



2022 Family Promise of Warren County

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

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

Family Promise of Warren County (formerly known as Interfaith Hospitality Network of Warren County) opened its doors as a community response to family homelessness on October 1, 1998. This endeavor began with ambitious intentions: find sustainable housing solutions for families while preserving and nourishing family bonds – the bonds that are essential to a household. Families and their homes are both uniquely greater than the sum of their parts. In the

FPWC program, it is of paramount importance to preserve the intangible components of the household, and success is truly a community effort. FPWC works with the community to ensure each family receives the comforts and resources that are commonly sacrificed during the crisis of homelessness.

Through 25 years of collaboration between network congregations, the community, and FPWC the goal has transformed into reality.



"Our mission is to assist Warren County homeless families to achieve sustainable independence through a community based response."

A SHELTER

DESIGNED FOR FAMILIES



“The strain homelessness places on a family cannot be underestimated. Preserving family unity and providing opportunity for growth are foundational to the shelter program.”

Nutritional meals, shelter, and transportation are requisite components for success of the family. Guiding the family towards true success requires numerous additional considerations. After ensuring each family has the basics, all school aged children are provided with any needed school supplies. The following

year, FPWC will ensure they start school fully supplied regardless if the family is still in shelter. Every afternoon and evening, quiet areas are provided for completing schoolwork.

Transportation to any extra-curricular activities is provided. While in shelter, the families participate in wrap around case management with the goal of housing and sustainable employment. The families also participate weekly in financial security classes, parenting class and life skills class to prepare them for life outside shelter and self sufficiency.

It is critical for parents, children, and siblings to continue living and interacting like a family.

SHELTER IMPACT

25 YEARS OF CHANGE

Shelter Statistics
Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2022:



Total Housed in Shelter
Oct. 1998-Dec. 31, 2022:



FURNITURE HEAVEN & HEARTH

Increased demand demonstrates both Warren County's need for services and FPWC's ability to evolve to meet the need. The introduction of new services always focuses on better serving the community's homeless families, however some of these services are extended to a broader population. Providing these resources allows FPWC to improve the quality of living within the community while reducing the chance beneficiaries will need shelter accommodations themselves.

One of those services is the Heaven and Hearth Furniture Ministry. This service provides household furniture items for anyone in need. The process is simple. The family or individual only needs to fill out a referral for the furniture through an organization to be eligible to receive furniture. Once

that is completed the needs will be pulled by FPWC staff to be ready for pick up to its new home. Community Service hours were temporarily removed due to COVID and will be reinstated in 2023. All FPWC families who successfully graduate from the shelter program are eligible for furniture. These families are provided with all of their furniture needs and household items that are needed to begin their lives outside of shelter.

Heaven and Hearth is always looking for donations of lightly used furniture. Volunteers are always welcome to assist by organizing the warehouse, cleaning, and helping to move our families into their new homes. If you have any questions regarding Heaven and Hearth, please call us at 513-934-5250.



WARREN COUNTY FACES UNIQUE CHALLENGES



The average age of a homeless Warren County individual is 6 years old



FPWC is the only family shelter operating in Warren County



The average time a family spends in shelter is 65 days

85%

Warren County's largest homeless population (over 85%) are families with one or more children less than 18 years of age

LIFE AFTER THE SHELTER

“The average family earning minimum wage spends 141% of their income struggling to meet basic needs – food, shelter, clothing.”

- Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown

Services don't stop as soon as a family graduates from FPWC. Since the beginning, great care has been taken to promote family success after leaving shelter. Every family leaves with the needed furnishings for their

home. For Thanksgiving, families return to pick up a turkey, side dishes and dessert. For Christmas, wish lists are gathered and fulfilled to the best of the network's ability – and then delivered by Santa Claus himself.

The harsh financial reality of life for graduating families can quickly lead to more housing issues. In response, FPWC provides the aforementioned services to provide parents planning time and breathing room for their family's financial future, and critically – to enrich the lives of the children served.



OUTSIDE THE SHELTER

IMPACT OF FPWC SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Total served in all programs: 660 individuals in 244 families



Service Programs:

Example Coats for a Cause/ Christmas in July: 202 individuals served/37 family units/141 children/61 adults/ average family size: 5.5

Any services or programs for families outside of prevention, diversion, shelter and after shelter.



Prevention:

149 individuals/69 family unit/58 children under 18/91 adults/average family size: 2

Services provided for individual/family units at imminent risk of homelessness that will prevent loss of home or current residence.



Rapid Rehousing:

80 individuals/42 family units/33 children under age 18/47 adults/ average family size: 2

A program that assists families who are homeless by HUD standards with no safe place to stay



After Shelter:

71 individuals served/ 25 family units/43 children under the age of 18/28 adults/average family size: 2.84

Program to help families stay in housing once they graduate the shelter program.

THE FUTURE OF FAMILY PROMISE



“FPWC is grateful for the generous and ongoing support from numerous individuals, businesses and congregations. FPWC strives to be good stewards of every dollar donated.”

In March 2022, Family Promise of Warren County embarked on a \$1.7 Million Capital Campaign to increase its capacity to serve homeless families in Warren County. With a continuously growing backlog of families still in the crisis of homelessness the FPWC Board of Directors made the strategic commitment in January 2020 to double our capacity.

After examining numerous options, in March 2022 Family Promise of Warren County purchased the former Shaker Inn in Lebanon. This facility will give FPWC the capacity to serve at least twice as many families as we have had annually. This effort will also require additional staff to work with the guest families.

Guest families continued to be provided with a hot evening meal as well as breakfast and lunch meals that were delivered to the families as they continued to live socially distant in a local hotel. The host and support congregations also provided activities for the children as well as notes of encouragement. Professional case management staff provided individualized case plans intended

for the success, housing and self sufficiency of each family.

The new facility represents an investment in the Warren County community as well as the families that we serve. Highlights of the building include:

- 12,000 square foot building on 2.25 acres of land
- 13 guest rooms with private bath, including 2 two bedroom suites
- Full service guest laundry
- Education Center with a classroom for 20
- A meeting room and a kitchen
- Day center with kitchen, dining room, family room, nursery, playroom, computer room and 2 full baths
- Office space for staff including the Executive Director, Program Manager, 3 Case Managers as well as clerical and support staff

In anticipation of the investment in the community the FPWC Board of Directors has been setting aside funds for several years and has reserved funds for this effort. Additionally Congress provided an additional \$272,122 through the CARES act which provided the down payment for the new facility. Other donations have come from the Board of Directors, an estate donation, and funds from other trusts, foundations, congregations, organizations and individuals.

Family Promise of Warren County continues to fundraise towards this effort and anticipates the facility to open to guest families in late 2023.



EVENTS

COME OUT AND JOIN THE FUN



The Run4Home 5K & Kid's Fun Run began on July 4th, 2007 at the Countryside YMCA. Monica Widdig had the vision of this fundraiser, and felt that it would not only help fund shelter operations, but also bring attention to the mission of Family Promise of Warren County.

We have since moved the 5K to Shelter 33 at Armco Park. The 3.1 mile course is in a beautiful shaded park atmosphere that is suitable for walkers and runners of all abilities. For the last 16 years this event has been held every Independence Day, raising \$17,686.08 from numerous sponsors, runners and walkers in 2022 alone.

Christmas in July started 18 years ago in an effort to assure that all the children who had been in shelter had the essentials to begin school successfully. Initially each child was sponsored by families at churches through a Giving Tree method. Santa Claus distributed the gifts and the families enjoyed a BBQ.

Now, under the direction of Jennifer Keezer and her elves, each child receives 5 outfits for the first week of school, a jacket, socks, underclothing, gift cards for haircuts and shoes and a backpack that is full of items needed for that child's class. Due to COVID, a Bob Evans Restaurant gift card provided a Christmas dinner for the families and Santa delivered the gifts with the FPWC bus.

While children who are unprepared and not clothed appropriately are often bullied and have an unfortunate start to the school year, this program has allowed for over 1000 children to start the school year feeling good about themselves, fully supplied for success. We look forward to being together again in July 2023!



STORIES OF PROMISE

BY DANIELLE MONDS *GRADUATED CLIENT*



I became a mother 2 months after my 18th birthday. Looking down at a happy healthy baby, the panic set in. How will I take care of him? How will I give him the life he deserves?

The first 6 months after I had my son was a struggle. His father suffered from addiction and could not hold a job. I was making minimum wage and was struggling to keep the lights on. We ended up moving in with family, and I quickly realized that if I wanted my child to have a better life and more opportunities. Something had to change.

I left my son's father, and I came to Family Promise praying for a miracle, and that's exactly what I received. Linda and the staff immediately made me feel safe, and for the first time in a long time, hopeful. During my stay at Family Promise I decided to go back to school and pursue a Nursing degree. I enrolled in classes for a nurse's aid program. I worked full time, went to

classes, and did my best to be a good mom. During those classes, my instructor told me that I'd never be a nurse. I came back to the day center completely defeated. Linda lifted me up that day in a way no one ever has. She gave me the confidence to push on and complete my classes. As a teen mom, many people decide your fate for you, and judge you before they know you. Linda and the staff never once did this. The churches and their volunteers always met me with a warm smile and a hot meal. They saw the potential in me to do something great and supported me during my stay with Family Promise and after I transitioned into my new home.

I moved into my new home, and received everything I needed to start my new life from Heaven and Hearth; furniture, dishes, and even some appliances. I enrolled in nursing school and endured a very stressful year. Linda and the staff continued to support me on my journey to a better life. I graduated nursing school in August 2009. The day I walked into Job and Family Services to end my assistance benefits is a day I will never forget.

The years have passed, my son is 16 now, and as of 2020 I married a wonderful man. We were blessed with another child who keeps us on our toes. I was a nurse for over a decade and have transitioned into Health, Safety, and Environmental work. My new

job allows me to travel and see the world. I have owned several homes and most importantly I am able to give both of my children opportunities in life that I never had.

As I walk down memory lane, my emotions and perceptions of my story have changed. Where I used to feel shame or guilt for my situation, I now feel pride and strength. I am proud of the life we've built and the strength we had to overcome the struggles we faced along the way. Our story is so much more than the successes we have celebrated, it was the journey to get here, the smiles, the tears, the laughs, and losses. My experience with Family Promise taught me that a little kindness goes a long way, so pay it forward. I would never be where I am without the support from Family Promise and all of the volunteers and churches who donate their time and efforts into helping families get a new start.



STAFF & BOARD

PEOPLE DEDICATED TO THE MISSION OF FPWC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- David Yelton: President
- Tom Ludeke: Vice President
- Reverend Mary Joseph: Chair of the Host Recruitment and Retention Committee
- Todd Rockstroh: Chair of the Building and Transportation Committee
- Jennifer Goepper: Member
- Rev Jackie Matisse: Member

ADVISORY BOARD:

- Carol Spicer: Chair of the Personnel Committee
- Monica Widdig: Treasurer

STAFF:

- Nichole Richardson: Case Manager
- Jesse Bischoff: Office Manager, Marketing Manager
- Doug Gilham: Homeless Crisis Response Program A-M
- Danielle August: Homeless Crisis Response Program N-Z
- Andrew Rabolt: Office Assistant, Statistician
- Marianne Duerre: Special Projects
- Dave Hawkey: Driver
- Josh Beckett: Driver
- Linda Rabolt: Executive Director
- Margo Yelton: Volunteer bookkeeper



THANK YOU

CONTINUING THE MISSION

For as long as there is a need and a way, Family Promise of Warren County will continue to serve the Warren County community who are in need, to its fullest capacity. For the foreseeable future there will be a need for service. The children of the community are far less likely to face a night of sleeping in an unsafe situation, in the car or on the street. Their parents are much more likely to find success, self sufficiency and housing with positive participation in the FPWC program and the mentorship, love and support that is provided by the staff and volunteers.

For making this possible, the Family Promise Board of Directors wish to THANK YOU, friends and family, businesses, congregations and organizations for your continued support and prayer.

United Way of
Warren County

