



# Faith In Action

Family Promise of Warren County Newsletter

Formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network of Warren County

## President's Page

By David Yelton

I am pleased to introduce you to our new corporate name, Family Promise of Warren County. Why? What changed? In reality the only change is to the corporate name and that change was made so that our organization may continue to be supported by its affiliation with a national organization.

Our story began around 25 years ago when members of the Warren County community took note that we had residents experiencing homelessness but had no systematic support or shelter program available within the county. That group was introduced to a national organization, the Interfaith Hospitality Network, Inc. (IHN).

IHN successfully helped local communities respond as a community to the needs of homeless families with young children. A non-profit corporation, IHN of Warren County (IHNWC) was formed and became affiliated with that national organization. IHN provided counsel, support, and a roadmap on how to introduce and manage its systematic approach to helping homeless families in Warren County.

IHNWC along with IHN and its other affiliates learned early on that the IHN family shelter program was a good starting point for helping families not only obtain, but also then retain sustainable housing. For IHNWC the first additional service was providing support from an After-Shelter Case Worker who maintained contact with and provided guidance to help graduate families, encouraging them to continue working the plan they had developed while in the IHN shelter.

The After-Shelter program was followed by agreeing to take over the Lebanon Community Services' transient fund, a United Way funded program of emergency shelter using motel rooms. After that we added the Heaven & Hearth furniture ministry; the Coat Closet; Christmas in July; and the Homeless Crisis Response Program (HCRP). You will be able to read more about these programs elsewhere in this newsletter.

The fact that most affiliates were adding similar extensions of the IHN family shelter program led IHN, Inc., to see a need to expand their scope of services for affiliates to help them create these critical support systems in their communities and to see a need to broaden not only the service but also the message about what value IHN delivers to the communities they serve. It started with changing the name to Family Promise, Inc. (FP) which they believe better reflected the broad range of services provided, their vision of ending family homelessness, and a sense of commitment to families in need.

FP has been developing brand recognition around this new name for the last 10 or so years. Affiliates now have access to assistance from a number of large companies based on this branding effort. As part of this branding effort, it became apparent to FP that all affiliates should change their name to best support and leverage the branding effort.

IHNWC changed its name to FPWC so that we can remain affiliated with Family Promise, Inc. and retain the support they have provided since our inception some 22 years ago. Thank you for your continued interest in and support for the IHN family shelter program and all of the other programs you have helped us develop since 1998. If you want to discuss the name change, please send me an email at this address: [David@ihnwc.org](mailto:David@ihnwc.org)

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FATH · HOPE · LOVE

JUSTICE · GOD

peace · KINDNESS

HOSPITALITY

New life · encouragement

FAMILY



## Linda's Letter

By Linda Rabolt

The week of March 8, 2020 our families were being hosted by our friends at Lifehouse Church in Lebanon. Malta – which is the name of their program for IHN, was going smoothly. The families were well cared for and happy. Amy and I had several conversations about this new Coronavirus – heck at that time, I could not even get the name right half of the time! I was starting to have concerns. Concerns for my volunteers, the families that we are blessed to serve and my staff. When the week concluded, safely I might add, I made the decision that we would not go back to our “normal” operations until the virus lifted. We moved our families to a local hotel to be socially distant (a new term at that time). The staff was moved to work from home. We kept just 2 people at the day center and learned how to serve in the new normal.

Our host and support congregations were amazing. I spoke with them and asked if they would be willing to continue to serve by providing meals, support in the way of items for the kiddos and the parents. All, yes, every one of our host and support congregations without a blink of an eye, changed their normal operations. Each week to this day, volunteers provide breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, toys for the children and notes of encouragement or other items for the parents. For this I am so very, very awed, and grateful.

Early on, Nelson Kennedy, the coordinator of Heritage Presbyterian Church, called me asking what he and the church could do. He shared support and love for our families and our staff. I will be honest, he caught me off guard and through my tears, I shared our need for pop top cans, food cards and I wondered how we would be able to pay for these much-needed rooms. Low and behold, days later the first of several donations of this sort, as well as monetary donations to cover the hotels came in. I will never forget his kindness in those early days.

And Nelson was the first of many. Handmade masks and other donations came in from our friends at Sycamore Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist of Springboro, the Warren County Quilters as well as others. Many individuals knitted and crocheted hats and scarfs. Others made hand made blankets. Supplies came pouring in. Lysol wipes and spray – so needed and hard to find – showed up at our door. Cases of toilet paper – a HUGE commodity in the early days arrived and so much more. And monetary gifts to assist to pay for our families in the motel. We were indeed blessed...

*Linda's Letter cont. on next page*

## Vision:

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

## Dear Church

“I just wanted to say thank you from the bottom of my heart. Y'all are angels for all that you've done. I know it has only been two short weeks but all the meals and food you've given us have been a true blessing. I wish I could give y'all more to show my thanks, but I figured since we can't visit, I'd write a letter. Again, Thank you!”

-Taylor (mother of 2)

## Mission:

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

“Our goal is to support our community with programs of accountability and responsibility...”



## Board of Directors

David Yelton – President  
 Tom Ludeke – Vice President  
 Rev. Mary Joseph – Host Recruitment  
 Todd Rockstroh – Facilities Chair  
 Paul Dillenburger - Member  
 Jennifer Goepper– Member  
 Rev. Jackie Matisse– Member  
 Linda Rabolt – Executive Director

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 Carol Spicer – Personnel Chair

## FPWC Staff

Nichole Richardson – Case Manager  
 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

We learned to make technology work to assure that our families were well taken care of – not an easy task for certain. The staff reinvented themselves as we endeavored to provide the best care for all those at risk and who were homeless. And they did just that while they battled illness and need within their own families at the time. I am so proud of this staff.

The Run4Home 5K was virtual and a success! Through Christmas in July, Santa, and elf Jennifer Keezer, took our bus from home to home and delivered much needed school supplies, clothing and gift cards. Our November Time for Change collected much needed change for the Christmas in July program. And sponsors from families, to school children to business provided a wonderful Christmas for our families who “graduated” from shelter in 2020.

In all, 2020, while it provided challenges, was a success!

Now as we enter 2021, we share more good news. We continue to provide for our families while they live in the hotel and continue to see successes. Success with employment and with housing. Those who have furniture items and household goods have found a way to deliver them to us at Heaven and Hearth and therefore providing for our families to have their needs met when they move to their new homes. Our Coats for a Cause program has provided each family, as well as every person who comes to our door, with much-needed coats, hats, gloves, and scarves. And our Homeless Crisis Response Program assists individuals and families affected by COVID with dollars for homeless prevention so that they do not lose their homes during this pandemic.

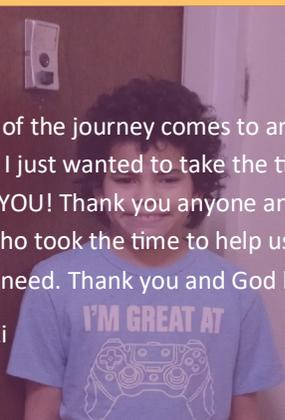
And, to better tell our story, we are changing our name to Family Promise of Warren County. This name change will better identify us with Family Promise National of whom we have been a part of for the last 22 years. It will give us an opportunity to share not only how our key program, IHN – the shelter program—positively affects the Warren County community, but how our other programs make a HUGE difference to those in need.

**We have not changed.** Our goal to support our community with programs of accountability and responsibility is still the same. And our promise to assist those at risk and homeless remains steadfast. Many thanks to each of you for being steadfast with us as we take this next step in touching the lives of those who need us the most.

Matthew 25:35 “For I was hungry, and you fed me; I was thirsty, and you gave me water. I was a stranger and you invited me into your home...”

As this part of the journey comes to an end, my son and I just wanted to take the time to say THANK YOU! Thank you anyone and everyone who took the time to help us in our time of need. Thank you and God bless!

Rachael & Zi



Karen Olson, was rushing to a business meeting when she passed a homeless woman on the street. She purchased her a sandwich. Millie accepted the sandwich but asked for something more—a chance to be heard. Karen listened and found that being homeless brought a diminished self worth and disconnect from society. Shortly after, Karen and her sons began a ministry where they provided sandwiches to the homeless in New York City.

**October 27, 1986**

The first Interfaith Hospitality Network was opened in New Jersey through a network of congregations and volunteers wishing to make a positive change to homeless families.

**September 1, 1998**

A group of community minded individuals, led by Pastor Bill Cain, of the Lebanon Presbyterian Church founded the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Warren County. The first guest, Robin, who was 9 months pregnant joined us on October 1, 1998. Since then IHNWC has served more than 2200 individuals, and more than 800 families.

**2003**

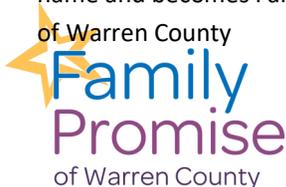
The Interfaith Hospitality Network became Family Promise. The name change reflects the broad range of promise and vision to end homelessness. The name refers to a promise in the sense of a commitment which communities make to families in need. Also the promise, the potential inherent in every family in need.

**2016**

The 200th affiliate was formed in Shenandoah County, VA. Karen Olson retired and appointed Claas Ehlers as the President.

**April 2021**

IHNWC adopts the Family Promise name and becomes Family Promise



**1988**

The National Interfaith Hospitality Network was formed.

**1992**

The Interfaith Hospitality Network was awarded one of the twenty one Points of Light by President and Barbara Bush. The award recognized how neighbors can help one another.

**2004**

The 100th affiliate was formed in Athens Georgia

**2013**

Family Promise celebrated 25 years of changing lives. They also achieved a 4 star Charity Navigator rating.

**2019**

Family Promise adopts the strategic plan to change the future for 1 million children by 2030. The National network serves 125,000 persons per year with 200,000 volunteers.

If you have any additional questions about Family Promise please check out their web page at [familypromise.org](http://familypromise.org).

**Family Promise Story**

“A simple act of kindness set in motion a national movement to end homelessness...”



We are proud of our partnership with JBM Packaging! Throughout the year, JBM and their associates sponsor many events to include a giving garden, raffles, and other fun things with the proceeds coming to FPWC. JBM is also very generous with our Christmas in July program. We are grateful to our JBM family for their generosity this Christmas.

“Your kindness in our time of need is appreciated and will never be forgotten. We thank you and will be sure to pay this forward when possible. You have lightened the heavy burden on our family.”

-With love, David (father of 2)

“Thank you guys so much for the games and coloring books for the boys. You have no idea how much that saved my life and sanity. I appreciate you guys more than you know!”

-Brianna (mother of 2)

“I am so grateful for people like you in the world who carry compassion for those in need. Thank you so much for all you do and may you be blessed abundantly for your giving spirit. Sending you love...”

-Shannon (mother of 2)

## 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 currently 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 2020, Rapid Re-housing housed a total of 23 households– 12 families/11 individuals to include 24 adults and 15 children. 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 48 households– 32 families/16 individual to include 84 adults and 60 children.

### 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 daycenter 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.

## Where are they now??

Danielle and her daughters Taylor, age 15 and Paige, age 11 joined the Interfaith Hospitality



Network shelter program on July 4, 2010. They had been living with Danielle's sister and family when she and her sister both lost their jobs. When this happened, they could not pay the rent. With no other family in the area, they had no other options. Before coming into shelter, they even stayed in the park for a night. They had hit bottom.

In all, the family stayed at IHN for nearly 4 months. The girls continued to go to school but were embarrassed to catch the school bus in front of the building. They remember vividly catching the bus around the corner with friends to "save face." While in shelter Danielle re-enrolled in college. She spent many an afternoon at the dining room table completing her schoolwork while working alongside of her girls. Taylor and Paige remember getting haircuts at the host churches and how the volunteers went out of their way to make them feel comfortable. That summer they participated in field trips through IHN. They went to Kings Island, the Beach Waterpark, movies and enjoyed Christmas in July. The girls shared that "it was their best summer ever!"

On October 20, 2010, Danielle, Taylor, and Paige moved into a townhouse. In fact, Danielle and Taylor still live in the same house. Their landlord will share that they are the best tenants that he has ever had! Paige is now engaged to James and looking forward to her wedding in Summer of 2022. Both girls are employed and are students at Sinclair.

Danielle became employed by the Homeless Crisis Response Program, a program of Family Promise of Warren County, in January of 2012. She understands the plight that so many of her clients are going through and has great empathy and heart for their situations. She is a treasured member of the Family Promise staff and loved for her smile, her laugh and her love of chocolate!!

We were blessed to serve Danielle and her girls at their time of need, and I am so happy that their memories are only good ones. This family took the opportunity, love and support that the IHN shelter program, the volunteers, and staff provided and with that, made a life of happiness and self-sufficiency. We are so proud of this family and all that they have accomplished!



## Host Retention

By Rev. Mary Joseph

I am the co-chair for Family Promise of Warren County's Host Recruitment and Retention Team. The Host Recruitment and Retention (HR&R) team has two areas of concentration which define its work. I've agreed to write about the Retention portion of our ministry. Our team developed a plan last summer which we called a "Thank You Initiative," with the intention and hope that this effort would assist us in strengthening our relationships with the volunteers who participate from each hosting and supporting congregation. And so the term "retention," for us, means that we wish to hold onto or retain the dedicated folks who give of their time and energy with each rotation as they care for our homeless families. During this challenging and stressful time of the COVID-19 Virus, our goal has been and still is to communicate via phone calls and emails with each congregation's volunteers after they have completed a week's rotation. We want to know how the week had gone, did the families like the meals, were the children happy with the craft items, and were there any difficulties? This endeavor has proven to be successful as each of our team members share with Linda, our Executive Director, and each other, their experiences of talking with the coordinators and volunteers from each faith community.

We have heard stories of success as some of the family members have told Linda, or Nichole, Case Manager, how much they enjoyed the meals provided by the churches. They have even asked if the recipes could be shared with them and often the cooks send the recipes without being asked. Our coordinators are also very mindful of any health concerns or allergies when preparing food. Some of them regularly write notes of encouragement to each family and send them along with the evening dinners. Those notes have been thoughtful and caring and our guests have had their spirits lifted during the stressful times they are experiencing. And sometimes we hear about things that point to what might need improvement. Such as too much or not enough food, a meal being too spicy, or the children really wanting a new book to read or another puzzle because a sibling would not share.

Our team has ultimately created an "assessment" loop between the Family Promise staff, the congregations and the HR&R committee which has turned out to be a great way to all stay involved! We will continue to be committed to the shelter piece of our work as we keep communication open with everyone involved. This is the key to sustaining our connections with all of you.

Thank you for your willingness to be an important part of the Family Promise ministry to the homeless families of Warren County. If you would like more information about Family Promise of Warren County please visit our website at [ihnwc.org](http://ihnwc.org) or contact the office at (513) 934-5250. You may also reach out to me at [revmaryjo@yahoo.com](mailto:revmaryjo@yahoo.com) or (937) 901-2798 (cell) or (937) 350-5561 (home).

"During this challenging time of the COVID-19 virus, our goal has been and still is to communicate..."

"We appreciate all the hard work y'all have done and keep doing! God is amazing for putting y'all in our lives and be such amazing blessings. Thank you!"

-Taylor (mother of 2)



"It's been a long time since we sat down to a homecooked meal. We have been living on sandwiches and fast food for a couple months now. We've been here just about 30 hours and it is already beginning to feel like home. Thank you so much."

-Love, Pam & April

## 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. Phillips Catholic Church, Living Water Lutheran Church, St. Augustine Catholic Church, St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church



## Host Recruitment

By Jennifer Fry

I am the co-chair for Family Promise of Warren County's Host Recruitment and Retention Team. As I write this, it is February 28th, and I've just closed my front door on a day when the temperature reached 60 degrees—an unusual temperature in a most unusual February. Our function sounds simple: we recruit and retain the wonderful organizations that volunteer their time and resources to support our families.

Recruiting new organizations probably sounds easy, but, in the best of times, this isn't a simple task. The recruiting cycle to bring a new organization on board during non-COVID times is 6-12+ months, sometimes longer. It's been a little more difficult during COVID for a number of reasons.

We're a year into the changes we've made to accommodate the COVID guidelines. We aren't housing our families in churches due to COVID, and we don't expect to be able to do so until early 2022 at the soonest. Rather than recruiting organizations to host our families for a week at a time, we're recruiting organizations to provide meals for families who are staying in a hotel. We also ask that they provide an activity for kids to do in the evenings: coloring books and crayons, Play Doh, modeling clay, or games—really anything that keeps them occupied in the evenings. Our focus is a little different, but the end result is the same—we are caring for those in need.

We also can't, in general, meet with potential hosting organizations in person. A phone or a video call will work, but it's often in those face to face meetings that you see us come alive as we talk about how Family Promise of Warren County has impacted our lives and how much we enjoy volunteering. Family Promise is about community, it's about connection, it's about providing families with critical support during a very difficult time in their lives.

As I reluctantly closed my front door this evening, I reflected on how blessed I am for the house I live in and the food I had for dinner. I was also reminded how Family Promise of Warren County has blessed me over and over again throughout the years I've been involved. If you are a current hosting organization, perhaps we can talk about how your scout troop, book club, Toastmasters, or other group can help. If you aren't currently part of the Family Promise Network family, we'd love to talk to you about how you can help! Please consider joining us for a question and answer Zoom call on May 4th, 2021 at 10am or 7pm. The Zoom link will be on our website and Facebook page. We hope to see you there!

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

**What do you usually do to volunteer for FPWC?**

- I sew for IHN families when they come into hospitality. My grandma taught me to sew on her treadle machine when I was a teenager. I learned the Stretch & Sew technique in the 80's. Using fabrics I have collected or were given to me, I have created 100's of tote bags, t-shirts, sweatshirts, child/adult nightshirts, baby burp pads, taggie and toddler blankets.

**How did you first get involved with FPWC?**

- I attended a concert at Lebanon Presbyterian Church, presented by choirs from participating FPWC churches. Linda Rabolt spoke between choral segments about this organization and how it returns families in Warren County to homes of their own. A young lady who was a hospitality 'graduate' sang "Ave Maria." By contacting Linda, I learned she needed cloth tote bags, and have now made them for over 10 years.

**What is your "why" for volunteering?**

- I love the concept of FPWC and the important work it accomplishes! 1 Peter 4:10 says, "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received," which is what volunteers do. Volunteering has led me in unrelated paths. I have taught English as a second language and initiated and directed vocal choirs of 25 voices or more (an Officer Wives Chorus at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO, children's choirs in GA and OH churches). I recruited and directed 14 youth (grades 7-12) for a handbell choir and have served as a Presbyterian elder, trustee, and substitute organist. I have sewed for church bazaars and have played piano for vesper services at a senior living facility and have also written and given its message.

**Do you have a memorable moment about your volunteer experience with us?**

- Since I work 'behind the scenes' from my home, I have no direct contact with FPWC families. I'm just happy to provide new clothing to families in hospitality, especially the children who have received something special like my recent Halloween sweatshirts and Christmas t-shirts.

**What would you tell new members / volunteers about volunteering for FPWC?**

- FPWC has been very successful returning families into housing following their hospitality experience. Many volunteers make this possible by providing for immediate basic needs, and most of all instilling confidence that families can succeed.

**Tell us a fun fact about yourself.**

- I retired from Virginia Power as a Senior Energy Analyst and have lived in or visited 48 of our 50 states including Alaska and Hawaii.



## Volunteer Spotlight

*Getting to Know*

*Barbara Scarboro*

*Lakeside Presbyterian Church*

## Board Spotlight

*Getting to Know*

*Jennifer Goepper*

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

- I am new to the board in 2021.

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

- I love working with people as passionate about helping families in our community as I am. I am so excited to be part of all that Family Promise has to offer and will be offering in the future. I love working with children and through Family Promise I feel like I can make a difference in the lives of Warren County Children.

**Why did you join FPWC?**

- I have been volunteering with Family Promise/IHNWC for 20 years and have recently become the head of our wonderful core Team at Sycamore Presbyterian Church. Through this involvement I became aware of all of the different aspects of FP and all of the wonderful things happening in Linda Rabolt's capable hands. I looked at joining the board as an extension of my serving families in Warren County.

**What is your current occupation?**

- My current full time job is one of wife, grandmother and hobby farm enthusiast. I formerly owned a Day Care/Preschool Center.

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

- The thing I love most about Family Promise is the involvement we have with families. Being a helping hand and loving on them while they are with us. I also am so inspired by the staff and volunteers of Family Promise. My heart swells with the love in this program.

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

- I am a native Michigander (my husband says you can take a girl out of Michigan but you can't take Michigan out of the girl). I also raise chickens in my backyard.

## Thank you so much!

“Lord knows I am simply doing what I love. We were treated so well in the program, despite the fact that we were considered homeless. Not a lot of people associate good memories to that word, but IHN made us feel so welcome that we HAD to give back somehow. There wasn’t a day that we felt we were treated poorly. I am really glad that I am able to continue doing this for others as others have done for us. It’s the least I could do for having such an awesome group take us in and care for us so deeply as they did. Thank you!”

-Tiaera (Coordinator of True Kingdom Ministries)

Many thanks to the LHS Captain’s Council of Lebanon High School for their generosity this Christmas season. Through fundraising, the Captain’s Council sponsored 3 families this Christmas season! We are proud to be associated with these giving young people! Thank you!



We are grateful to all who sponsored our families at Christmas! Your kindness brought many smiles to the faces of our children on Christmas morning!

“I have a personal thank you to Jennifer this week. You sent me the “Chicken Soup for the Soul” book. I have read many of them long ago but have not even seen one in years! I have already read a good deal of it and no surprise, I am enjoying it so very much! The stories do bless me by lifting my heart and lightening my outlook. The kindness you have all shown is so very appreciated!”

- Pam & April

## Coordinator Corner

by Jennifer Fry—First United Methodist, Springboro Ohio

First United Methodist Church in Springboro has supported Interfaith Hospitality Network almost since the beginning. At first, some of the men from our United Methodist Men’s group helped haul mattresses from church to church. We became a hosting church a few years later, and have been hosting IHN families for about 20 years.



We host 3-4 weeks out of the year, depending on the schedule of Bright Beginnings Christian Preschool, which operates in our church. In non-Covid times, our whole church is part of the mission: our youth groups do the bedroom set up in our classrooms, multiple groups take nights to provide meals and activities, and I have a very steady group of overnights who take the overnight shifts. On Sunday morning, several from our Men’s group come in and help turn the bedrooms back into classrooms for Sunday school that morning. It’s really a fantastic intergenerational ministry for our church.

We’re also blessed to have the support of several “Support Churches.” These are churches who don’t have the room, or maybe the number of volunteers, to host for a week, but still have a heart for the mission and want to make a difference. Springboro United Church of Christ, Pilgrim South United Church of Christ, Red Lion United Methodist Church, Living Water Lutheran Church, and Covenant Presbyterian Church are regular supporters of our program, providing a meal and an evening of activities.

While things have been different this last year, all our volunteers and support churches have still stepped up to make meals and deliver busy bags or other activities to help keep the children busy in the evenings after dinner and home work is done! We couldn’t do this without the ongoing support from our volunteers and support churches.

We also take the week of Christmas each year, and I couldn’t do that week without Santa Claus! He comes to visit every year a few days before Christmas and brings toys for the children. He spends time telling us about his travels and how he met Mrs. Claus! It’s always a great evening and the children are excited and happy to have new toys and games!

As I look back on my time as a Coordinator, I can honestly say there have been so many families who have changed my heart and truly made me a better person. They are all grateful folks who just need a helping hand, a listening ear, and a loving heart during a difficult and trying time in their lives. I’ve rocked babies, held toddlers, fed children, played Candyland and Chutes and Ladders, made various crafts, and chased tricycles and loved every moment of it. I’ve found myself crying with an overwhelmed mom or child who just needed a hug and permission to cry. I wouldn’t trade it for anything in the world!

If you would like to learn more about how your organization can help homeless families in Warren County, please reach out to Linda Rabolt at (513) 934-5250 for more information! We’d love to have you in the network as a support or full hosting organization!

## Wish List

See our FPWC Wish List on the next page for our items of need.

We are grateful for your continued support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 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.

## 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.

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.

## 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.

"...IHN gave me the confidence and motivation to move to a better life, and for this I am very grateful..."

## 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.

# FPWC Wish List



If you are interested in helping our families during this crisis, below is a wish list of items that are **greatly needed**.

- Cleaning supplies: Lysol/Clorox bathroom cleaner, Lysol/Clorox toilet bowl cleaner, Lysol/Clorox kitchen cleaner, floor cleaner, window cleaner
- Lysol/Clorox wipes, disinfectant spray
- Toasters, mixing bowls, dinnerware, dinnerware trays
- Paper towels
- **Dryer Sheets**
- Hand Sanitizer
- Bottled Water
- Baby items: diapers (sizes Newborn,4,5,6), baby wipes, infant and children's Tylenol and Advil/Motrin
- Adult Tylenol, Advil/Motrin
- Garbage bags: 13-gallon kitchen size
- \*Walmart, Kroger, Aldi and Gas gift cards
- \*Food Cards: Burger King, McDonald's, Taco Bell, Arby's, KFC, Speedway
- \*Poptop Cans: soup, fruit, ravioli, beefaroni, spaghetti & meatball, etc...
- \*Food: cereal, breakfast bars, poptarts, juice boxes, frozen dinners, ramen noodles, mac & cheese cups, applesauce cups, etc...

Monetary donations are also appreciated to keep up with excessive costs. Please see webpage [www.ihnwc.org](http://www.ihnwc.org) for PayPal or mail checks to FPWC:

203 E. Warren St. Lebanon, OH 45036.

Your kind donation is very important to us. **Please call ahead when dropping off. Leave donation by the front door along with your contact information for a donation letter!**

**We appreciate you!! Stay well!!**



**\*For families sheltered in a local motel**

## Run4Home 5K and Kids Fun Run: July 3, 2021

The Run4Home 5K will be a hybrid this year! What does this mean? Well, with the pandemic we just don't know what the State of Ohio will determine is safe on July 3rd and this event is so important to the guests that we serve. We are going to plan for our runners and walkers to do so from home with a sleep in or virtual option. If the State of Ohio allows gatherings we will post this on the running sites as well as our web page at [ihnwc.org](http://ihnwc.org), hope for a beautiful day and get together at Armco Park just like we always have.

This year we are dedicating our proceeds to Christmas in July. (see article) This very important program of Family Promise positively affects the children that have been in shelter over the last 12 months by helping them to be ready for the school year ahead.

We thank our sponsors and our runners and walkers for their continued support and we hope to see you on July 3 (not 4th as it is a Sunday!) either virtually or in person at Armco Park. Until then, be safe and be well!

## Christmas in July:

Christmas in July is held annually on the last Saturday of July and is geared towards all of the children who have been in the IHN Shelter program over the last 12 months. Directed by Jennifer Keezer of the Resurrection Lutheran Church, the children are supplied with all that they need to start school prepared and ready for success! This includes backpacks full of the items suggested by their teachers, proper clothing, shoes, socks, undergarments and even a haircut! We have been told by many teachers that these children who often are underprepared, come to school feeling good about themselves and indeed have a much better beginning to the school year.

Last year, we were unable to have a gathering with all the families and we missed seeing everyone. This did not stop Santa and elf Jennifer! They stopped by each child's home and with social distance provided each child with a chance to see summer Santa but more importantly to receive the necessary elements to begin school.

This year, we have high hopes to safely meet, enjoy lunch, crafts and a visit from Santa himself who encourages each child to have a successful year as he gives them their school gifts. We hope that you will support this program either by participating in the Run4Home or by considering a monetary gift. Your support will truly make a difference as our children return to the classroom in the fall. Thank you in advance!

Are you eligible for a stimulus check, but not reliant upon it? Consider donating it to Family Promise of Warren County!

Come Out & Join Us!

Armco Park Shelter #33

# RUN4HOME HYBRID 5K

## KIDS FUN RUN

2021

Saturday  
July 3rd

7:00AM

Four ways to register:

Online at [www.ihnwc.org](http://www.ihnwc.org) or [RunningTime.net](http://RunningTime.net) by mail or drop off at FPWC

For more information about **RUN4HOME** or **FPWC** call (513) 934-5250

**Mail registration to, or drop off at:**

203 E Warren St. Lebanon, OH 45036

**Please visit our website at [www.ihnwc.org](http://www.ihnwc.org) for:**

Online registration · Additional entry forms · Race results

Pre-registration is **MANDATORY** · NO RACE DAY OPTIONS · 7:00 AM

Chip timing results · **Race starts at 8:30 AM** · Staggered Starting

**Kid's Fun Run · Kids 10 years and under · 9:30 AM · 1/4 mile**

Watch our webpage for updates on this event!!

Watch our webpage for updates on this event!!

ENTRY FORM

**T-Shirt YES** (Choose a Size) **T-Shirt Size:** **Adult Male:**  S  M  L  XXL  Runner  Walker

**T-Shirt NO** **Adult Female:**  S  M  L  XXL  Kids Fun Run  Sleep In

**Youth:**  S  M  L

**Entry Fee (Non-refundable)**

**\$25.00** if received by June 19, 2021

**\$15.00** for sleep in option

**\$30.00** after June 19, 2021\*

**\$10.00** Kid's Fun Run

**(There will be no race day registration due to COVID-19)**

**Additional Contribution \$\_\_\_\_\_ Thank You!!**

**(Make checks payable to FPWC)**

\*Race T-Shirts and sizes not guaranteed for registration after June 19, 2021\*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Age on day of race: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female

Check here if representing a business, church or school

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you are being supported with monetary donations (i.e. friends or family) and are running/walking for \$\_\_\_\_\_ on race day

Signature

(Parent signature required if less than 18 years of age)

Date

**\*In the event of COVID-19 cancellation we thank you for your donation!\***



# Family Promise of Warren County 15th Annual Benefit

## July 3rd, 2021

### Hybrid 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run



**Interfaith  
Hospitality  
Network**

# SPONSOR FORM

<b>Sponsor Level and Benefits</b>		Platinum \$2,500	Gold \$1,000	Silver \$750	Bronze \$500	Blue \$250	Yellow \$150
<b>FREE RACE ENTRIES</b>		10	4	3	2		
Preferred Banner Placement (4' x 8' Banner)		✓					
Corporate Identity Signage at each mile marker		✓					
Logo included in pre-race media advertising (print, newspaper, magazines)		✓	✓				
Logo on FPWC - Run4Home Web Site		✓	✓	✓			
Corporate Banner displayed at Race Event		✓	✓	✓			
Corporate Sponsor Acknowledgement displayed at Race Event		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Logo placement on 300+ event & volunteer T-shirts		✓	✓	✓	✓		Name Only ✓
Include brochure, product sample or premium in participant goodie bags		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
General Sampling of Company brochure/product at event		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Sponsor Name (Individual or Company): \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Level Choice:  PLATINUM  GOLD  SILVER  BRONZE  BLUE  YELLOW

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

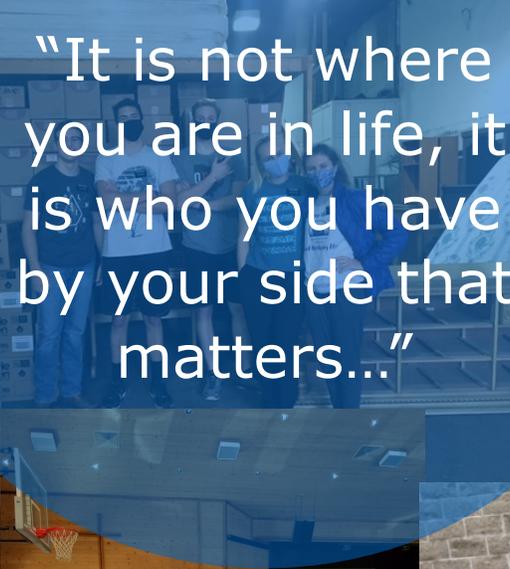
Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax ID No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Company Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

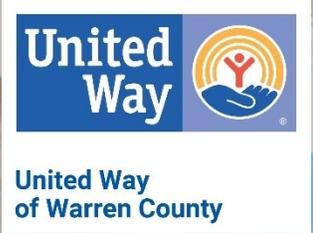
Donations other than cash, please list at retail value. Checks payable to Family Promise of Warren County or FPWC. Mail to 203 East Warren Street, Lebanon, OH 45036. Please email your logo to [bradbowman@eastgategraphics.com](mailto:bradbowman@eastgategraphics.com). Deadline is 5/28/21 for Sponsor Logo to be included on T-shirts, Banners & Website.



"It is not where you are in life, it is who you have by your side that matters..."



# DID YOU KNOW?



## Did you know January-December 2020

FPWC assisted:

- 43 families in network
- 127 individuals
- 69 children
- 35 under age 6
- 9 unborn babies
- 1 born in shelter
- 1189 referrals\*

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

### The Impact of the Cares Act on your Taxes!

This year because of the COVID-19 emergency, the federal government approved legislation called the Cares Act. This law allows you to deduct up to \$300 for donations to public charities even if you do not itemize deductions.

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).