

FAMILY PROMISE OF WESTERN NEW YORK 2021 Annual Report



Family Promise

OF WESTERN NEW YORK

Celebrating 25 Years of Keeping Families Together

OUR MISSION

We keep families experiencing homelessness together

by offering emergency housing and compassionate support as they work to find their way back home.



Note from the Director

WOW! What a year!

2021 brought its shares of joys and challenges but overall this was a completely unique year in so many ways!

First and foremost, 2021 was the first full year that we operated a static-site shelter with twice the capacity of our old model. We jumped from serving 20 to 40 families annually.



As a benchmark to indicate how fast we had to grow, our staffing costs increased this year by over 200%. Everything intensified - we had to prepare bigger meals, purchase more bedding, manage more children in the building and respond to more needs from our families. But our community was with us 100% of the way! YOU increased your support of our program through donations of funding, groceries, shelter supplies and essential support, keeping us strong for the families we serve.

We finalized many building modifications this past year to keep up with our census, including expanding our kitchen to give our families more space to cook and store food, installing a commercial washer and dryer to help laundry flow more efficiently and partnering with two brilliant artists in our Buffalo community who painted inspirational murals inside our shelter space. I want to thank our muralists, Casey Milbrand and Cassandra Ott, for their gorgeous contributions to our walls!

This year also showcased the efficacy of our small-scale shelter model. Serving only 6 families at a time allows us to build relationships of trust and collaboration and tailor our interventions to the family in front of us in order to empower them to succeed. Check out our stats from this past year:



55 days = the average length of stay in our shelter
30 = families in our program who transitioned to stable housing situations
0% = families in our program who returned to homelessness



That "0%" recidivism rate is significant. On top of just housing families, our team hustles every day to help our guests achieve their stability goals - anything which would increase the likelihood that their family will remain housed. These goals include helping parents secure employment, recovering lost documents like birth certificates and social security cards, activating cell phones, connecting families to primary care doctors and mental health counselors, enrolling children in school, fixing broken-down vehicles, etc. While we'd love to see every family who enters our program move into an apartment, what "0%" recidivism indicates is that our wrap-around interventions were strong enough with every family who passed through our doors that they were able to stabilize enough to successfully exit out of the homeless system.

Of course, 2021 was overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Family Promise kept our doors open through an entire year of this unrelenting public health crisis. COVID impacted our shelter in profound ways. At the beginning of 2021, Buffalo Public Schools were in full remote learning and we started the year by hiring a Virtual Learning Coordinator with funding from the Vogt Family Foundation. This new staff position was created to help our families more successfully manage the unique demands of virtual learning until students transitioned back into classrooms in the Spring. Although New York State had an eviction moratorium in place this past year, we noticed that our census in shelter was constantly full since early summer. The need for shelter is urgent. Once a family successfully navigates our program, it has been much harder to convince landlords to take a chance on renting to our families because of the way the moratorium has essentially blocked landlords from collecting rent or evicting tenants. Certain families have been "stuck" in shelter for too long after meeting all their goals except housing. And although we have continued to prioritize safety in the building with facemasks, frequent temperature checks and constant sanitization, the pandemic has been a constant threat in our shelter and I applaud my staff for coming to work each day and allowing us to stay open for business.



100%

Our vaccination rate among staff at Family Promise of WNY

0

The number of COVID-positive quests we have had this year

This past summer, we piloted our first in-house summer camp to much success! Homeless children have difficulty accessing traditional summer camps due to the unpredictable nature of the crisis itself and the lack of resources available to families experiencing homelessness. Family Promise of WNY opted to pilot our own 6-week in-house morning summer camp powered by funding from the Marks Family Foundation and focused on reading, math, socio-emotional development, arts and gross motor development. We even sent our children on a field trip every Friday! It was wonderful to see kids have a chance to just be kids in shelter and give parents some freedom to get to appointments and focus on their priorities. We hope to secure funding this coming year to make the summer camp into a full day program!







Despite COVID, we have also been able to welcome volunteers back in the building when positivity rates across Erie County have been low enough to permit this. Some highlights include partnering with Colleen Culligan who has been a constant source of bicycles for our families this past summer and coordinating with over 69 community donors to secure Christmas presents for 39 of our families this past holiday season!



We also made some significant partnerships this year, including with the generous women at **Park Edge Chocolates** who stepped up as our local chocolatiers for our 6th annual Choctoberfest in September and with **Scott Bieler of West Herr Automotive Group** who donated a 2019 minivan to our program in December. Wow Scott - what a gift!



375 = the number of families we have served since opening our doors in 1996!

Finally, this past summer we kicked off a year-long celebration honoring Family Promise of WNY's 25th anniversary in this community! The festivities began with a homecoming on the grounds of the shelter, which included an official ceremony, a long-overdue ribbon-cutting and then a summer picnic complete with a food truck, a bounce house and face painting! Throughout

our anniversary year, we are encouraging all our supporters to join "The Village" - a community of monthly financial donors - which helps strengthen the financial health of our program. Check out our website for more details and stay tuned for more anniversary celebrations in 2022!

This has been an exciting year full of unique challenges and opportunities and 2022 is shaping up to be just as critical. As I write, the eviction moratorium in New York State has just expired and over half a million renting families are in danger of eviction from back rent owed. Our community is on the precipice of a homelessness surge, making organizations like Family Promise of Western New York as critical as ever. I want to thank our community for their support in these difficult times and ask that you stick with us as we make the road ahead!

Sincerely,

Luanne Firestone Executive Director





- 30 Families transitioned into stable housing
- Families in our program who returned to homelessness
- 200% Staffing increases to fit our static-site model
 - 100% Vaccination rate of our staff
 - O Confirmed cases of COVID-19 in shelter
 - Years Family Promise of WNY has served homeless families in our community



Senior Leadership

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Diane Picard - Executive Director, Massachusetts Avenue Project

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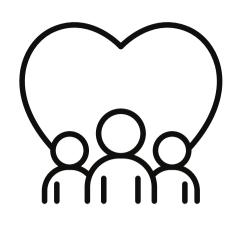
Pat Whalen - Director, Niagara Global Tourism Institute

David Zapfel - President/CEO, Gerard Place

2021 Stats Eviction 2.4% Illness 4.9% Family Breakup 24.4% Relocation 12.2% Mental Health 14.6% Domestic Violence 19.5% Reason for Inadequate Housing homelessness 19.5%



Number of children vs. adults served: 7 out of 10



\$55,000

Gift-in-Kind donations to the shelter

(groceries, bedding, toiletries, diapers, etc)

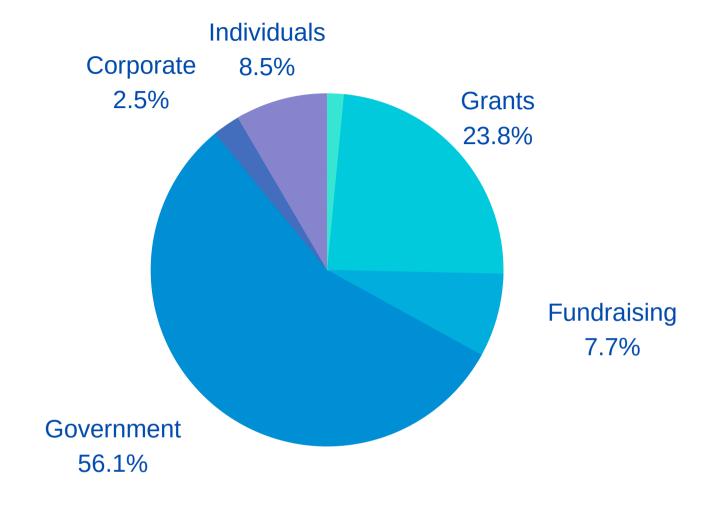


Average number of days in shelter



Families who transitioned into stable housing: 30 out of 36

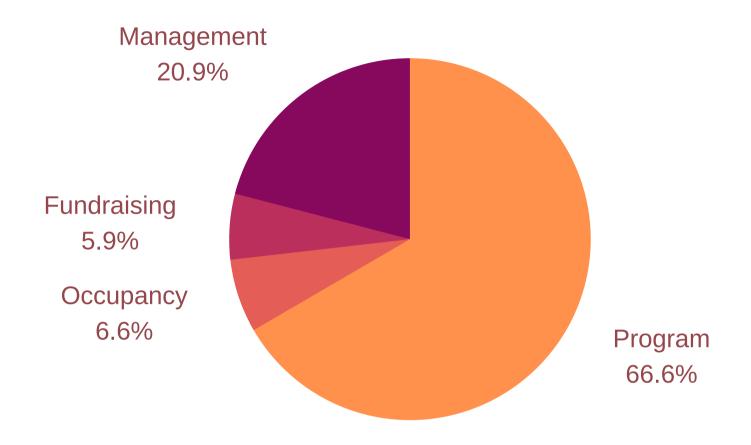
2021 Income



Faith Communities -	\$8,775
Corporate -	\$14,211
Fundraising -	\$43,875
Individual Donors -	\$48,464
Grants -	\$136,436
Government -	\$321,152

TOTAL INCOME: \$572,913

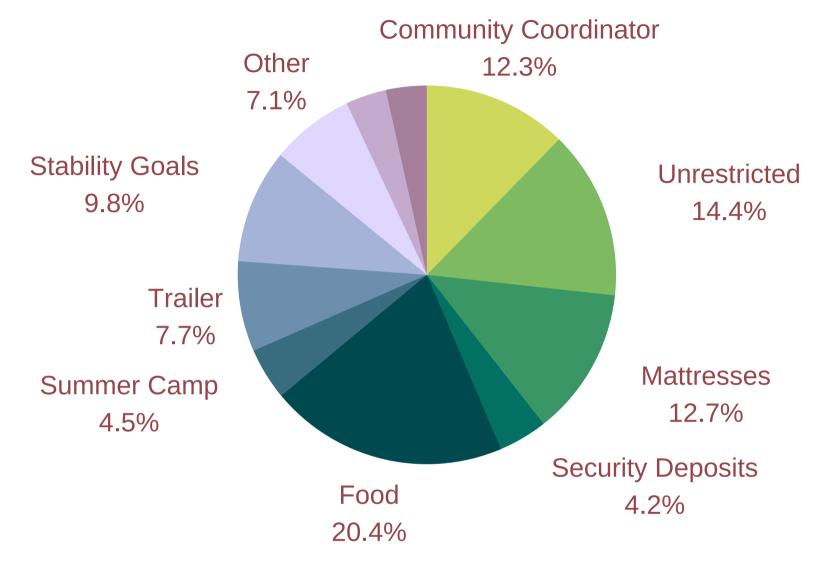
2021 Expenses



Fundraising -	\$25,594
Occupancy -	\$28,610
Management -	\$91,308
Program -	\$290,435

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$457,905

2021 Grant Support



Food -	\$29,250
Unrestricted -	\$20,700
Mattresses-	\$18,207
Community Coordinator -	\$17,680
Stability Goals -	\$14,000
Trailer -	\$11,079
Other -	\$10,240
Summer Camp -	\$6,400
Security Deposits -	\$6,000
Financial Match -	\$5,000
Technology -	\$5,000

TOTAL GRANT SUPPORT: \$143,556

2021 Donor List

Gifts of \$20,000+

East Hill Foundation
Small Business Association

Gifts of \$10,000-\$19,999

The Garman Family Fund at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo

The Monsignor Richard S. Amico Memorial Charitable Trust

The Ruth Huppuch Bequest Fund at Orchard Park Presbyterian Church

Gifts of \$5,000-\$9,999

BUMP

Compass Minerals

Evans-Devereux Memorial Fund

Family Promise Innovation Grant

Hallis, Curtis & Kathleen

Lutheran Charities

New Car Dealers of WNY Charitable Foundation

O'Connell Electric Company, Inc.

The John R. Oishei Foundation

The M&T Charitable Foundation

The Marks Family Foundation

Gifts of \$1,000-\$4,999

Awesome Foundation

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Bosinski, Linda and Paul

Boys Club of St. Francis Inc.

Brock, Schechter & Polakoff, LLP

Brunner, Kathy

Buttino, Anthony

Dickman, Paul

Dreamcatcher Foundation, Inc.

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Erbacher, Christine

Firestone, Paula

Herberger, Roy

Hogenboom, Timothy & Jennifer

Hyde, Alison

John Newman Mission Community Inc.

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Kegler, Douglas

Kegler, Gary & Marcia

Kempf, James

Kenmore Rotary Charities Inc.

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Michael Cacho

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Nobel, Sanford M.

NY State Electric and Gas

Orchard Park Presbyterian Church

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

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Rotary Club of West Seneca

Schneggenburger, Julie

Schoenborn, Jeffrey and Margot

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St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Home for Children

The Almar Family Foundation Inc.

The Haller Fund at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

The H.O.P.E Fund at St. Vincet de Paul Church

The Joseph & Anna Gartner Foundation

The Kamis Family Ministries Fund

The Riefler Ministry Enablement Fund

The Sisters Of Mercy Of The Americas

Tomczak. John and Maureen

Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

United Way

University Presbyterian Church

Upper NY Conference United Methodist Women

Vaughn, Lewis and Kathy

Vicks Family Donation Fund

Gifts of \$500-\$999

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All Saints Lutheran Church

Amherst Community Church

Anglican Church of St. Nicholas

BankonBuffalo

Barone, Marion

Calvary Episcopal Church

Cavo, Kelli

Chason, Martin

Christ United Methodist Church

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Gardens Buffalo Niagara Vibrant Buffalo Beautification

Give 716

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Hamburg United Methodist Church

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Phillips Lytle LLP
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St. John's-Grace Episcopal Church
St. Matthias Episcopal Church

Testa. Maria

The Power of One Church Ministries COGIC The Woodforest Charitable Foundation

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Towers, Lynne Van Note, CJ

Ziemba, Joseph & Judith

Gifts of \$100-\$499

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Culligan, Paul
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Desiderio, Marissa Deubell, Dustin & Amy Dibble, Katherine Dingboom, Grace Domachowski, Lynn Egan, Mary and Edmund

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Hamm, Christopher
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Zwick, Beverly