

# FAMILY PROMISE OF WESTERN NEW YORK



2017 Annual Report

Helping Families Experiencing Homelessness Stay Together

# Mission and Purpose

**The mission of Family Promise of WNY is to unite faith communities and people of good will in responding to the needs of families experiencing homelessness in our community.** Family Promise of WNY is a cost-efficient, effective, and replicable community response to homelessness. We are unique in Erie County in the following important ways:

## **We Are Critical**

While traditional homeless shelters separate men and teenage boys from women and children, we are one of two emergency shelters in Erie County that keep families together. In times of crisis, family unity provides critical support to all our guests, the majority of whom are children.

## **We Are Volunteer Driven**

We mobilize the Western New York community to help us achieve our mission. Our model starts with generous people who want to be a part of the solution to end family homelessness and empowers them to directly serve our guests by providing food, shelter and hospitality. With only 2 full-time employees, our network of hundreds of volunteers are imperative to our success and help families achieve permanent housing at a fraction of the cost of traditional shelters.

## **We are Personal**

With only three families at a time in our program, we run a small-scale model that allows us to focus a lot of personal attention on each of our guests. We strive to create a family-like environment based on compassion, respect and shared community. We know each person here by name. Our Case Manager is able to provide intensive case management to make sure our kids are in school every day and our parents are receiving the services they need to succeed. Our volunteers provide hundreds of hands and hearts all working together to form a much-needed support network for our guests.

## **We Are Interfaith**

While we are a non-sectarian not-for-profit organization, we recognize that religious institutions have an essential role to play in lifting up our community. Our program is based on the value of hospitality found in every religious tradition and is intentionally modeled to leverage the good will and imperative to service found particularly in faith communities. Family Promise of WNY provides the framework which allows volunteers to put their faith into action in order to directly minister to some of the most vulnerable members of our society.

## Note from the Director

Dear Family Promise of WNY Community,

In October, I joined our network as the new Executive Director. Looking back on 2017, I cannot help but be astonished at how we have been able to deliver on our mission in such impressive ways. **We welcomed 18 families into our program this past year and delivered a total of 3,659 bed nights to 65 people, 60% of whom were children.** These families came to us as a result of eviction, job loss, domestic violence and other crises that are so difficult to navigate when you are living below the poverty line.

**Of those 18 families, we successfully housed 12 families or hit a 70% placement rate** - meaning these families found stable independent housing or capitalized on opportunities to live with family. If you do not include the families that were not ready for shelter and left our program in under one week, **that figure rises to 86% - a very impressive number.** These numbers underscores the fact that the values of compassion, hospitality and personal attention which are at the foundation of our model really do make a difference in the outcomes of the families we serve. It is worth mentioning that **two of the families we placed were beneficiaries of our Security Deposit Assistance program** which Family Promise of WNY developed because we saw the need to reduce the prohibitive upfront costs to new tenants for both a security deposit and first month's rent.

**We cannot do what we do without our hospitality network.** These are the loving people who sacrifice their time, talent and treasure to step up for our families and become a part of the solution to end family homelessness in our community. In 2017 our hospitality network included 11 host congregations - faith communities who opened their doors four weeks a year to our families in order to feed and shelter them. We also enjoyed the support of 35 support congregations, who provided hot meals, weekend and overnight hospitality shifts, donated goods, fundraisers and financial contributions to our network. In total, **over 18,000 volunteer hours were poured into our program which generated around \$270,000 in in-kind labor - almost twice our operating budget!** We had several amazing fundraisers this past year, including **our most successful ever Parent's Day Campaign which brought in over \$9,000 and Choctoberfest which brought in over \$10,000!** Add to this the Foundations which chose to support our mission and the countless individuals who contributed to our bottom line and we ended the year in a healthy financial position. Looking ahead, I believe our organization is ready to meet our challenges and to multiply our successes in 2018.

This is good work and we do this work together.  
In gratitude,



Luanne Firestone  
*Executive Director*

# Staff and Board of Trustees

## Staff

**Luanne Firestone**, Executive Director

**Denise Morse**, Case Manager

**Paul Flammer**, Van Driver

## Board of Trustees

**J. Christian Hoffman**, President, *Community Missions of Niagara Frontier*

**Stanley “Lee” Evans, Esq.**, Vice President, *Gerber Ciano Kelly Brady, LLP*

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**Stephen Blass**, *Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village*

**Erica Frank**, *Rich Products Corporation*

**Kandy Krampitz**, *Ayurveda Yoga Specialist*

**Kristen Luppino-Gholston, LMSW**, *WNY Women’s Foundation*

**Michael Lynch, LMSW**, *University at Buffalo School of Social Work*

**Clay Waterman, Esq.**, *Gerber Ciano Kelly Brady, LLP*

# Our Hospitality Network

## Host Congregations

Host Congregations are the bedrock of our organization, welcoming our guests into their houses of worship for meals, overnight accommodations, hospitality and care four weeks each year.

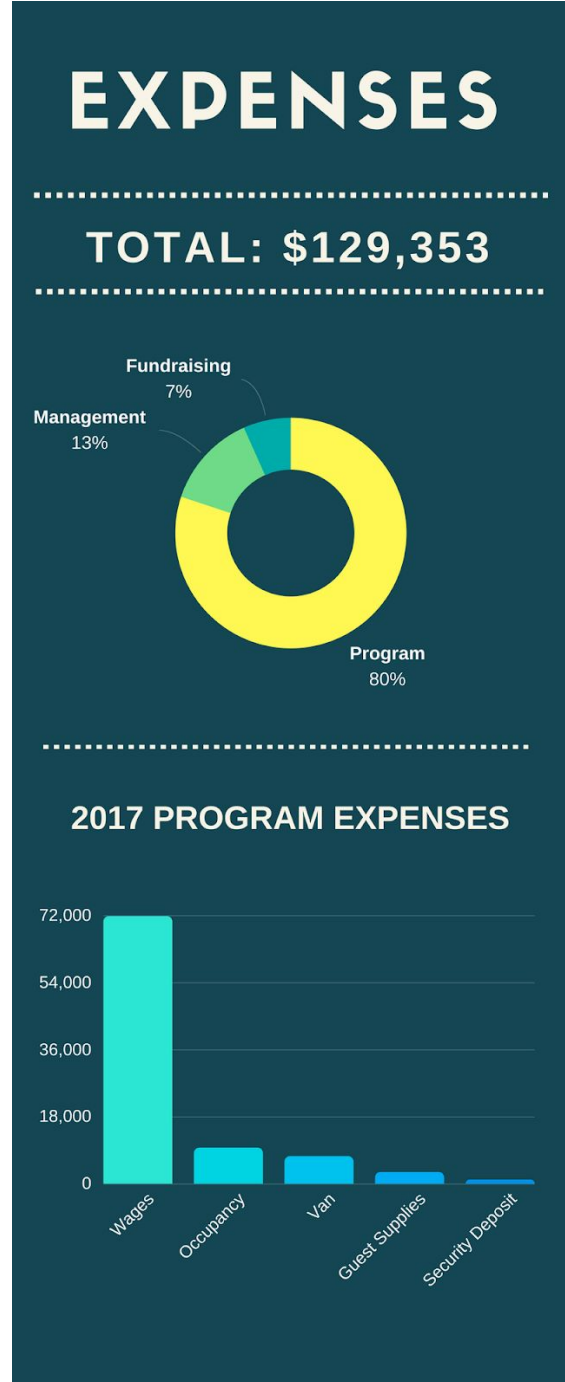
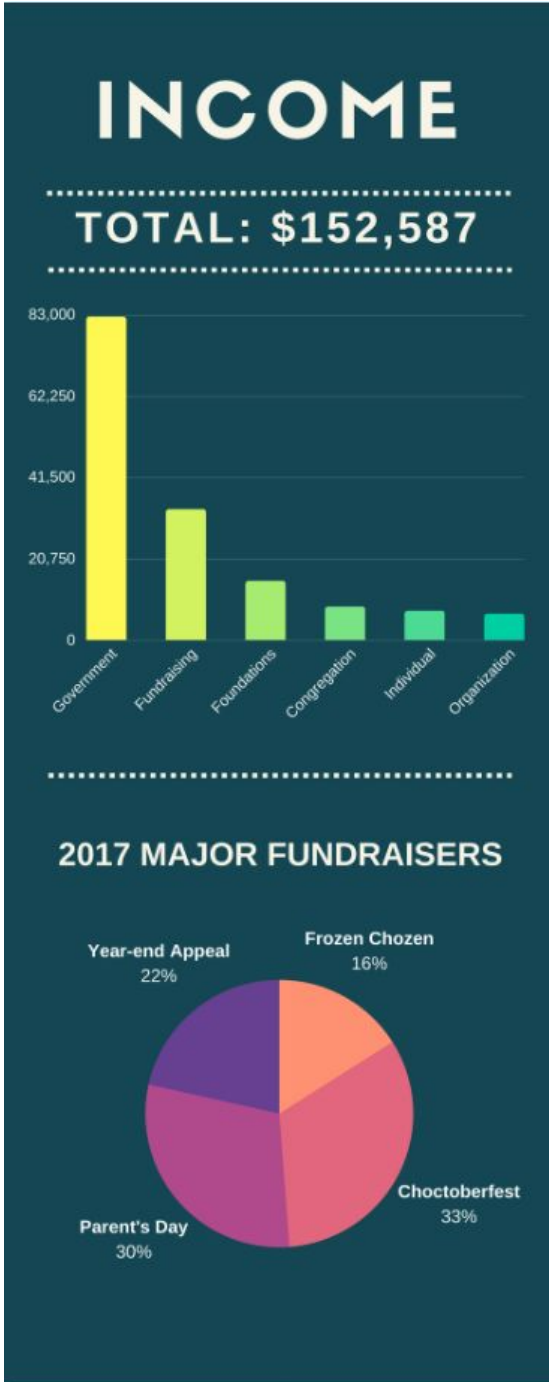
Clarence Church of Christ  
Crossroads Lutheran Church  
Hamburg United Methodist Church  
Orchard Park Presbyterian Church  
Saint Christopher Roman Catholic Church  
Saints Columba-Brigid Roman Catholic Church  
Saint James United Church of Christ  
Saint Matthias Episcopal Church  
Saint Stephens-Bethlehem United Church of Christ  
Saint Vincent De Paul Roman Catholic Church  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

## Support Congregations and Religious Foundations

Support Congregations provide meals, volunteers, donations and financial contributions to our Host Congregations and to Family Promise of WNY.

Amherst Community Church	Saint Mark's Episcopal Church
Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Church	Saint Martin De Porres RCC
Christ United Methodist Church	Saint Mary's of Swormsville
Clarence United Methodist Church	Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church
Elim Christian Fellowship	Saint John's Lutheran Church in Orchard Park
Elma United Methodist Church	Saint John Vianney Roman Catholic Church
Epiphany United Church of Christ	Saint Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church
First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo	Saint John's Lutheran Church
First Presbyterian Church of East Aurora	Temple Beth Zion
Friends of Jesus Foundation	Trinity Episcopal Church
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day
Lutheran Charities	Saints in Orchard Park
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church	Clarence United Methodist Church
Nativity of our Lord Roman Catholic Church	Orchard Park Community Church
New Hope United Methodist Church	University Presbyterian Church
Our Lady of Charity Catholic Parish	Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst
	Unitarian Universalist Church of Hamburg
	Zion Lutheran Church

# 2017 Financials





# 2017 Family and Volunteer Statistics

## FAMILY STATISTICS

**3,659** NIGHTS OF SHELTER

**18 Families**  
Served

60% children / 40% adults

**SUCCESSFULLY  
HOUSED  
86%**

excluding families not ready for shelter  
who left our program in under a week

**62**  
AVERAGE  
NIGHTS OF  
SHELTER  
PER FAMILY

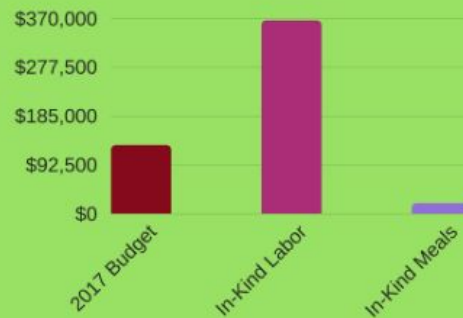


## VOLUNTEER STATISTICS

OUR NETWORK CONTAINS:

- ★ 500+ VOLUNTEERS
- ★ NEARLY 50 FAITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS
- ★ MORE THAN 18,000 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROVIDED
- ★ 365 HOT, HOME-COOKED MEALS PREPARED

### IN-KIND DONATIONS



**\$2** IN GOODS AND SERVICES RETURNED FOR EVERY \$1 DONATED TO FAMILY PROMISE OF WNY

## Client Success Stories



This family were homeowners in Florida but lost their house in the foreclosure crisis several years back. The father, chasing temporary jobs, found his way to Buffalo and his family soon traveled North to join him. They were in our shelter for three months, the father working several part-time jobs and trying to negotiate for and rehabilitate possible rental apartments in the evenings. In this picture they are holding up the key to their new apartment!



This family was evicted and found their way into our program with a 1-month old infant and two girls under 4. They were originally from Puerto Rico and the mother and daughters spoke only Spanish. The father held a job at Walmart throughout his time with us. Because they had so many young children, they were good candidates for the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority's waiting list and slowly made their way up to number one. They were finally offered subsidized housing after five months in shelter - our longest guests ever!



# Foundations and Major Fundraisers

## Foundations - \$15,100

Gartner Foundation  
Ingram Micro  
John R. Oishei Foundation  
Josephine Goodyear Foundation  
Schwab Charitable  
Walter Ghering Charitable Fund

## The Frozen Chozen 5k - \$5,000

It was an amazingly balmy 50 degree day in January for the Frozen Chozen 5k, sponsored annually by St. John's Lutheran Church in Orchard Park.



## Parent's Day Appeal - \$9,277

We enjoyed our most successful ever Parent's Day Appeal due to the generosity of our supporters. A huge thank you!



## Choctoberfest - \$10,241

We had our most successful Choctoberfest to date at Resurgence Brewing Company. Over 200 people joined us for a beautiful night in October to celebrate our mission.



## End-of-the-Year Appeal - \$6,718

We were able to end the year with a strong annual appeal, bringing in critical funds to help our organization achieve our mission and help families in crisis navigate out of homelessness.



# 2017 Donor List

## Congregations - \$8,500

All Saints Lutheran Church  
Amherst Community Church  
Breadhive Workers Cooperative  
Christ United Methodist Church  
Clarence United Methodist Church  
Elma United Methodist Church  
First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo  
Friends of Jesus Foundation  
Lutheran Charities  
New Hope United Methodist Church  
Orchard Park Presbyterian Church  
Our Lady of Charity Catholic Parish  
Saint Christopher's Roman Catholic Church  
Saint David's Episcopal Church  
Saint John's Lutheran Church  
Saint Mary's R.C. Church Society  
Saint Matthias Episcopal Church  
Saint Stephens-Bethlehem United Church of  
Christ Temple Beth Zion  
The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies  
University Presbyterian Church  
Zion Lutheran Church

## Organizations - \$6,700

Amazon Smile  
Armor School Sunshine Club  
Baillie Lumber Corporation  
Block Club  
Brock, Schechter and Polakoff, LLP  
Brown, Charles and Alice  
Buffalo Sabers Foundation  
Clarence High School Annual Sleepout  
Ferguson Electric  
Fidelity Charitable  
Friends of Edward Rath III  
Grand Jude, Inc  
Janitronics Facility Services  
Matching Funds by the Frank G. Raichle  
Foundation  
Merchants Insurance Group  
Love in Motion LLC  
Lumsden McCormick CPA  
Rich Products Corporation  
Seneca Gaming Corporation  
Trooper David C. Brinkerhoff Foundation  
Uniland Development Corporation  
United Way of Western Orleans County

## Individuals - \$7,456

Albrecht, Heidi and Jay  
Anderson, Michael  
Andrews, Jen  
Anthony, Jack and Molly  
Ashraf, Asma  
Avino, Anthony  
Baier, Michael and Clarine  
Balzano, Gregory  
Bauer, Carl and Carmille  
Barblock, Paula and Friends  
Beardi, James and Linda  
Bennett, James and Barbara  
Beringer, Patricia  
Bernhardt, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Raymond  
Beuler, Robert and Colleen  
Blass, Stephen and Elizabeth  
Bleacher, Michael  
Bojanowski, Crystal  
Bonaventura, Lisa  
Breese-Owens, Susana  
Bucklaew, Sharon  
Bulger, Patricia  
Burritt, Judith  
Callan, Timothy  
Cameron, Amy  
Cammarata, Frank and Andrea  
Casassa, Judith  
Colligan, Mary Jo and Donald  
Colvin, Deborah and Joseph  
Cooper, Colleen  
Cooper, Janet  
Crawford, Lance and Sandra  
Dayton, Sara and Andy  
Dannebrock, William and Audrey  
Davey, Virginia  
Deubell, Dustin and Amy  
Diflavio, Renee  
Dotterweich, Karen and Joseph  
Dowd, Rosamond  
Duszynski, Gina  
Ehlinger-Saj, Jen  
Elliott, Elizabeth  
Emminger, Clifford and Donna  
Evans, Stanley L. and Anne C.  
Fenn, Deborah  
Ferella, Deborah  
Firestone, Pauline  
Firestone, Peter

Fitzgerald, Douglas and Patricia  
Foley, Melanie  
Fonte, Kathryn  
Grabowski, Lisa  
Girzone, Edward and Jennifer  
Gorham, Katherine  
Grace, Lee Ann  
Grimaldi, John and Eileen  
Griffin, Robert  
Gross, Kylee  
Gunn, Richard  
Guyker, James and Ruth  
Hack, Gregory  
Harrigan, Mary Alice  
Hess, Emmylou and Herold  
Hevers, Kimberly  
Hewlings, Katharine  
Hidalgo, Erica  
Hodan, Janice  
Hoffman-McQueen, Faith  
Hogenboom, Timothy and Jennifer  
Hoffman, Christian and Toni  
Holl, Harriet (Joan)  
House, Cheryl and Anthony  
Hunt, Paula and Dennis  
Jackson, Jane  
Jarrett, John  
Johnson, Jaffrey and Pamela  
Johnson, Karin  
Johnson, Maxine  
Joy, Shirley  
Judelsohn, Alexandra  
Kazmierczak, Michelle  
Kenline-Blette, Beverly  
Kennedy, Martin  
Keesler, Nicole  
Kerwin, SSJ, Sr. Marie  
Kloss, Mark and Dawn  
Koske, Maryann and Artur  
Koszarek, Eugene and Marilyn  
Krampitz, Kandy  
Kreher, Lois  
Kroczyński, Margaret  
Lacro, Ronald and Schum, Jon

Lautz, David and Clara  
LaVigne, Colleen  
Lee, Dr. Richard  
Lillis, Judith and Sharon  
McCormick  
Linch, Richard and Sharon  
Linton, Roxanne  
Littlefield, Colin  
Lockwood, Callie  
Losi, Mary  
Luce, Kara  
Luppino-Gholston, Kristen  
Maloney, Patrick and Holly  
Mansfield, Raymond and Lucinda  
Markowski, Carolyn  
Mattar, Elaine and Larry  
McMahon, Elizabeth  
Metivier, Victor and Barbara  
Metzger, Amanda  
Metzger, Sarah  
Miller-Stubbendick, Adam  
Molnar, Diane and Joseph  
Myers, Theodore  
Nicolai, Philip  
Nigro-Lawrence, Teresa  
Nobel, Sanford M.  
O'Connor, Frank and Christine  
Odden, Linda  
Orban, Mary and John  
Organ, Caroline and Brian  
Ortner, Eric  
Paschka, Penelope  
Pastva, Dawn  
Parker, Richard and Mary  
Patterson, Jack and Kathleen  
Pearman, Dorothy  
Pfister, Susan  
Plache, Marilyn  
Podpora, Carol and Francis  
Powell, Karen  
Pratt, Robert  
Rabadi, Taylor  
Reszel, Josephine  
Ricotta, Thomas and Connie  
Rugg, William and Marj

Sabo, James and Wendy  
Schoenborn, Jeffrey and Margot  
Scott, Peter  
Schulz, Susan  
Scinta, Nan  
Seifert, Margaret  
Setter, Todd and Mary  
Showers, Anne  
Schwab, Tara  
Schulz, Susan  
Sieracki, Roger  
Smith, Gary  
Snyder, Suzanne and Kirby  
Somerville, Jeffrey and Lynda  
Sonner, Robert and Sally  
Solomon, Lousianna  
Sozanski, John and Marilyn  
Steffan, Mary  
Steffan, David and Rosamond  
Dowd  
Suttell, Daniel  
Stermann, James  
Szefel, Michelle  
Tirado, Jeremias and Betsaida  
Tracy, Megan  
Trump, Joan  
Tunmore, Roger and Bonnie  
VanNote, CJ  
VanVelson, Shauna  
Vara, Jennifer  
Vukelic, Paul and Amy  
Weaver, Carol  
Webb, Katherine  
Wilson, James and Meridith  
Winer, Sharon  
Witte, Ray  
Wixson, Stephen and Virginia  
Vaughan  
Woolingham, Dianne and Kenneth  
Wynne, Audra and Robert  
Zeit, Linda  
Zulawski, Katherine  
Zulinke, Sharon  
Zwick, Mary

# How to Help

**We are a volunteer-driven organization and cannot do what we do without your help!**  
There are many ways to get involved, including:

- Invite us to speak at your congregation
- Check out our Wish List and donate items, such as personal care or new apartment essentials, to the families in our program
- Provide direct service to our clients, such as a hot meal, a fun activity with our children, overnight hospitality or translation
- Provide office support at our Day Center, such as accounting, graphic design or volunteer management
- Help us keep our Day Center looking warm and welcoming, from light housekeeping to organizing donations
- Support us through a financial contribution made payable to “Family Promise of WNY” and mailed to: 75 Hickory Street, Buffalo, NY 14204

**For more information about how to connect with us, visit:**  
<https://fpwny.org/how-to-help>



**Help us end homelessness. . . one family at a time!**