



# Family Promise<sup>®</sup> of Ontario County

Building community, strengthening lives.

Issue 1 -- Spring 2017



## Family Promise Interfaith Hospitality Network

### *A Message from the President:*

Welcome to the first of what will be a quarterly newsletter designed to keep you informed of the development process of the Ontario County affiliate of Family Promise. What a wonderful and blessed journey we have been on so far, with people of faith coming together to help build an effective and successful model for helping homeless families become sustainably independent. From the first community meeting on May 24, 2016, important developmental milestones have been reached, with many more still needing the attention and focus of people like you to ensure that we can open our doors.

This first issue will focus on reiterating what we want to accomplish, who we plan on serving, and why we are confident that this model will be successful – in addition to the successes and needs we still have.

We welcome your involvement, ideas, questions and concerns. Please consider stepping forward with us in faith to help those in need.

We look forward to hearing from you!

-- Kathleen Wagner

## Upcoming Events

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>May 2017</b>     | <b>May 1</b><br>Congregation Coordinator Orientation<br>6:30 pm<br>LifeSpring Community Church                       |
|                     | <b>May 8</b><br>Project Team Meeting<br>6:00 pm<br>Geneva UMC  |
|                     | <b>May 11</b><br>Taste of Spring Charity Event to benefit FPOC- hosted by Cobblestone Creek Charity Guild<br>6:00 pm |
| <b>Spring 2017</b>  | Youth Rock-A-Thons<br>Stay tuned for dates and locations!  |
| <b>July 29 2017</b> | Bed Race Fundraiser<br>Stay tuned for more information!  |

Family Promise of Ontario County is joining the more than 200 *Family Promise* affiliates successfully operating across the county. For more information about the national *Family Promise* organization, please visit [www.familypromise.org](http://www.familypromise.org).

## FPOC Mission

The mission of Family Promise of Ontario County is to unite the faith community and existing agencies in Ontario County to provide a pathway for homeless children and their families to secure reliable housing and self-sufficiency. Uniting hearts and hands, the network will provide our clients with meals, assistance, and a temporary, safe place to lay their heads while they work to gain their own independence.



## 200+ Affiliates prove that Family Promise works!

Nationally, more than 74% of the families served find housing in less than nine weeks because of intensive case management and community support in a structured yet community-responsive model.

## FPOC Values Statement

Family Promise of Ontario County is a community of compassionate people working together to assist homeless families gain independence through transforming relationships.

Would you like us to speak to your congregation or organization about FPOC? Please contact us to schedule a presentation.

Family Promise of Ontario County  
Kathleen Wagner, President  
FamilyPromiseofOntarioCounty@gmail.com  
585-704-9776

## How Can You Help?

### 1. SPECIAL EVENTS

We are planning a large special event this summer to help raise a portion of the \$150,000 that we need to open our doors. Are you willing to work on the event planning committee?

### 2. FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Do you have a fundraising event idea that you would like to put into action?

### 3. GRANTS

We have successfully identified a number of grants that may provide funding opportunities for us. We need a few people to do further research on those opportunities, which may include making phone calls, on-line research, and putting information into a pre-existing database. You can sign up to take just one to research, or as many as you would like.

Do you know of any grants that you think might be suitable for us? Does your company have a foundation or outreach arm that could be helpful? Can you think of ANY funding source that we should know about?

Are you willing to do some grant writing?

### 4. TRANSPORTATION

We are looking for a 15-passenger van. Do you know someone who is connected with a dealership who might be able to help us explore the possibility of a donation? Are you aware of any grant money that might be available to us?

### 5. EDUCATION

Is there someone that you think should know about this program and would be helpful to our cause? Is there an organization that should be aware of what we are doing? Do you have any suggestions for what we could be doing more of to get the word out and help us attain our goals? Let us know!

### 6. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Are you interested in helping to shape the strategy and long-term operations of this vital ministry? We are looking for Board candidates with a wide-range of skills and expertise.

### 7. ATTORNEY / TAX ACCOUNTANT / AUDITOR

Do you have specific professional expertise that you are willing to provide to the organization? We do not have an immediate need right now, but will need guidance in the future.

*If you are interested in helping make Family Promise of Ontario County a success,  
contact us at:*

*[FamilyPromiseOfOntarioCounty@gmail.com](mailto:FamilyPromiseOfOntarioCounty@gmail.com)*

## **Committed Host Congregations**

**Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church**  
*Geneva*

**Presbyterian Church in Geneva**  
*Geneva*

**Victor United Methodist Church**  
*Victor*

**Wellspring Church**  
*Clifton Springs*

**First Presbyterian Church of Victor**  
*Victor*

**First United Methodist Church**  
*Geneva*

**Willowbrook Christian Church**  
*Victor*

**Temple Beth-El**  
*Geneva*

**Geneva Assembly of God**  
*Geneva*

**Gorham United Methodist Church**  
*Gorham*

**St. Patrick's Catholic Church**  
*Victor*

**St. Benedict's Parish**  
**St. Mary's Church, Canandaigua**  
**St. Bridget's Church, Bloomfield**

**Farmington Friends Church**  
*Farmington*

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
*Victor*

## **Committed Support Congregations**

**Seneca Castle United Methodist Church**  
*Stanley*

**Clifton Springs United Methodist Church**  
*Clifton Springs*

**St. Peter's Parish**  
**St. Felix, Clifton Springs**  
**St. Dominic, Manchester/Shortsville**  
**St. Francis, Phelps**

**Geneva Hispanic Church of God**  
*Geneva*

**United Church of Phelps**  
*Phelps*

**First Baptist Church of Manchester**  
*Manchester*

**Farmington United Methodist Church**

## Accomplishments To Date



- Distinct working teams established to tackle host congregation recruiting, transportation, Day Center search and procurement, fund development, and administration
- 14 Host Congregations and 7 Support Congregations committed
- Submitted and approved as a NYS non-profit organization
- Temporary Board of Directors in place, with formal Board search set to begin in April
- 501c3 application submitted and pending approval
- Day Center locations narrowed down to two, with final decision expected by March 30
- In partnership with Habitat for Humanity to help with renovation of selected Day Center space
- Website and Facebook page launched
- Strategic Work Plan documented
- Holiday appeal in December
- “Bridges Out of Poverty for Churches” workshop held in January with 45+ attendees
- Plan in place for a spring rollout of a youth Rock A Thon (that’s chairs, not music) fundraising event
- Grant writing process started
- Ongoing educational meetings with community groups
- Established ability to make online, tax-deductible donations using First Presbyterian Church of Victor as fiscal agent until federal 501c3 status is obtained
- Major summer fundraiser date set for Saturday, July 29 in conjunction with the Canandaigua Lakefront Art Show

Thank you to all who have donated time, talent and funds to FPOC since June 2016. Your faith and support of this ministry provides a strong foundation so we can continue our work until our doors are open. Please know that we are blessed and grateful for every contribution. And to the anonymous \$500 donor – thank you!

# Help Us Help Homeless Families

*Your donation can help us become part of the solution by helping families get back on their feet and become sustainably independent again.*

Donations can be made on line by visiting our website  
[www.familypromiseontarioncounty.org/donate](http://www.familypromiseontarioncounty.org/donate)

Or

by sending a check, payable to "First Presbyterian Church of Victor," to:

First Presbyterian Church of Victor  
Attn: Emily  
70 E. Main Street  
Victor, NY 14564

Please write "Family Promise" in the memo on the check.  
All donations are tax-deductible.

Family Promise of Ontario County

[www.FamilyPromiseOntarioCounty.org](http://www.FamilyPromiseOntarioCounty.org)

585/704-9776