and passion. Let's make 2025 our most impactful year yet!

a trip down

memory lane



11/4/2024 10:04:54 AM 2024 December Newsletter.indd 1

Linda's Letter

by Linda Rabolt FPWC Executive Director



As I am writing this letter to you, I am in awe of the amazing work that was accomplished in the last 12 months. On December 15, 2023, the Family Promise of Warren County staff moved into our new offices at the new campus, the former Shaker Inn. We all realized on that day the numerous possibilities that were made available to the community by so many volunteers that transformed this place into a place where families would have dignity in their journey from homelessness to self-sufficiency and housing.

We also realized that the renovations were not quite complete and ready for our families to safely join us. When the initial work

was completed, we welcomed our first five families on

April 21, 2024. I will never forget their joy



APRIL 18TH

Ribbon Tying to commemorate the opening of our new Campus

through their fear as they walked over the threshold of their rooms. The joy when they found out that they could do normal things like laundry. The relief that their children would be fed. And the smiles as they enjoyed family time with the volunteers at Sycamore Presbyterian Church who treated them like their own families.

In July 2024 we opened our playground, Avery's Place. The children are often seen happily swinging on the swings, climbing on the play-set, and sliding down the slides. These children (and I dare say an adult or two) are able to release their concerns of the day and just relax before they address housing and self-sufficiency during their stay.

We have enjoyed families from all backgrounds. More grandparents this year than in several prior years. More teenagers as well who still, with the care of volunteers, attended prom and ball games and homecoming – just as they should. Homelessness should not and will not ever interrupt these rights of passage.

We have housed single fathers with children, single mothers with their children and couples

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 so much for everything you have done for us. Your help has been insurmountable to our family and we are so appreciative. Thank you so much for the needed items. Thank you for your help with housing and with your help to organize all of this. We are so grateful to you. Thank you so much!"

-Dawn, Jacob and Theo victims of the Concord Apartment fire

Mission:

"To assist families experiencing homelessness in Warren County, Ohio, to achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response."





with children. We have even housed a recent veteran, who you will read about later in this newsletter. Michael, a proud Marine, and his family came to FPWC as a last resort. How can homelessness come to one of our nation's veterans? Yet it did. In this time of challenge, Michael found very sustainable employment and his family found a place to breathe amongst the chaos of their life. A place of support. And staff and volunteers alike enjoyed little 3-year-old Addie as she grabbed the shirt of any adult in her circle, looked into their eyes, and lovingly said, "tome here Grandma, let's play".

THIS is Family Promise of Warren County at its best. And this scenario has played out daily, weekly, and monthly ever since our inception in 1998 and in our new surroundings. Love abounds. Genuine concern abounds. Unconditional love abounds. I share with you the photo above which was captured by our security camera. Three children playing in our playroom with several stuffed animal friends. This photo brought back so many memories to me as my son and daughter played much the same way as children – maybe with a certain guinea pig or two involved!! In our household, it was Katy, holding court as a teacher (which she eventually became). Those stuffed animals and her brother, Andrew and others were her classroom, and goodness knows what lessons she was teaching.

The glory of this photo is who is the homeless child? It is impossible to tell, isn't it? And that is the point. At FPWC, our children are not set aside as different; as homeless. They are loved for who they are, in the playroom where they are. It is YOU, our volunteers and

our donors who allow this work to be done and who do this wonderful work of loving one another.

As we walk into 2025 there is much more work to be done. There are more Michael's. and more Addie's and more Paisley's that we need to open our doors to. We need to build our foundation of congregations, business and

organizations that will allow us to double our network in the summer of 2025.

No child should sleep in a car or in any place not meant for human habitation. None of us should allow that. With this new campus, the possibilities are endless, and I look forward to building our space at this campus to welcome those that we are called to help.

Thank you for joining my staff, the Family Promise Board of Directors, and our current volunteers on this journey with your gifts of time and donations. I promise it is a journey that will transform you. I know this as it has transformed me.

I wish you and your families the best of the holiday season and a blessed New Year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carol Spicer Jennifer Goepper Monica Widdig Jennifer Fry Leo Cronin Michael Hoelscher Rev. Mary Joseph Doyle Key JoAnn Key Joseph Mansfield Rev. Jackie Matisse Linda Rabolt

President Vice President Treasurer Secretary/Co-Chair HRR Member Member Co-Chair HRR Co-Chair Fundraising Co-Chair Fundraising Member Chair Body, Mind, Spirit **Executive Director**

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Danielle August Jesse Bischoff Doug Gilham **Andrew Rabolt** Nichole Richardson **Rodney Short** Linda Rabolt

HCRP (N-Z) Case Manager Office Manager/Marketing Mischelle Merrill-Dvořák Shelter Case Manager HCRP (A-M) Case Manager Weekend Manager/Statistics Program Manager Driver/Maintenance Executive Director

Are you receiving our E-Newsletter?

This newsletter keeps you up to date on the most recent activities happening at FPWC! To sign up visit our web-page at www. familypromisewarren.org/faith-in-actionnewsletter or send your email to jesse@ihnwc.org.



APRIL 21ST

Families move in and share their first hot meal together prepared by volunteers



2024 December Newsletter.indd 3 11/4/2024 10:04:56 AM

Page 4

Stories of Promise

by the Couch Family Graduated Clients



My husband was recently honorably discharged from the US Marine Corps after serving 5 years. After we moved back to Ohio, he struggled to obtain a job that would sustain our family of four. This was due to waiting for his aircraft license paperwork to transfer from military to civilian.

During this time of waiting for everything to process and transition, we found ourselves struggling to find housing. Feeling helpless and at a loss we were told about Family Promise. Once we came in contact with them, Mischelle, the Case Manager, quickly got back with us and brought us into shelter within a week. From the start all the staff and volunteers were welcoming, comforting, and non-judgmental.

Everyone truly makes you feel at home. My family and I could not be more shocked at how wonderful this program is.

Each family is given their own room with new and very comfortable furniture, ours was amazing and provided us with our own safe space. You are given supplies, kids' toys, and anything else you may need to sustain

normal living. During our stay here they even threw our daughter her third birthday party. It was complete with gifts, games, cake, and party favors.

Each night a church provides a delicious home cooked meal for all the families and provides an activity for the kids to enjoy after dinner. Stepping into Family Promise you would never know it was a "homeless shelter."

While we were in shelter, my husband Michael, was able to obtain an amazing job position as an Aircraft Mechanic where he will continue his career path he started in the military. Additionally, we were able to obtain a 3-bedroom apartment for our family (pictured above: first family meal in our new home). We don't think we could have made it this far without the support and resources provided to us from everyone.

This program gave my family housing, food, supplies, and support when we didn't have any. For that, we will be forever thankful and appreciative for ALL the staff and volunteers at Family Promise of Warren County.



2024 December Newsletter.indd 4 11/4/2024 10:04:56 AM

A Letter From The Treasurer

by Monica Widdig FPWC Treasurer



I want to express my sincere thanks to all our gracious donors! You have helped Family Promise of Warren County to purchase our new facility and make \$697,500.00 in renovations and improvements. As you can imagine, the building (the former Shaker Inn) having been built in 1948 had much work to be done for our families and staff to safely move in!

Shifting to a static site homeless shelter from our previous model of rotating from congregation to congregation each week comes with substantial operation costs. In addition to the need for additional staffing to address the ever-growing need, we now have a mortgage, increased utility payments as well as building repairs, maintenance, and grounds-keeping costs.

While our capital campaign focus has been on the acquisition and renovation of the new facility, I would like to ask for your prayerful consideration to help us

sustain our operations. Your generous donation or pledge of a monthly contribution will help to assist FPWC to cover our monthly expenses.

Family Promise of
Warren County, since our
inception in September 1998,
takes pride in being a good
steward of your contributions
and we pledge to always be.
You can trust that every dollar
contributed goes towards
supporting our mission "To

assist families experiencing homelessness in Warren County, Ohio, to achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response".

In the summer of 2025, we plan to expand the number of families that we serve. The need is there as shown by our ever-increasing number of referrals for service due to the lack of affordable housing and the current economy.

I have included a breakdown of our annual operating costs for your review. I appreciate each of you and I am grateful for your unwavering support for the last 26 years. With your continued support, Family Promise of Warren County will continue to be the leader in Warren County in addressing family homelessness, as together we address this need with hospitality, responsibility, and accountability.

Thank you for making this happen!



2024 December Newsletter.indd 5 11/4/2024 10:04:57 AM

Playground

Host Retention

by Mary Joseph Co-Chair

Hello and Happy December to everyone – our Family Promise of Warren County staff, the Board of Directors, members of a variety of committees/teams and all the friends and volunteers who are the helpers and doers. You all hold FPWC in your hearts and we are so grateful for everything and every way in which you support this important ministry. And hello to those who might be reading this FPWC newsletter for the first time. Welcome!

I purchased a small book years ago titled All I Really Want -Readings for a Modern Christmas by Quinn G. Caldwell. I read through it at the beginning of each Christmas season. The author starts out saying that "this book will not help any of us simplify the season." All of us want to simplify the season in whatever way we can. So what can we do? Where do we start? Caldwell also states that the book is "actually designed to complicate the season" and he urges us to "think and pray a little more deeply about it, not organize it all until it's easy." During the Christmas season people often "yearn for something holy, something beautiful, something like God." Many of us who participate in the work and ministry of





FPWC find God's presence in all that we do.

At FPWC a lot of effort and organizing happens to be sure that our guests will find the holidays a time of joy. Volunteers provide nutritious meals, some crafts for the children and youth and some stay overnight at the FPWC campus. The parents most likely will be wondering about many things during this time of the year. Where would they celebrate a festive meal, will they be with their extended family or be able to have gifts for their children as they continue to seek housing and/or employment??

When each family enters FPWC they have already faced big challenges. As they settle in they find love, care, a place to sleep, warm blankets, books to read, laundry facilities, computers on which to work, a playground for their children and a group of people to support them. You are all part of the support system which lifts the families up, encourages them on their journey through the tasks they are asked to do, and makes it possible for them to think through what is achievable for them.

Thank you always for your involvement with FPWC. May this holiday season bring you much joy and love, and may God continue to richly bless each one of you!



MAY 31ST

Playground installation is finally completed to be enjoyed by all



Page 7

Host Recruitment

by Jennifer Fry Co-Chair



On October 15, 2024, Family Promise of Warren County hosted a wonderful event that we called "An Evening with FPWC" that brought together a compassionate community dedicated to making a difference. We had 21 people gather on our campus to tour our facility and learn about the impact of our work and exploring various volunteer opportunities.

Guests were greeted by our dedicated staff and volunteers and the atmosphere was filled with hope and a shared goal to support families experiencing homelessness in our community. During the tour, attendees were given a firsthand look at our shelter accommodations and the services we provide to help families regain stability and independence.

Our guests had individual discussions with board and staff members about the volunteer roles that are crucial to our mission. Attendees learned how they can contribute their time and talents in meaningful ways, including:

- Providing Meals: Volunteers can prepare and serve nutritious meals, ensuring that our families have access to healthy food during their stay.
- Organizing Activities: By providing recreational activities, volunteers can help create fun experiences for both children and adults.

 Overnight Hosts: Volunteers can offer their support by staying overnight at our shelter, providing a comforting presence and assistance as needed.

The success of "An Evening with FPWC" is a testament to the power of community involvement. We are immensely grateful to all who attended and showed interest in becoming part of our volunteer team. Your dedication and compassion are the building blocks of our mission to end family homelessness.

As we continue to grow and reach more families in need, we invite you to join us in this rewarding journey. Whether you can contribute a few hours a week or a few days a month, every effort counts and makes a significant impact. Together, we can provide not just shelter but hope and a brighter future for countless families. We will plan additional "An Evening with FPWC" opportunities in the future.

To attend a future event or for more information on how you can get involved, please visit our website or call the office at 513-934-5250. We look forward to welcoming you into the Family Promise of Warren County community. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our cause.



JUNE 15TH

Volunteers from Crossroads Mason put together planter boxes for the Storybook Garden Path





JULY 4TH

A total of 270 individuals participated in our annual Run4Home 5K & Kid's Fun Run





JULY 31ST

Families who graduate the program within the past year enjoy a Christmas in July celebration



2024 December Newsletter.indd 7 11/4/2024 10:05:00 AM

Coordinator Corner



The Elks had the pleasure of participating in our first on site hosting week for Family Promise of Warren County in September. The Elks is a non-profit, private membership fraternal organization located in downtown Lebanon, that is part of a larger network of Elks lodges nationwide. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (or BPOE, also referred to as The Best People on Earth) was founded in 1868 to promote and practice our four cardinal virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity. Our main mission is to serve our communities and participate in civic engagement, while also having fun!

Our first service project partnering with FPWC was in September 2022, when we "adopted" one of the guest rooms for a remodel. Our members came together and through fundraisers, generous donations, and a little elbow grease, we gave Room 2 a wonderful face lift with new flooring, paint, and all new furniture. Knowing that our work would allow a family to have a clean, safe space to live and sleep was very rewarding. In 2023, we agreed to assist Family Promise with providing meals for the families that were in shelter for a week. This was prior to the families being in the facility, so unfortunately,

by Stephanie Flannery Lebanon Elks #422

we didn't get to meet them. We nourished them from afar, and looked forward to when we could spend time with them.

This year, we spent a week in September hosting the families in the facility. We had nearly 30 Elks members and their friends and families step up to the plate to prepare, cook, and serve meals, participate in activities with

the kids, and engage in fellowship with the parents for the week every evening. Witnessing firsthand what Family Promise of Warren County does for people in our community was so heartwarming. These families are given such great support to get back on their feet and out of homelessness. The work that the staff at FPWC do there is simply amazing. We were honored to be a part of it, and we're looking forward to doing it again!

For anyone curious as to how they can support FPWC's mission, it simply starts with your time and some good meals! It also helps if you like to play Uno, because that's one game that's very popular with both the adults and kids alike!



Host & Support Churches

Heritage Presbyterian Church

St. Susanna Church

Axis Church

Compass Christian Church

Grace Baptist Church

Open Table Church

Lebanon Presbyterian Church

Lebanon Community Methodist Church

Pleasant Plain Presbyterian Church

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

Lakeveiw UCC

True Kingdom Ministries

Nexus Church

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day

Resurrection Lutheran Church

Bethany UCC

Sycamore Presbyterian Church

Our Lady of Sorrows

Monroe United Methodist Church

One Community Church

The River Church

First Church of God

Red Lion United Methodist Church

Covenant Presbyterian Church

Springboro UCC

Pilgrim South UCC

Living Water Lutheran Church

Cobblestone Community Church

New Freedom Church

Casseroles of Hope

Lebanon Elks Lodge #422

Summit United Methodist Church

Crossroads Church Mason

TRY IT YOU'LL LIKE IT **HOST ORGANIZATIONS**

Saint Vincent de Paul - St Francis de Sales

- St. Susanna
- St. Augustine
- Good Shepherd

Notre Dame Club

Lebanon High School - Cooking Class

Sonrise Landing

Scout Troop 170 - Heritage Presbyterian Church

Girl Scout Troop - St. Susanna

Gathering Church

The Dillenburger Family

The Kettler Family

Jennifer Keezer and Friends

If you have questions on how to become a host or support congregation, business or organization, do not hesitate to contact Linda Rabolt at (513) 934-5250



11/4/2024 10:05:01 AM 2024 December Newsletter.indd 8

1. How long have you been a board member of FPWC?

I joined the board in the Spring/Summer of 2023.

2. What do you enjoy most about being a board member?

I very much enjoy using my talents to help an organization that makes a difference in our community. I also like working with my fellow board members helping FPWC make that difference.

3. Why did you join the FPWC Board?

I had been around FPWC for several years prior to joining the board, providing technical help, and assisting with the startup of the new Campus. I have also been a donor for many years through work programs and charitable giving. Giving my time and financial resources directly to the community in which I live is important to me. I have always felt that FPWC provided a great community service and when I was asked to join the board after recently retiring it was an easy decision.

4. What is your current occupation?

I am a recent retiree of Cincinnati Bell/Altafiber. Prior to

that I worked at LexisNexis/Reed Elsevier for over 24 years. My entire career focus has been in Computer/Network and Cyber Security.

5. What do you love most about FPWC? I love the dedication the staff has in executing the mission of FPWC day in and day out. It is a talented team.

6. What is a fun fact that not many people know about you?

I like disassembling, rebuilding, and recycling computers. I know its weird, but I enjoy it. I also like playing Pickleball and kayaking on lakes.



Board Spotlight

getting to know Leo Cronin

Volunteer Spotlight

getting to know
Town & Country
Garden Club



1. What do you usually do to volunteer for FPWC? Which is your favorite?

As members of the Lebanon Town and Country Garden Club, some of us have made lap quilts for the residents, helped make dinner, spent the night at the Campus, and now help with the raised beds. Favorites include planting and care of the flowers and vegetables in the raised beds. It's been exciting to see and hear about the interest the residents have in this project. They have been able to enjoy the flowers as well as the produce from the gardens.

2. How did you first get involved in FPWC? One of us learned about FPWC when she had two friends go through the program and realized how valuable a resource this is. Another stayed the night with her church. The rest of us responded to a request from FPWC to adopt a garden. We ultimately adopted eleven!

3. What is your "why" for volunteering? One member states: "I'm trying to be like Jesus! That's a song for our children at my church but it's good advice for all." Another says she likes volunteering where she can make a difference. Hopefully, we are teaching a skill to the residents they can take into their new future.

4. What is a memorable moment about your work with us?

One member had the privilege to be joined by one of the teenage residents who helped fill the raised beds with topsoil. Another says the overnight was a tender evening, as she got to see the concern the residents had, and played with the children. We all were thrilled when the residents began harvesting the vegetables.

5. What would you tell new members/volunteers about volunteering for FPWC? We just scratched the surface. There is a whole garden yet to be built and every little thing one might do is greatly appreciated. It is as fulfilling to the volunteer as it is to the resident.

6. Tell us a fun fact about yourself! Here are comments from some of us:

- I love to learn new things. Never become proficient before I move onto something else - Jack of all trades.
- I am a part-time farmer with sheep, rescued alpacas, and a donkey named Belle.
- I love to learn! I'm studying about medicinal uses of plants.

2024 December Newsletter.indd 9 11/4/2024 10:05:02 AM



Christmas Wish List



- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Cleaning Supplies:
 - Lysol/Clorox Wipes
 - Disinfectant Spray
 - Floor Cleaner
 - Cleaning Buckets
 - Brooms
 - Dustpans
 - Bathroom Cleaner
 - Kitchen Cleaner
 - Toilet Bowl Cleaner
 - Sponges/Magic Eraser/etc...
- · Baby Items:
 - Diapers (Newborn/4/5/6)
 - Wipes
 - Infant & Children's Tylenol/ Advil/Motrin
- Children's 3-in-1 Body Wash
- Children's Toothpaste
- Women's/Men's Deodorant
- Men's/Women's Shaving CreamAdult Tylenol/Advil/Motrin
- 18-24 Capsule Bottles

- Garbage Bags:
 - 4 Gallon
 - 13 Gallon
 - 33 Gallon
- Dishwasher Pods (Cascade Platinum)
- Pump Hand Soap
- Adult Shampoo
- Adult Hair Conditioner
- Adult Body Wash (Men/Women)
- Hair Ties/Brushes/Combs
- Gift Cards:
 - Walmart/Kroger/Aldi/Target/ Speedway
- Food Cards:
 - Burger King/McDonald's/Taco Bell/Arby's/KFC/etc.
- Utensil Set (Family of 4)
- Pot/Pan Sets (\$25 at Dollar General)
- Vacuums
- Shower Curtains
- Shower Liners
- Toasters
- Coffee Makers (no Keurig)
- Toasters

Monetary donations are also appreciated for special needs.

Scan QR code for online donation information or visit familypromisewarren.org







MAIL CHECKS TO:

FPWC 600 Cincinnati Ave. Lebanon, OH 45036

Your in-kind donation is very important to us! Please call ahead when dropping off. 513.934.5250

COOHIO NEWS CLIPS

Full-time workers must earn more than \$20 per hour to afford a two-bedroom apartment, according to a new report from the National Low Income Housing Coalition and the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio. That's more than \$40,000 a year. And, there's a large gap between renters' income and the cost of rent, according to the report... "Wages for Ohio's most common jobs have increased significantly since the pandemic," Ohio Coalition Executive Director Amy Riegel said in a media release. "Employers are trying to keep pace with inflation, but the skyrocketing cost of rent has effectively erased these wage gains, putting affordable homes out of reach for a large swath of Ohio's workforce."



We were so excited to host Robin Burrow and show her around FPWC! We are a recipient of the Do Good grant from The Joe Burrow Foundation which concentrates on projects that involve child mental health and food insecurity which fits perfectly with our storybook garden path! Many thanks to the Burrow Foundation for their support.



Families gather to pick the ripe vegetables from the Town & Country Garden Club's planter boxes



ATRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

MANY EXCITING THINGS HAVE HAPPENED IN 2024!

Together we can change the lives of families experiencing homelessness. Join us to create new memories. Help us make 2025 our best year yet! For more information on how to get involved call us at 513.934.5250



AUGUST 23RD

Volunteers from USI Insurance load the truck full of furniture for a family moving into their new home



CHRISTMAS

Santa would like to thank all the elves who have volunteered to show FPWC and our families the true Christmas spirit and by showering them with gifts! 

SEPTEMBER 2ND

Storytime is always a good idea



THANKSGIVING

FPWC would like to thank our Thanksgiving Supporters:

Lebanon Presbyterian Church Well of Grace Church Andy McMahon State Farm Farmers Bureau







OCTOBER 2ND

Pumpkin painting was a favorite craft for some of our families







OCTOBER 10TH

Volunteers teach the families how to play cornhole. (the competition was fierce)





Did you know as of September 2024 FPWC shelter program assisted:

- 23 families
- 73 individuals
- 43 children
- 25 children6 years old & under
- 2,017 referrals*

*every referral was assisted appropriately and may not have required the shelter program to achieve success.

FPWC HAS A NEW
FACEBOOK PAGE!
PLEASE HEAD ON OVER
AND GIVE US A LIKE

facebook.com/FPWCOHIO

OR TYPE FPWCOHIO
IN THE FACEBOOK
SEARCH BAR

Thank you to all the many volunteers at our host and support churches, clubs, and organizations 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. For more information about FPWC go to: www.familypromisewarren.org.