



2024 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.

During the 2024 annual review with Family Promise National, FPWC learned that we achieved the rank of #1 Family Promise affiliate in the State of Ohio and #17 affiliate in the nation with an overall score of 91.1. This is determined by a merit analysis of which there is an overall assessment of FPWC programs, program success, training, policies, revenue, staff, and board.

Through 26 years of collaboration between network congregations, the community, and FPWC the goal has transformed into reality. It is largely due to our volunteers and supporters that FPWC has achieved success and stability for the families that we serve.



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

A SHELTER

DESIGNED FOR FAMILIES



Homelessness can have a devastating impact on children. These children have more health issues than the norm.

Family Promise of Warren County takes pride in addressing families experiencing homelessness, in particular the children. With a program of responsibility and dignity based upon employment and education, families who are experiencing homelessness and living at the FPWC

shelter have the opportunity to become housed and self-sufficient.

This is accomplished with the support of many volunteers from all backgrounds that provide meals, and mentorship. This is accomplished with an individualized case plan

that targets the needs of each family and provides guidance on how to achieve their goals.

Children are the main focus. The children's needs are provided for the moment they enter shelter. Do they have what is needed to be successful in the classroom? The children have access to a media room in which they can do homework and volunteers who are willing to sit alongside them to assist. Do the children have clothing?

The entire family has access to our coat closet that shares not only coats but hats and gloves. At the Christmas in July program every child is provided with everything that they need to successfully begin the school year. From backpacks to clothing to shoes, those children go into the classroom ready to be successful. Are those children hungry? Child-friendly meals are at the ready so that no child is hungry. Fresh veggies are for picking in the Storybook Garden on campus.

If the family does not have appropriate transportation, FPWC provides rides to employment, daycare, medical appointments, school, and other essential places. This is not a barrier but an opportunity for additional success for the family.

FPWC provides for each family the critical needs so that they can be a family that is ready to take the journey towards success.

SHELTER IMPACT

26 YEARS OF CHANGE

Shelter Statistics 2023

31 families
96 individuals
58 children
41 children under 6
4 unborn
1876 referrals

Shelter Statistics 2024

31 families
93 individuals
52 children
26 children under 6
5 unborn
2434 referrals

Shelter Statistics Oct 1998-Dec 2024

1105 families
3197 individuals
1892 children
1261 children under 6
148 unborn
29 born in shelter



HEAVEN & HEARTH

furniture ministry

H&H Statistics 2023

59 families
170 individuals
85 adults
85 children

H&H Statistics 2024

87 families
237 individuals
121 adults
117 children

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 families experiencing homelessness; 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 are required to receive furniture. 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 spent in shelter in 2024 was 51 days

85%

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

ORGANIZATIONS

HOST & SUPPORT

- Heritage Presbyterian Church
 - St. Susanna Church
 - Axis Church
 - Compass Christian Church
 - Grace Baptist Church
 - Open Table Church
- Lebanon Presbyterian Church
- Lebanon Community Methodist Church
 - Pleasant Plain Presbyterian Church
- St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
 - Lakeview UCC
 - True Kingdom Ministries
 - 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 Church
 - One Community Church
 - The River Church
 - First Church of God
- Red Lion United Methodist Church
 - Covenant Presbyterian Church
 - Springboro United Church of Christ
 - Pilgrim South UCC
- Living Water Lutheran Church
- Cobblestone Community Church
- New Freedom Church
- Casseroles of Hope
- Lebanon Elks Lodge #422
- Summit United Methodist Church
- Crossroads Church Mason

TRY IT YOU'LL LIKE IT

HOST ORGANIZATIONS

- Saint Vincent de Paul - St Francis de Sales
- Saint Vincent de Paul - St. Susanna
- Saint Vincent de Paul - St. Augustine
- Saint Vincent de Paul - Good Shepherd
- Notre Dame Club
- Lebanon High School - Cooking Class
- Sunrise Landing
- Scout Troop 170 - Heritage Presbyterian Church
- Girl Scout Troop - St. Susanna
- Gathering Church
- The Dillenburger Family
- The Kettler Family
- Jennifer Keezer and Friends



TRY IT YOU'LL LIKE IT

NEW INITIATIVE OF FPWC

The new initiative of FPWC is off to a great start!

Try It, You'll Like It is a great way for your business, organization, club, or congregation to get a taste of what volunteering with our families is like. On the weeks of Casseroles of Hope volunteers are needed to serve the casserole, provide a salad/dessert, enjoy fellowship time with the families and stay overnight. This is great for folks who work all day and don't have time to make a hot meal as it is already provided!!

A Family Promise of Warren County "seasoned" volunteer or "Ambassador" will guide you through the expectations for a good volunteer experience approximately 3 weeks prior to the date that you choose and support you that entire evening. And you will be offered a tour and training prior to your experience.

We feel certain that if you *Try It, You'll Like It* and even come back another time! For more information on this program, scan the QR code!



Or visit our website at familypromisewarren.org/tryityoulllikeit. Or contact Linda at 513-934-5250, or email at linda@ihnwc.org.

Thank you for your consideration of *Try It, You'll Like It*! For more information on Casseroles of Hope visit their website at casserolesofhope.org.

ROTATION

2024 SCHEDULE

Jan 7
 Jan 14 (Martin Luther King Day, 15th)
 Jan 21
 Jan 28
 Feb 4
 Feb 11 (Valentine's Day, 14th)
 Feb 18 (President's Day, 19th)
 Feb 25
 Mar 3
 Mar 10 (Daylight Savings)
 Mar 17 (St. Patrick's Day)
 Mar 24
 Mar 31 (Easter)
 Apr 7
 Apr 14
 Apr 21
 Apr 28
 May 5
 May 12 (Mother's Day)
 May 19
 May 26 (Memorial Day, 27th)
 Jun 2
 Jun 9
 Jun 16 (Father's Day)
 Jun 23
 Jun 30 (Independence Day, 4th)
 Jul 7
 Jul 14
 Jul 21
 Jul 28
 Aug 4
 Aug 11
 Aug 18
 Aug 25
 Sep 1 (Labor Day, 2nd)
 Sep 8 (Grandparents Day)
 Sep 15
 Sep 22
 Sep 29
 Oct 6
 Oct 13 (Columbus Day, 14th)
 Oct 20
 Oct 27 (Halloween, 31st)
 Nov 3 (Daylight Savings)
 Nov 10 (Veterans Day, 11th)
 Nov 17 New Freedom Church
 Nov 24 (Thanksgiving, 28th)
 Dec 1
 Dec 8
 Dec 15
 Dec 22 (Christmas Eve, 24th) (Christmas Day, 25th)
 Dec 29 (New Year's Eve, 31st)

Resurrection Lutheran Church
 St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
 Sycamore Presbyterian Church
 Heritage Presbyterian Church
 Lebanon Presbyterian Church
 Casseroles of Hope
 Lebanon Community Methodist Church
 New Freedom Church
 Casseroles of Hope
 Crossroads Mason
 Red Lion United Methodist Church
 Heritage Presbyterian Church
 Cobblestone Community Church
 St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
 Casseroles of Hope
 Sycamore Presbyterian Church
 Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church
 Lebanon Community Methodist Church
 OPEN
 New Freedom Church
 Heritage Presbyterian Church
 Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church
 Living Water Lutheran Church
 Casseroles of Hope
 Lebanon Presbyterian Church
 Red Lion United Methodist Church
 Summit UMC
 St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
 Cobblestone Community Church
 Sycamore Presbyterian Church
 Casseroles of Hope
 New Freedom Church
 Casseroles of Hope
 Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church
 Elks Lodge #422
 Lebanon Community Methodist Church
 Lebanon Presbyterian Church
 Heritage Presbyterian Church
 Red Lion United Methodist Church
 Summit UMC
 St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
 Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church
 Casseroles of Hope
 Sycamore Presbyterian Church
 Cobblestone Community Church
 New Freedom Church
 Red Lion United Methodist Church
 Lebanon Presbyterian Church
 Lebanon Community Methodist Church
 Resurrection Lutheran Church
 FPWC Board of Directors
 FPWC Board of Directors



LIFE AFTER THE SHELTER

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.

After Shelter Statistics Dec 2023

17 families
56 individuals
21 adults
35 children

After Shelter Statistics Dec 2024

30 families
101 individuals
39 adults
62 children



OUTSIDE THE SHELTER

2024 IMPACT OF FPWC SUPPORT PROGRAMS

**Total served in all programs: 618 individuals in 258 families
348 children, 36 families prevented from homelessness**



Service Programs:

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

- Coats for a Cause
- Christmas in July
- Christmas
- Welcome Bags
- Going Home Bags
- Heaven & Hearth Furniture Ministry



Prevention:

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



Rapid Rehousing:

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



After Shelter:

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

THE FUTURE OF FAMILY PROMISE



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

After examining numerous options, in March 2022 FPWC Board of Directors went out on faith and purchased the former Shaker Inn in Lebanon.

Since March 2022, dedicated volunteers, under the direction of then Board Members Tom Ludeke and Todd Rockstroh, renovated the main building with new paint and floors and upgrades as needed in a 75-year-old building to include plumbing, electric and sewage.

Volunteers from all around the community from different faith backgrounds, neighborhoods, clubs, and businesses took on the family rooms which is now called “the neighborhood” and transformed these hotel rooms into homes for those in shelter.

On December 15, 2023, the FPWC staff moved into the new campus. Families continued to be served in the shelter program at a local hotel as COVID protocol continued to be followed. Our network of congregations continued to provide meals and support from afar as the FPWC staff delivered the meals that they provided as well as notes of encouragement. After additional renovation, on April 21, 2024, the first five families moved into their new rooms.

Meals, fellowship, and overnight support continue to be through a dedicated network of volunteers from a variety of congregations, businesses,

and organizations. Meals are cooked in the campus kitchen or brought in. Fellowship activities such as games and crafts follow dinner as to educational experiences for the parents to include Financial Security, Parenting, Life skills and Keys to good Tenancy. FPWC continues to be grateful for our volunteer base.

As we move forward FPWC plans to open up the second network which will accommodate an additional 6 families bringing the total served to 12 families in 2025. To accomplish this 10-12 additional support groups will need to be recruited. This recruitment effort by the Host Recruitment Team is far-reaching and is excited to open this opportunity to those who are willing to serve. FPWC provides monthly training for new volunteers which includes a tour of the facility.

With the addition of the playground, basketball, Gaga and the Storybook Garden Path FPWC continues to be a place where families find peace, support, and dignity as they travel through this journey. We welcome potential volunteers and donors to tour the building to see how they too can make a difference.



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 18 years this event has been held every Independence Day, raising \$21,198.32 from numerous sponsors, runners and walkers in 2024 alone.

Christmas in July started 19 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. On July 27, Santa and Mrs Claus (Pam and Paul Ford) supplied 43 children with gifts.

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 are grateful for those who sponsored the 2024 event to include individuals, clubs, Mason Kiwanis, Festo, Lebanon Library, LCNB, Warren County Career Center, and Warren County Parks.





STORIES OF PROMISE

BY THE COUCH FAMILY
GRADUATED CLIENTS

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

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

From the start all the staff and volunteers were welcoming, comforting, and non-judgmental.

Everyone truly makes you feel at home.

My family and I could not be more shocked at how wonderful this program is.

Each family is given their own room with new and very comfortable furniture. Ours was amazing and provided us with our

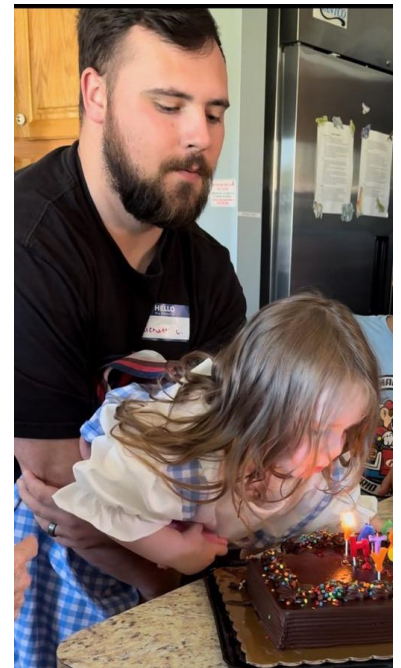
own safe space. You are given supplies, kids toys, and anything else you may need to sustain normal living. During our stay here they even threw our daughter her third birthday party. It

was complete with gifts, games, cake, and party favors.

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

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

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



STAFF & BOARD

PEOPLE DEDICATED TO THE MISSION OF FPWC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Carol Spicer: President
- Jennifer Goepper: Vice President
- Monica Widdig: Treasurer
- Jennifer Fry: Secretary, Co-Chair Host Recruitment & Retention
- Reverend Mary Joseph: Co-Chair Host Recruitment & Retention
- Leo Cronin: Member
- Michael Hoelscher: Member
- Rev Jackie Matisse: Member
- Joe Mansfield: Member

STAFF:

- Mischelle Dvořák: Shelter 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
- Rodney Short: Driver, Maintenance
- Nichole Richardson: Program Manager
- Linda Rabolt: Executive Director
- Margy 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.

Special Thanks to our 2024 Granters:

- Good Shepherd Catholic Church
- Joe Burrow Foundation
- Warren County Commissioners
- Mason Kiwanis Club
- City of Mason
- City of Lebanon
- United Way of Warren County

