



FAMILY PROMISE OF WNY

2024 Annual Report



Family Promise

OF WESTERN NEW YORK

Celebrating over 25 Years of Keeping Families Together

OUR MISSION

We keep unhoused families together

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



WE KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER -

We are one of just two emergency family shelters in Erie County

SMALLER IS BETTER -

Because we serve just 6-8 families at a time, we keep things personal for our kids-who make up 75% of our guests



WE ARE ACCESSIBLE -

Our shelter is ADA accessible, features spacious rooms ideal for larger families and allows parents to cook for their kids

WE SERVE ALL FAMILIES -

We can shelter single moms and single dads, two-parent families and multi-generational families



Family Promise of WNY, 75 Hickory Street, Buffalo NY 14204
716-771-3007 • fpwny.org • facebook.com/fpwny



Family Promise

OF WESTERN NEW YORK

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WHAT WE DO

We help families stabilize by working on the following priorities while they are living in our emergency shelter. Additionally, we tailor goals to each family in our program.

WE HELP FIND HOUSING -



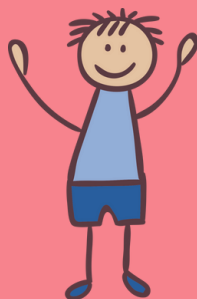
From Day #1, we work to find safe and affordable housing so families can quickly find their way back home

WE HELP MEET BASIC NEEDS -

To stabilize a family, we make sure they have enough food and clothing, critical documents and working cell phones



WE LINK TO MEDICAL CARE -



Healthy families are stable families. We link to primary, pediatric and specialized medical providers

WE HELP PARENTS FIND JOBS -

We know that affording rent is hard. A stable apartment requires a stable income



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Note from the Director

As we wrap up 2024, I can't believe that Family Promise of Western New York is heading into our fifth year as a static-site shelter!

Since we opened as a static shelter back in September of 2020...

Family Promise has served 750 people and helped over 80 families move back home into permanent housing!

We have grown so much in the last five years as a program and continue to strive to be better each and every day! Below are some of our top insights from 2024:

#1

The main reason the families in our program cited as what triggered their homeless event this past year was due to "family breakup", which is most often the result of the sickness or death of a partner or a parent.

25% of our families cited this as the reason they were homeless. The #2 reason was eviction.

3

The number of months on average it took a family to successfully work our program and graduate into permanent housing.

Beyond housing, we are also stabilizing every family we work with. 92% of the families who exited our program in 2024 did not re-enter the homeless system.

32

The number of families we served in 2024.

This included 119 children - the fastest growing segment of the homeless population is children ages 0-5. Our program provided almost 10,400 bed nights in 2024, which was a 1,000 increase over last year.

41

The percent of our families who were employed.

We had a 46% increase from the number of families entering our program with employment to the number of families exiting our program with employment! We know securing employment is a strong indicator for successfully finding housing and we have focused on this benchmark this year.

“I am grateful that a place like this exists. Because so many people have no one. I have not one person who me and my children could stay with during a time like this. For me, **my two options were a motel or a car.**

Family Promise provided me with a much better option. Homelessness can have a profound negative emotional effect on children and adults. For my kids, Family Promise made it more of an adventure for them than the reality of homelessness. Providing shelter, support, comfort and family time activities was a welcome distraction from reality.”

Miss T. and sons

Family Promise has received a lot of love from our community this past year!

In particular, we've won two major grants that have helped to build capacity in our program! This past Spring, Family Promise of WNY won the competitive 21st Century Fund Grant which served as a catalyst in our efforts to find a second shelter location! This award was critical to allowing us to pay the developers, architects and lawyers to guide us in the predevelopment stages of locating a possible second shelter site in advance of trying to apply for New York State funding for this project. **THANK YOU TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE 21st CENTURY FUND FOR THIS CRITICAL SUPPORT!**



And this past Fall, we secured the biggest grant in our history - a KeyBank Foundation Impact Grant - that will provide \$300,000 to Family Promise over the next 3 years!

This grant was targeted to help with two needs:

First, decreasing success rate in housing families

We have noticed the following concerning trend over the past five years - our ability to successfully graduate families has dropped by 39%! We attribute this to multiple factors, including increasing complexity of the families we are serving, most notably in CPS involvement and trauma baseline index scores. We are addressing this need with the help of the KeyBank Foundation with the hiring of our **new Housing Coordinator**, who is 100% focused on finding housing, negotiating with landlords and getting our families signed landlord statements! And it is working! **In the first 2 days of 2025, we housed 3 families!**

Second, increasing capacity needs as we expand our ability to serve more families

There has been a 200% jump in family homelessness over the last 5 years in Erie County! Family Promise has been trying to meet this need by pursuing the possibility of opening a 2nd small family shelter. We have explored several sites and at the close of 2024 are still in the pre-development phase of this project. We have a goal of more than doubling our services by jumping from serving six families to fourteen families at a time. Below is a rendering of what our new 2nd shelter could look like:



Thank you to the KeyBank Foundation for helping us grow!

As we close out this year, we continue to be grateful to our network supporters who are helping in so many ways to keep our organization strong and thriving so that we can do the important work of helping families find their way back home!

Sincerely,

Luanne Firestone, *Executive Director*



2024 at a Glance

119

Children Sheltered

32

Families served

3

Average number of months it took
a family to successfully move back
home

41%

Families employed upon exiting our
program

47%

Families who were homeless for the
first time

92%

Families who did not reenter the
homeless system after
participating in our program



2024 Children's Engagement

15

Field trips enjoyed

33

Families who received Christmas gifts through our Giving Tree Program

34

Birthdays celebrated

46

Friday night bingo games played

56

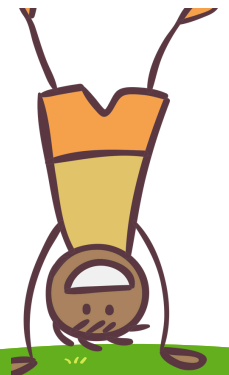
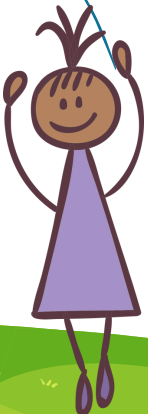
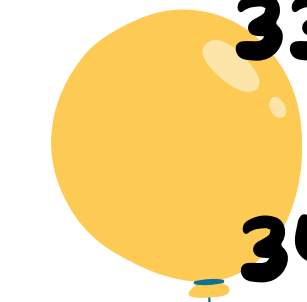
Youth who participated in our after-school partnership at the Old First Ward Community Center

135

In-house weekend volunteer activities hosted

136

Hours of summer camp provided



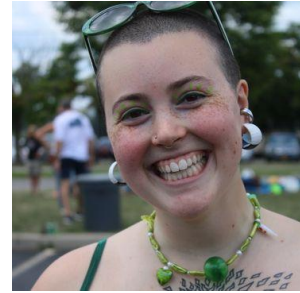
Meet our Leadership Team



**Luanne Firestone,
Executive Director**
Oversees shelter team and
operations



**Roberta Pickens,
Shelter Supervisor**
Supports shelter staff and
operations



**Jenn Kegler,
Youth Program and
Outreach Manager**
Coordinates outreach and
children's programs



**Susan Andersen-Strait
Family Case Coordinator**
Helps guests achieve their
goals while in shelter



**Akela Allums,
Shelter Manager**
Keeps our shelter running
smoothly



**Alicia Jackson, Weekend
Assistant Manager**
Supports the team on the
weekends



**Isohie "SoSo" Ogiugo,
Stability Case Worker**
Runs PayDay Program



**Susana Breese,
Development Director**
Finds us the money



**Roni Courton
Housing Coordinator**
Helps families find housing

Meet our Board of Directors and our Advisory Board

Board of Directors

Officers

- **President:** **CJ Van Note**, *CPA, International Tax Manager, Aprio*
- **Vice President:** **Melissa Keith**, *Vice President of Media, Abbey Mecca*
- **Treasurer:** **Kaylei Russell**, *CPA, Controller, Beyond Support Network*
- **Secretary:** **Clara Moran**, *Executive Director, BISON Children's Scholarship Fund*

Board Members

- **Dawn Askew**, *MBA, Equal Opportunity Specialist 2, New York State Insurance Fund*
- **Matthew Becton**, *Senior Manager of Learning and Development, Verizon*
- **Jim Connolly**, *retired*
- **Marissa Desidario**, *LCSW, Senior EAP Clinician & Training Coor, Child and Family Services*
- **J. Christian Hoffman**, *Director of Communication, Community Missions of Niagara Frontier*
- **Margot Knab**, *JD, Senior Associate, Colligan Law LLP*
- **Shannon Fagan**, *Director of Therapeutic Services, Brylin Hospital*
- **Richard "Ryall" Ledyard**, *Real Estate Salesperson, Cushman & Wakefield / Pyramid Brokerage Company*
- **Danielle Maurice**, *Social Worker, Erie County Court System*
- **Michael Murak**, *Commercial Real Estate Financing Team Lead and Senior Relationship Manager, Evans Bank*
- **Kelly Ann Toy**, *Lawyer, U.S. Development Finance Corporations*

Advisory Board

- **Kevin and Cathy Barron**, *Admin, Cardinal O'Hara Retirement and Pastry Chef, NCC*
- **Ilia Beecher**, *Paws for Love SPCA*
- **Steve Blass**, *Advisor, Vision Financial Group*
- **Kelli Cavo**, *Human Resource Manager, Northwestern Mutual*
- **Frank Cammarata**, *Executive Director, Erie County Office for People with Disabilities*
- **Rita Capezzi**, *Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church*
- **Pat Crowley**, *Special Events Advisor*
- **Eric Ensminger**, *Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Marketing Technologies of WNY*
- **Justin Eveland**, *Senior Vice President, M&T Bank*
- **Gigi Jankowski**, *Agent, Nichol City Realty*
- **Rob Hackford**, *Journalist, WGRZ-TV Buffalo*
- **Joe Heary**, *Executive Director, Friends of Night People*
- **Kathy and Bob Hayes**, *Community Coordinators, Saint Vincent De Paul Catholic Church*
- **Paula Hunt**, *Buffalo House of Hope*
- **Rev. Joan Montagnes**, *Retired Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church*

2024 In-Kind Donations

\$ 2,100	Baby
\$ 1877	Birthdays
\$ 13,310	Apartment Essentials
\$ 5,205	Shelter Supplies
\$ 5,540	Gift Cards
\$ 3,350	Bedding
\$ 6,255	Children's Programming
\$ 6,203	Clothing
\$ 12,245	Groceries
\$55, 935	Holiday Gifts

\$112,020

**TOTAL
IN-KIND
SUPPORT**

- 21.64% increase over last year
- 9.7% of our operating budget



Snapshot of a typical family in our shelter in 2024

Single Mother.

63% of the families we served were led by single mothers.

First time homeless

Nearly half of all families we served in 2024 were experiencing homelessness for the first time

African-American

77% of the families we serve identify as people of color

Has 2 children ages 0-5

36% of all children in our shelter this past year were ages 0-5

Was displaced from her family home

25% of the families we served were homeless due to “family breakup”.

In our shelter program for 12 weeks

The shortest stay for a family was 3 weeks. The longest was 7 months.

Family of 5

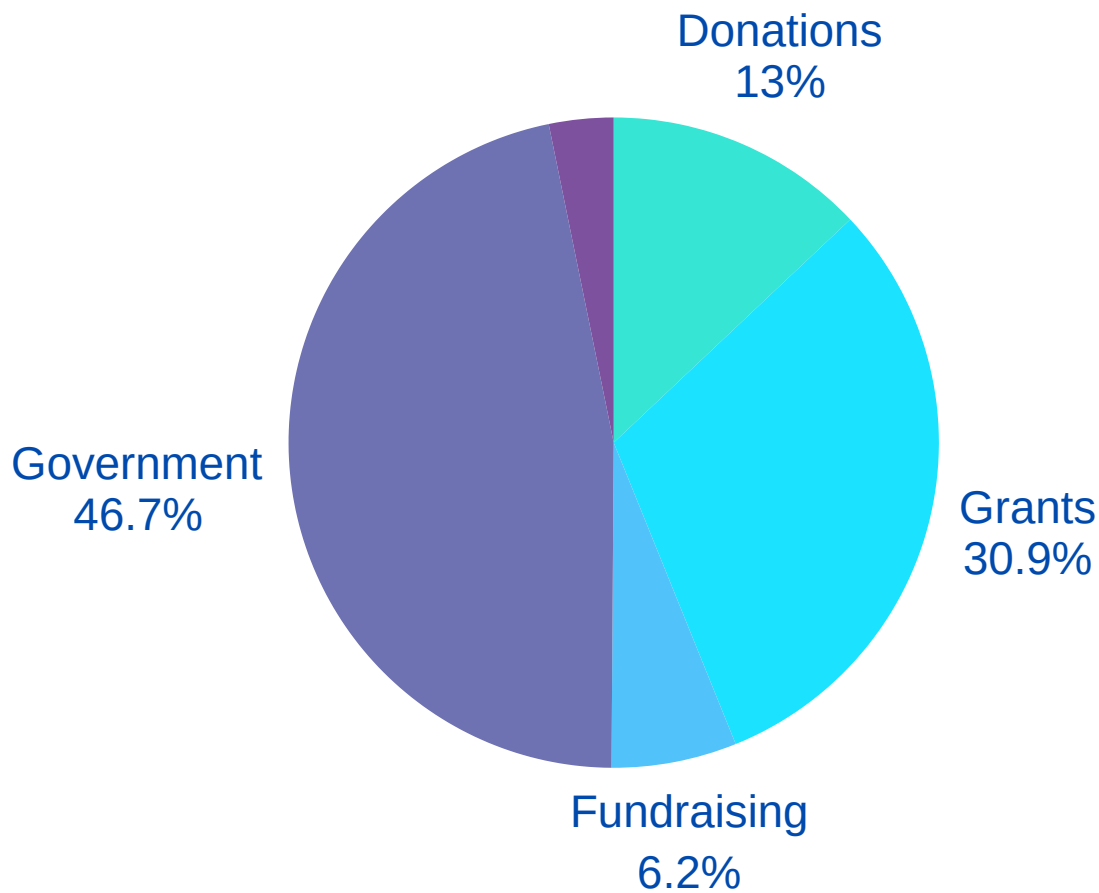
The smallest family we served in 2024 was a family of 2. The largest was a family of 9.

Graduates successfully from our program

Between 55-70% of our families successfully find housing



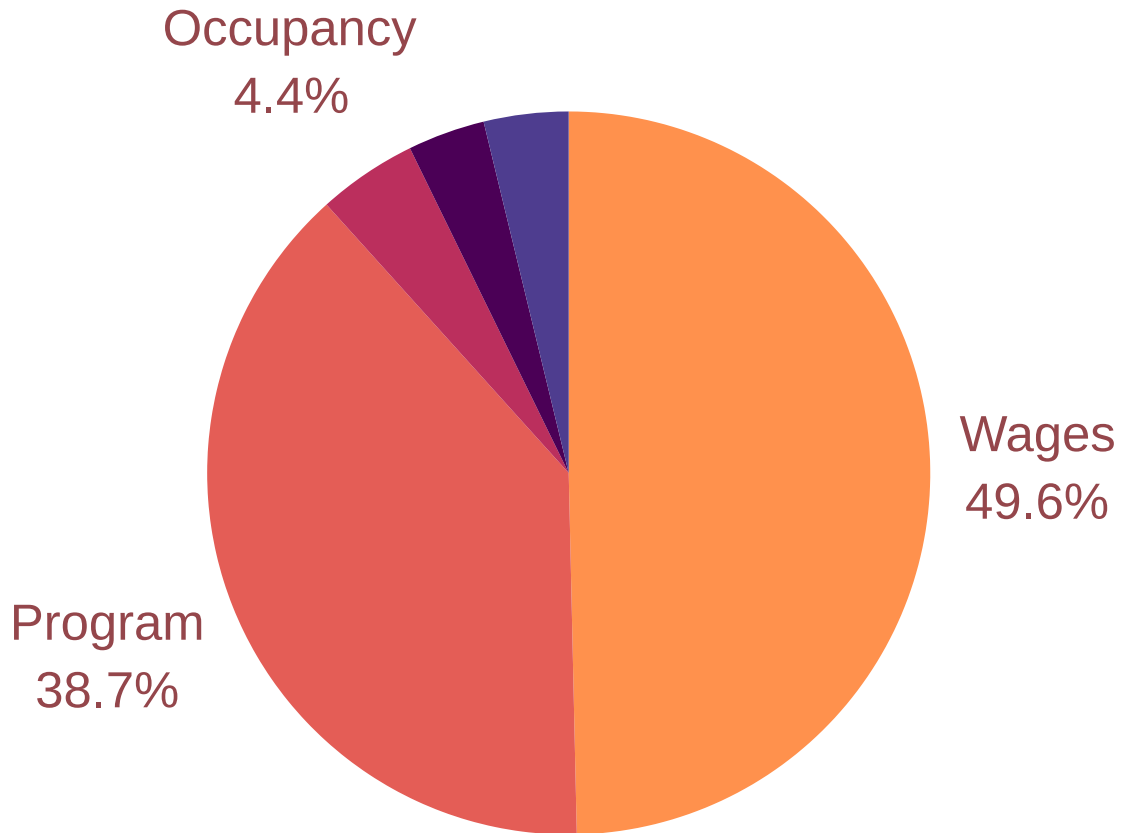
2024 Income



Fundraising -	\$71,596
Donations -	\$148,991
(individual, corporate,	
club, congregation)	
Grants -	\$355,297
Government -	\$536,555
Miscellaneous -	\$36,839

TOTAL INCOME: \$1,149,278

2024 Expenses



Fundraising -	\$38,363
Management -	\$42,051
Occupancy -	\$49,402
Program -	\$429,770
Wages -	\$551,662

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,109,551

What our Guests are Saying

Leaving soon?

Please take a moment to share with us what Family Promise has meant to you during your stay.

All of you guys Truly been family we had Good times, Bad times, sad times, mad times, but at the end of the day we will always be family, and come together to build towards greatness and strengthen each other in time of need. Our family are truly grateful for all the love and support we have received ~~for~~ from each and every staff member in our time of need. Please continue to remember your Jobs changes Lives it's up to you how!!

May we share your words anonymously on our website and with our network? YES NO 

Leaving soon?


Please take a moment to share with us what Family Promise has meant to you during your stay.

When I first came to Family Promise I was kinda ^{scared} ~~scared~~ Because I never thought I would have to be in a shelter But now i'm grateful for me ~~to~~ coming here to get the help me and my kid need and making I stay Focus and for guiding me on the right path and showing us love.

Leaving soon?

Please take a moment to share with us what Family Promise has meant to you during your stay.

Thank you so much for ~~helping~~ helping my family and I feel whole again!!
The staff make us feel very welcomed and not judged.

This place is a safe haven to finally be able to focus on a great transition. I really appreciate how nice and clean things are kept, and how friendly. I hope families can appreciate Family Promise!!
Thank you Thank you Thank you
Love and Light!  for the "Gi-Gi"

Leaving soon?

Please take a moment to share with us what Family Promise has meant to you during your stay.

It has meant everything, a second chance ^{when} ~~you~~ ^{you}
though all was lost, it is a bright light in the world
that cannot be extinguished.

2024 Donors

Gifts of \$100,000+

KeyBank Foundation

Gifts of \$50,000-\$99,999

Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
The John R. Oishei Foundation

Gifts of \$20,000-\$49,999

City of Buffalo ESG
Bueler, Bob

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

Sengupta, Elizabeth & Sourav
The Peter & Elizabeth Tower Foundation
Orchard Park Presbyterian Church
Monsignor Richard S. Amico Memorial
Charitable Trust
The Galasso Foundation

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

Sokody Sales Team
St. Johns Lutheran Church
John Newman Mission Community
The Marks Family Foundation
Baxter, Kevin
HDE Electric Inc
Aprio Foundation
Beardi, James & Linda
Children's Foundation of Erie County
J.M. McDonald Foundation
Josephine Goodyear Foundation
Neumeister, Janette
The Kamis Family Ministries Fund

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

Rotary Club of Amherst East Foundation
Niland, Eileen and James
Betschen, Richard
The Riefler Fund
Gar223 Fund for Lutheran Organizations
Evans Bank
Leo, Jack & Luanne
Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo
Evans, Stanley & Anne

Lions Clubs of District 20-N 2
Evans-Devereux Memorial Fund
Hybrid Building Solutions
Eberl Iron Works, Inc.
Davis, Donna
Lutheran Charities
Fay, Thomas & Mary
Nobel, Sanford M.
United Way
Tay Tahk, Charlotte
Van Note, CJ
Stylze by Stass
Suttell, Daniel
Hoffman, Christian
Vaughn, Lewis
Alcamo, Thomas
Taylor, Suzanne
West Herr
Encore Funding
Bradley, William
Brunner, Kathy
DeMarti, Cindy
East Hill Foundation
Erbacher, Christine
Hyde, Alison
Interim Employment Solutions LLC
Kenmore Lions Club
Mark A Nickerson CPA PLLC
St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
Stewart, Ryan & Megan
Stone, Jordan

Gifts of \$500-\$999

Zion Lutheran Church
McKay, Bruce and Phoebe
McAllister, Timothy and Noreen
Church of the Nativity
Hamburg United Methodist Church
O'Connor, Keith & Wendy
Kegler, Gary & Marcia
Kenline-Blette, Beverly R.
Stepien, John
Schneggenburger, Julie
Schneegold, Andrew
Keith, Melissa

Fredericks, Martin
Aldrich, Timothy & Donata
Montagnes, Rosemary
Wild, Norline
Beecher, Ilia
Blackman, Bruce
United Way of Greater Rochester & Finger
Lakes
Pyramid Brokerage
St Joe's University Parish
Sealing Devices
State Employees Federated Appeal Niagara
Frontier
Clifford, David and Cheryl
Alice L Say Family Foundation
Blackley, Carol
Bradley, Virginia
Compass Minerals
Dickman, Paul
Egan, Mary and Edmund
Felician Sisters of North America, Inc.
Greatbatch, Michele
Hunt, Mary Jo
Johnson, Maxine
Law Offices of Jessica A Kulpit
Metzger, Sarah
Orchard Park Presbyterian Women
Pasquarella, Matthew
Rich Products Corp.
Schaaf, Norman & Joann
The Caring House Project
The Woodforest Charitable Foundation
Warner, Eileen
Wynne, Robert & Audra
Youngstown Lions Club

Gifts of \$100-\$499

Following Jesus at Harris Hill
Stewart, Joseph
Durkin, Michael & Karan
Friends of Night People
Tracy, Megan
Johnson, Amy
Lyle, Stephen
KeyBank
Knights of Columbus - John Cardinal O'Hara
Council
John Svec & Kandy Krampitz

All Saints Lutheran Church
Connolly, James & Patricia
Kney, Jeffrey & Jane
Eagle Scout #411
Banas, Christopher
Rizzo, Marta
Anderson, Diana
Dingboom, Grace
Brady, Karen
Hines, Michael & Candace
Frazer, Betsy
Graves Towers, Lynn
Duggan, Andrea
Maras, Amber
Battistoni, Linda
Berrady, Laura
Cappello, Robert J. & Julie M.
Delo, Marylou & John
Sieracki, Roger & Kathleen
Ss. Peter & Paul Church
Montgomery, Paul
Oczytko, Barbara
Bauman, Matthew & Ann
Moran, Nellie
Schutte, Mary and Al
Highgate Medical
Becton, Matthew
CSX Foundation
Johnson, Carrie
Stroud, Meagan
Doick, Robin
Capezzi, Rita
Beyer, Jim
Brandel-Murphy Youth Foundation Inc
Buttino, Anthony
Grace, Lee Ann
Hartigan, Patti & Paul
Parker, Richard & Mary
Ryan, Bridget
Samita, Danielle
Schneggenburger, Caroline & Gerald
Vilardo, Anthony & Maria
Grimaldi, Eileen
Cavo, Kelli
Marschke, Stephanie
Buttino, Thomas J. & Amy G
Luppino-Gholston, Kristen
Wixson, Stephen
Paladino, Katherine

Burke, Patricia
Collins, Bonnie
Hayes, Bob and Kathy
Michael & Jenn Bishara
Sager, Alan and Suzanne
Tunmore Oldsmobile
Suhr, Tammy
O.P. Craft Club
Bakowski, Evelyn
Misenheimer, Dana
Pawarski, David
Godwin, Sean
Askew, Dawn
Beuler, Robert M. & Colleen M.
Crowley, Patricia
Dann, Jeffrey and Maureen
Desiderio, David & Mary Ann
DiCerbo, Nicholas & Ann
Ensminger, Eric
Loftus, Patrick & Renee
Meador, W. John and Barbara Mindel, Mary
Mitrovits, Joseph
Morrow, Donna & Michael
Mount St. Mary Academy
Bridge, Carol
Zastrow, William
Brauer, Carol
Bukowski, Edward and Anne
Bauer, Dale
Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph
Smith, Gary & Judy
Fabiano, Jude & Eileen
Mallak, Robert
Interlichia, Kate
Madoff, Ben
St. James UCC
Kegler, Johanna
Burke, Christopher
DiPasquale, Michael
Doly, Lillian
Marrano, Carol
McSweeney, Gerald
Petre, Joseph
Anastas, Tony & Catherine
Bauda, Shari
Bauer, Carl & Carmille
Brickman, Laurence & Celeste
Bronnenkant, Bruce & Carol
Brown, Charles & Alice

Campbell, Barbara
Colvin, Deborah and Joseph
Cooper, Janet & Crump, C. Elizabeth
Dannebrock, William & Audrey
Dengler, William and Mary
Deubell, Dustin & Amy
Discipio, Thomas
Edgerton, Amy
Epiphany UCC
Farrell, Mar
Galdun, David
Grotty, Anita & Patrick
Henderson, Bob and Norma
House, Cheryl & Anthony
Jarrett, John & Susan
Johnson, Karin E.
Joy, Shirley
Lynda Erick and
Mitchel Roemer
Makey, Brian and Ellen
Matthews, Helen
Metivier, Victor & Barbara
Meyer, Daniel
Montagnes, Joan
Munschauer, Cindy
Ohl, Joseph & Alice
Owens, Jim & Diane
Penfold, Richard C. & Karen E.
Schoenborn, Jeffrey and Margot
Smyth-Bogumil, Elaine Margaret
Snyder, Sharon
Snyder, Suzanne & Kirby
Sowyrda, Darcy
Stievater, Frederic & Jaan
The Congregation of The Sisters of St. Joseph
Uniland Development Corporation
University Presbyterian Church
Van Baak, David & Nancy
Ventura, Mike & Bev
West, Sandra
Wrin, Thomas and Carolyn
Wynne, Jane
Yakovac, Joseph
Carr, Karen
Sozanski, John M. & Marilyn

Gifts under \$100

National Fuel Charitable Foundation

Pitchford, Ashley

Reed, Elizabeth

Lennon, Mike & Marsha

Blood, Jennifer

Browne, Thomas & Patricia

Bruning, Richard & Mary

Hofner, Diane & James

Holzerland, Gary & Mary

Knab, Margot

Quinn, David & Maria

Sear, Gordon & Beatrice

Schaab, Gail

Desiderio, Marissa

Morales, Zeida

Gensler, Terry & Maureen

Groeger, Michelle

Murak, Michael

Reed, Grant & Carrie

Rodems, Claudia

Blass, Stephen

Chmiel, Ryli

Crampton, Iain

Watson, Marion

Snider, Larry & Amy

Gambacorta, Claire

Talty, Annemarie

Bowman, Ray & Jeanne

Daly, Christopher

Hartke, Laura

Helmicki, Sharon

Kasprzak, Henry

Liriano, Pedro

McCarthy, John

Stadler, Karl

Andol Moeller, Jeanine

Baier, Michael & Clarine

Bartley, Jim

Barusic, Richard & Christina

Bierl, William & Michele

Burritt, William & Judith

Caramazza, Kathleen

Firestone, Pauline

Girzone, Edward and Jennifer

Gramza, Maryann and Ronald

Hackford, Martin & Elaine

Hamm, Carol

Kirby, Peggy

Klawitter, David

Klick, Gina

Koelmel, Carolyn

Kubala, Katherine

Kulpit, Jessica

Lee, Dr. Richard J.

Lewis, Joan

McDonnell, Robert

McGuirk, Anne & Kimberly

Meyler-Pirk, Jeanne

Park, Sandra

Rivera, Carmen

Somerville, Jeffrey & Lynda

Trinity Old Lutheran Church, Inc

Tunmore, Roger and Bonnie

Wach, Donald & Linda

Wayne, Mary

Wescott, Matthew

Zelasko, Sally & Charles

Tichy, Rudolph S. III & Susan

O'Brien, Patrick

Murphy, Rosemary

Balzano, Gregory

Przybylak, Sandy

Cybulski, David

Frawley, Michael & Dianne

Leggett, Amelia

Leggett, Barbara

Vanremmen, June Campbell

Wilk, Walter & Frances

Rebecchi, Jake

Rodems, David

Arno, Annamaria

Schaller, Lawrence & Barbara

Thomas, Cheryl

Damiano, Mary

Doyno, Ellen

Foster, Richard

Socha, Benjamin & Krystle

Kuzina, Barbara

Heary, Pamela

Romano, Mary

Alberella, Mary Ann

Amato, Samuel

Bonisch, Manfred

Bosinski, Linda and Paul

Boswell, David

Burgess, Tara

Conner, Nancy and Daniel
Hewson, Theresa and Christopher
Kasperek, Lisa
Kowalski Kenneth
Lillis, Judith
Molnar, Diane and Joseph
Oliver, Dana
Reinagel, TH & TM
Schillroth, James & Marilyn
Sister Martha Olszewski
Sobczak, Kenneth & Martha
Weaver, Carol L.
Zeitz, Linda
Machtel, Deanna
Martin, Margaret
Schmidt, David & Mary Linda
Spahn, Joseph H.
Steffan, Pamela
Villa, Sandra
Voye, James & Linda
Welchoff, Madeleine
Morales, Luz
PayPal Giving Fund
Bentley, Annette
Hess, Emmylou & Harold
Smith, Dale