Family Promise of Warren County Newsletter

President's Page

For the last almost 30 years, David Yelton has been an active volunteer of Family Promise of Warren County. When the call came from Pastor Bill Cain of Lebanon Presbyterian Church back in the mid 90's asking the community how they can help those who are in the crisis of homelessness, David made himself available as

did so many from congregations throughout Warren County.

Family

of Warren Count

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His dedication did not stop there. Once the team decided upon association with the National Interfaith Hospitality Network, David became the first Treasurer as part of the original Board of Directors. David

has remained a wise, dependable, and prayerful member of the Board of Directors for more than 25 years, holding many positions on the Board as well as volunteering his time at Lebanon United Methodist Church. He loved spending time with the families, and I think that his heart broke a little with each child that experienced homelessness. And with that, there

by Linda Rabolt Executive Director

was no one more joyful than David when a family achieved housing and self-sufficiency. I dare say the success of Family Promise of Warren County is largely due to David's strong faith and wise guidance. We have indeed been very blessed to have David at the helm.

David is experiencing a decline in his health due to a genetic

neuromuscular disease which will prevent him from continuing as a volunteer for Family Promise of Warren County. While his absence will be greatly missed, be assured that the status of Family Promise of Warren County remains strong, and the current Board of Directors also remain dedicated to the mission "To assist families experiencing homelessness

in Warren County, Ohio, to achieve sustainable independence through community-based response."

I know that David would ask for your continued prayerful support of Family Promise of Warren County and all the families that we are blessed to serve. And I ask your prayerful support of David and his family as they navigate this health challenge. 600 Cincinnati Ave. Lebanon, OH 45036 www.familypromisewarren.org 513.934.5250 facebook.com/IHNWC

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

New Life • *encouragement* Family

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Linda's Letter

by Linda Rabolt FPWC Executive Director



One of the books that my 3-year-old grandson, Tristan, and I love to read is Dr. Suess' Marvin K. Mooney. In it there is a page that reads (and I know it by heart!), *"The time has come, the time is now, to GO, GO, I don't care how."* And then the book goes into all of the fun ways to GO, GO, GO. I hope that you have the chance to enjoy this book with a little one in your life, I certainly encourage you to do so.

Well, at Family Promise of Warren County the time has come. After nearly two years of planning, the new FPWC Campus is ready!

The staff is in the process of the finishing touches of packing. The move will be before the end of 2023 and in early 2024 families in Warren County who are in the crisis of homelessness will begin to move into our new home and find the support and success that they work towards so as to never be homeless again.

Our family rooms have been lovingly renovated with insights into how they would want their loved one in this situation to live. To all those who have renovated family rooms, I cannot thank you enough. But the thanks does not end here...

Folks like the Scholl Family

Foundation supplied furniture to make our Gathering Room a room of warmth and love. The Lebanon United Methodist team with the support of the McGinty Family renovated the nursery, designed a playroom for our kiddos and created a computer room where adults will look for employment, work on GED and locate housing. This room will also be a place where school age children can successfully do their homework with access to the internet.

Our kitchen is newly remodeled with up to date appliances. This could not have been done without the funding through Miami Valley Gaming and the work and time from Doyle Key and Marvin Hartsfield to put in place an island as well as meal seating. This indeed will be a place where families and volunteers alike can enjoy fellowship while creating meals and memories.

And it doesn't stop there. IKEA provided a training kitchen, training room and dignified waiting space for families. Families will participate in classes like Parenting, Landlord/Tenant, Financial Security and where children can learn American Sign Language. This area will also provide a space where

Linda's Letter cont. on next page...

Many thanks to the ladies of the St. Mary Small Church community who made welcome bags for the guests of Family Promise! These bags will be presented to each family on their first day of shelter. This act of kindness will show our hospitality and "welcome" them to the beginning of their journey to housing and self sufficiency!



Thank you to Warren County Career Centers Project Search! This lovely group of young people helped organize the dish room at Heaven & Hearth so that our families could easily decide what to choose!



NOW HIRING!

Apply & join our team!

FamilyPromise

If you know of someone who may be interested in working with families who are in the crisis of homelessness and have passion and heart for others, please ask them to send a cover letter and resume to: Linda Rabolt - ED, Family Promise of Warren County, 600 Cincinnati Ave, Lebanon, Ohio 45036. Thank you in advance for your kind and prayerful assistance.

Scan QR Codes for job descriptions or visit www.familypromisewarren.org

CASE MANAGER



DRIVER



families can participate in Body, Mind, Spirit time so as to allay their fears and learn to deal with their feelings in a positive way.

Our new playground known as Avery's Place will be installed in late winter/early spring and will provide a fun and safe place for families to enjoy each other and for children to be children; not worrying about adult problems as to where they will sleep, what they will eat and if they can get to school. We are so grateful to the Shamus Family and for others who funded this important place.

The Storybook Garden Path, under the direction of Tom Ludeke and with the help of the OSU Master Gardeners will soon have Ohio-based vegetation and trees planted. We look forward to the story book pedestals to be installed and a path in which the families and volunteers can enjoy reading as well as the world around them. We are so grateful for those who provided funds in memory of Marianne Duerre where at this Garden Path, there will be a place to sit, read, and enjoy birds of all kinds...

And, we are so honored to be the recipient of funds from the Love Like JJ organization that has provided a Gaga pit, outdoor seating, a giving library and toy storage for our families to enjoyed. We appreciate their kind support in renovating the Family ADA room for families that join us with mobility issues.

This new facility will indeed provide an oasis for those in our community who face the crisis of homelessness. With the support of the staff, those who are homeless will realize their worth, their abilities and see success in their future. They will have the tools to NEVER be homeless again. They will have been treated with love and comfort by caring volunteers who adhere to what the Bible has taught us - "love one another".

Yes, the time has come, the time is now...we will indeed GO, GO, GO with new leadership, new volunteers and new goals.

As we enter this season of giving, we thank each of you who have supported Family Promise of Warren County throughout the year and for our last 25 years. It is because of you and your support that we provide for those who are homeless in a meaningful and, I dare say, in a powerful way.

Please know that your support this holiday season is always appreciated! If you would like to dedicate your donation to paying down our mortgage please indicate as such.

We have always been and will continue to be good stewards of all funds. Thank you so much AND from the Board of Directors, Staff and myself we wish you all the blessings that this holiday season brings.



In Action

Stories of Promise

by Ashley Graduated Client



My family consists of three kids, my boyfriend, his daughter and me. We met after my husband and I split up. I had been on a downward slope of losing everything until I met Will. Due to the split with my ex, my kids and I had nowhere to go. We ended up staying at my boyfriends mom's temporarily.

Unfortunately, the environment was not good for my family so we made the decision to leave. We were going to be homeless. I reached out to everyone I knew but no one could help us.

We had literally lost all hope until I finally found Family Promise of Warren County. They are wonders; they helped us get out of our downward slope of a life that didn't seem to be going anywhere. They provided us shelter until we got a place of our own. They even assisted us financially to be able to move in.

The case workers there are amazing! I have never met people so caring to help people in our position. The church volunteers fed us and made us feel like family. They gave us the hope we needed in our life to keep going.

I couldn't express the gratitude in my heart that I have for everyone who helped us get back on our feet. I am not very good at these things, or telling our story but I hope whoever reads this gets the hope and courage to reach out for help, because we all need it. There really are people out there who care and are willing and wanting to help.

> -Thank You! Ashley





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Heritage at Miami Bluffs is a Men's Club dedicated to fellowship and community. Together we can make a difference! We thank HMB Men's Club for their support of our Storybook Garden Path and Playground!

Are you receiving our E-Newsletter?

This newsletter keeps you up to date on the most recent improvements to our new building! To sign up for this, visit our web-page at www.familypromisewarren. org/fpwccampus or send your email to jesse@ihnwc.org.

Family Promise of Warren County is honored to have received the "Excellence in Community Service" award from the Turtle Creek Chapter of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution. This award recognizes the work that our agency as a whole does for the families that we are blessed to serve.



Vision:

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

Board of Directors

David Yelton - President Tom Ludeke - Vice President Monica Widdig - Treasurer Rev. Mary Joseph - Host Recruitment Jennifer Fry - Acting Secretary Jennifer Goepper - Member Carol Spicer - Personnel Chair Rev. Jackie Matisse - Member Leo Cronin - Member Doyle & JoAnn Key - Members Michael Hoelscher - Member Joey Mansfield - Member Linda Rabolt - Executive Director

FPWC Staff

Nichole Richardson - Program Manager/Case Manager Jesse Bischoff - Office Manager/ Marketing Andrew Rabolt - Statistics, HCRP Doug Gilham - HCRP (A-M) Danielle August - HCRP (N-Z) Linda Rabolt - Executive Director

Mission:

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

FPWC Campus Update



The new Family Promise of Warren County shelter home is nearly finished!! As I write this, the final inspections are due to be completed this week. If they pass, then Warren County will assign the Certificate of Occupancy. This is an exciting time for certain!

What are the next steps? Well, the first step is for the staff to move in. This will mean that the office space needs to be cleaned after years-long renovation. The state-of-the-art security system will need to be fully functional. The phones will need to be transferred. The the staff will finish boxing up our current offices and get moved to our new home.

All of this we hope will occur before the end of 2023. What a great way to begin the new year!!... But then what happens??

Well, we will need to train all our volunteers before they begin to provide meals, fellowship and overnight support at the new facility. This very important step will begin in January. All volunteers will learn every aspect of our new surroundings. The meal volunteers will learn about our new kitchen; how to work the appliances, where to store the food and where the dinnerware is located.

The fellowship volunteers will learn where to locate supplies, playroom rules and all about our playground. The overnight volunteers will learn about their roles and have the opportunity to see their sleeping room, which is far more than what they were accustomed to -amattress on the floor! All volunteers will learn the health and safety aspects of the

by Linda Rabolt FPWC Executive Director

new building with the primary goal of their comfort as they provide the love and hospitality for which they are famous.

Training will be in waves and will occur approximately 4 weeks prior to your hosting week. We would very much like to train at least your key volunteer staff and if possible,

all the volunteers for the upcoming host week. We are so excited to welcome our families to this place that will allow both families and volunteers to be relational once again. We are excited to share this building that will bring dignity to our families as well as a chance to find housing success and self-sufficiency. And mostly, we are excited to see the smiles on the faces of the children – which we have all dearly missed.

The future is bright, and the next chapter is about to begin. Thank you for your patience as we endeavor to provide the safest and most up to date facility for all.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to share my sincere thanks. First to the Lebanon Presbyterian Church community. For 25 years, you have provided our current offices and day center. We have many beautiful memories that were formed in our Warren Street Day Center and our Cherry Street offices. LPC is in large part the reason for our success, and we are ever grateful.

I also want to thank our dear volunteers. If you painted, laid the flooring, did landscaping or as our Board members Todd Rockstroh and Tom Ludeke did, spent countless hours planning and working, please know that without this help, none of our wishes and dreams would have become this reality. Because of you, families now will have a safe and dignified place to stay, make memories and become housed and successful.

Host Recruitment & Retention

by Jennifer Fry & Mary Joseph *Co-Chairs*



As we approach the holiday season, I am reminded of the ways this time of the year is celebrated. It brings so many things with it – family and friends gathering, great food, holiday lights and other festivities, that we all become a part of something larger than our day to day life.

For Family Promise of Warren County, this is also a very busy time of the year. Our new campus is almost ready for the staff and families to move in. We have waited patiently for everything to be "ready." There is so much to do, as each of us who are involved in this ministry say to ourselves, and to others. How will we manage our time, our work, the activities we want to be a part of?

As the busyness of our lives continues, especially now, there is this question that occurs to me, and what more can we do to care for those who are facing homelessness? What will the families do to celebrate the season? The answer is this -- our wonderful volunteers from churches, businesses, civic groups and other organizations have met the families' needs all year long. And hopefully, they will continue to do so by providing meals, donating some craft items, and writing encouraging notes, all of which will be delivered each day to each family. In addition, there are other individuals who make the holiday a festive time for each of our guests in multiple ways. And the dedication to all this good work continues!

And so, on behalf of the Host Recruitment & Retention Team, we wish to thank all of you who have participated during this past year. Your time, support and especially your prayers for each family have been exceptional. It takes a huge cloud of witnesses to bring hope, peace, love and joy into the lives of each family who seeks our assistance, our caring spirits, and our hospitality! Our gratitude continues to be offered to each one of you who have contributed to it all!

25th Anniversary Gala & Fundraiser

by JoAnn & Doyle Key Board Members

On October 1st, Family Promise of Warren County held a 25th Anniversary Gala & Fundraising event at Manor House in Mason, OH. The 300 attendees enjoyed cocktail hour, dinner, auctions, a former Family Promise resident as guest speaker, and fellowship. The evening was commemorated in photos by Chris Luessen providing attendees with individual and group photos.

The evening began with Linda Rabolt, Executive Director, thanking the attendees and giving a brief history of Family Promise. A very important part of the evening was to honor and celebrate those at the gala who have been volunteering as part of our network of Churches in Warren County. Nelson Kennedy, this year's Park Gast Award recipient, shared with Linda that it was the best night of his life.

Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Patrick's, Lebanon Presbyterian, Heritage Presbyterian, Sycamore, Lebanon United Methodist, and St. Susanna were honored at the Gala. These Churches have been assisting Family Promise by providing housing, food and other services to homeless families for the past 25 years. Tom Ludeke, Board Vice President, Todd Rockstroh, past Board member, and Doug Pendery all were awarded the Golden Hammer Award for their countless hours of managing and working on the renovation of the new campus.

Larry Hansgen, the Voice of the Dayton Flyers and WHIO radio host, volunteered his time as emcee of the event and as auctioneer for the LIVE and Online Auctions. Eighty-eight donated auction items included a week in Charleston, SC, Bengals tickets, an autographed football from the Joe Burrow Foundation, Reds tickets, FC Cincinnati tickets, golf at premier area courses, 4 hotel stays across the country, Kings Island & Cincinnati Zoo passes, many themed baskets, numerous restaurant gift cards and more!

Through the generosity of these donations, our sponsors, attendees and online bidders, we were able to raise \$45,000! We thank you for your continued support and we hope you will join us next year on October 6, 2024 at Manor House!

In Action

Host & Support Organizations

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 Community 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 Our Lady of Sorrows Monroe United Methodist **One Community Church** The River Church First Church of God North Cincinnati Community Church Springboro First United Methodist **Covenant Presbyterian Church** Springboro United Church of Christ **Pilgrim South** Red Lion United Methodist Church Living Water Lutheran Church **Cobblestone Community Church New Freedom Church** King of Kings Lutheran Church **Casseroles of Hope** Elks Lodge #422

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

I would like to give a big - no HUGE! - thank you for all the meals that were provided last week. My children did not waste a single drop! They were delicious! Thank you so much for your hard work and for your love for our family! -The "W" family

Coordinator Corner



At the 25th Anniversary Gala held on October 1, 2023, I had the honor of presenting the Park Gast Award for Humble and Faithful Service to Nelson Kennedy from the Heritage Presbyterian Church. Nelson demonstrates the values of Park Gast, an original member of the community group that started the then Interfaith Hospitality Network and continued as a valued volunteer for years to come. Those values are Humble, Faithful, Hard Working, Capable, Loyal to the Mission and Cheerful Heart.

Nelson has been a supporter of Family Promise for many years. First as a volunteer and then later as the Host Coordinator for his church volunteers as well as 5 other support congregations. When FPWC had to change our method of operation when COVID began, Nelson was the first person to call and ask what he and Heritage Presbyterian Church could do. With his efforts, Family Promise of Warren County had the beginnings of a COVID pantry which helped not only our guests but those in the community who were challenged at that time.

In this article, it is important to recognize EVERY coordinator and

by Linda Rabolt Executive Director

volunteer from all of our host and support congregations that "humbly" and "faithfully" provide food, support and hospitality to families that are in the crisis of homelessness. It is important to recognize that with their "hard work" and in their "capable" hands, families in the shelter are well fed, and feel the support and love that is provided.

Each volunteer is "loyal to the mission" for many reasons. Some have had similar experiences in their lives or know of someone in their circle that has. For some it is their faith and for others it is their heart. The loyalty shown is in everything that they do.

And lastly, and most importantly, your "cheerful hearts". Yes, your cheerful hearts make for cheerful experiences for all. Our families smile and thrive due to your cheerful hearts, your words of encouragement and all that you do to make their situation a little bit better. Yes, Nelson Kennedy embodies the values of the Park Gast Award, yet he would be the first one to say, that he is indeed one of the many volunteers that Family Promise of Warren County is blessed to work with.

This holiday season and always, we THANK YOU for your kind service and giving hearts. You do indeed make a difference and we look forward to working with you in 2024!



1. How long have you been a member of the staff of FPWC? What is your position? Tell us a little about what you do and your educational background.

I was hired on at FPWC in 2019 originally as the Office Manager. Since then I have grown to take on several positions including Warehouse Manager and Marketing Manager. I graduated from Pensacola Christian College in May of 2019 with a communications degree.

2. What do you enjoy most about being on the FPWC staff?

The relationships are my favorite. In the midst of our busy schedules we always find time to check in with each other and take our minds off of the stress.

3. What do you love most about your current position?

I absolutly love crafting the marketing materials used for our organization. It really allows me to not only be creative, but grow my professional capabilities. I also enjoy spending time overseeing our volunteers. Building those relationships allows me to take a break from sitting at a desk and gets me active!

4. Tell us a little about your family.

I was born the middle child of 3 and lived in Lebanon for twenty-one years. I married my wonderful husband in October of 2021 and bought a house in Miamisburg. We welcomed our son into our family in September of 2022. We love being at home with our two dogs and three cats. It certainly keeps us on our toes!

5. What's something about you (a fun fact) that not many people know? I used to work at Walt Disney World as a Starbucks barrista in Animal Kingdom and my favorite Disney princess is Rupunzel!



Volunteer Spotlight

getting to know Michael Knox

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

I help with organizing the toy room, the nursery, and the new kitchen items families receive. I also help with yard work, cleaning and pretty much anything Linda asks! My favorite is the toy room because I know how much happiness these toys/gifts will bring to families.

2. How did you first get involved in FPWC?

I was in a LEGO league and we had to do a community project. Our project was turning an old building into a homeless shelter. We researched and interviewed the City Manager about the homeless population in Lebanon and I realized I could help. Even though our project did not become a reality, I asked my mom to contact FPWC so I could help make a difference.

3. What is your "why" for volunteering? I want to help make a difference in my community. We are all just living on this Earth so why not help each other out.

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

My memorable moment is Linda's reaction after I complete a task. She is always so appreciative and says no task is small.

5. What would you tell new members/ volunteers about volunteering for FPWC? It's a humbling experience and makes you appreciate what you have, the people in your life and those that help you. This is a way for me to help those that need it.

6. Tell us a fun fact about yourself! I like to travel and try new experiences. My favorite NFL team is the Green Bay Packers. I just went to my first NFL game to see the Packers at Lambeau Field. Go Pack Go!



Christmas Wish List

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Cleaning Supplies:
 - Lysol/Clorox Wipes
 - Disinfectant Spray
 - Floor Cleaner
 - Cleaning Buckets
 - O'Cedar Easy Wring
 - Brooms
 - Bathroom Cleaner
 - Kitchen Cleaner
 - Toilet Bowl Cleaner
 - Glass Cleaner
 - Sponges/Magic Eraser/ etc...
 - Baby Items:
 - Diapers (Newborn/4/5/6)
 - Wipes
 - Shampoo
 - Wash
 - Infant & Children's Tylenol/Advil/Motrin
- Boys/Girls Underware (Sizes 2-12)

Monetary donations are also appreciated for special needs.

Scan QR code for PayPal information or visit familypromisewarren.org

MAIL CHECKS TO:

FPWC 600 Cincinnati Ave. Lebanon, OH 45036

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

- Adult Tylenol/Advil/Motrin
- Garbage Bags:
 - 13 Gallon
 - 33 Gallon
- Women's/Men's Deodorant
- Utensil Set (Family of 4)
- Pot/Pan Sets (*\$19.99 at Dollar Tree*)
- Vacuums
- Dish Soap
- Disinfectant Pump Soap
- Adult Hair Conditioner
- Adult Body Wash
- Hair Ties/Brushes/Combs
- Children Coloring Books
- Gift Cards:
 - Walmart/Kroger/Aldi/ Target/Speedway
 - Food Cards:
 - Burger King/McDonald's/ Taco Bell/Arby's/KFC/ etc...



Try It, You'll Like It Initiative

Ok, I know that I am dating myself here, but let's go with it...for now. In 1972, Alka Seltzer put out a commercial about a man in a restaurant whose waiter encouraged him to taste an entree... "Try It, You'll Like It" he said...The customer tried it and with the help of Alka Seltzer he liked it!

Family Promise of Warren County is sharing our new initiative to encourage congregations, business, organizations, clubs and the like to volunteer their time at our new facility by providing the evening meal, fellowship with our families and staying overnight.

How will "Try it, You'll Like It" work? Well, say your bowling team wants to spend time with our families in shelter but is a little concerned about how this will work and cannot commit to a week. A member of the team will call the office and we will hook you up with one of our seasoned Ambassadors. You will choose a night that is already connected to our Casseroles of Hope week; meaning you don't even have to supply the evening meal, just the sides and desserts. This is great for folks who work during the day.

The Ambassador will be in touch with you a couple of weeks before your hosting night. They will share a little about the families that you will serve and will be with you, side by side, for the evening that you serve to provide support not only in the area of meals, but also with time with the families. This can be a craft, playing on the playground, or in the play room or just spending time chatting.

The Ambassador will also be support as two of your team spend overnight in a fully equipped bedroom with all the amenities. If by chance a family knocks on the door for Tylenol for a sick child, you would supply that and go back to sleep. In the morning, you have a private bath to shower and get on with your day.

"Try It, You'll Like It" provides new volunteers with all the information and support to make their first volunteer experience with our families a success for all. I do believe that you will like it enough that you will want to come back again and again.

If you have any questions or would like to participate in a "Try It, You'll Like It" night, please contact Linda Rabolt at linda@ihnwc.org or by phone at 513-934-5250. I assure you that you will have memories for a lifetime! In Action

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Family Promise

Thank YOU for making 2023 such a memorable year!

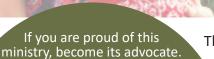
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Family Promise

Gold Transparency 2023

Candid.



If you are concerned for its' future, share its message.

If its' values resonate deep within you, give it a measure of your devotion.

Family Promise cannot survive without your faith, your confidence, your enthusiasm, your generosity. Its' destiny, the larger hope, rests in your hands. 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. For more information about FPWC go to www.familypromisewarren.org.

United Wav

United Way of Warren County

Did you know from Jan-Oct of 2023 FPWC shelter program assisted:

- 26 families
- 80 individuals
- 52 children
- 33 children under 6
- 2 unborn
- 1605 referrals*
- 169 families & 591 persons helped in all FPWC programs*
 *every referral was assisted appropriately

and may not have required the shelter program to achieve success.

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