



Family Promise[®] of Ontario County

Building community, strengthening lives.

Issue 3—Fall 2017



Family Promise Interfaith Hospitality Network

Meet Our Helping Heroes!



Fernando Soberon (left) and Derek Garretson (right) participated in the 2017 Bed Race and truly made a difference! Turn to Page 3 to read more about them and other helpful heroes!

Spotlight on Cindy Swigart

“They’re really us.” Pastor Jonathan Deibler’s (St. John’s Lutheran, Victor) words regarding Family Promise of Ontario County profoundly impacted parishioner Cindy Swigart. She was inspired to step into the role of FPOC Coordinator for her church, a Host Congregation. For Cindy, her work with Family Promise is not “just another project.” Unlike outreach that might seem fleeting, Cindy and her team look forward to being *with* families in need, playing with the children, helping with homework, and simply talking with them. “When you’re doing okay,” Cindy says, “you want to give back.” What better way than to help those who “are really us?”

Children with secure homes are more likely to experience physical and mental wellness and have access to broader educational opportunities.



Family Promise
of Ontario County

Uniting the community,
faith congregations,
and existing agencies
to provide a pathway for
homeless children and
their families to secure
reliable housing and
self-sufficiency.

*Join our **Holiday Appeal** campaign...*
to raise the funds necessary to open our doors.

Giving is easy through our website,
www.familypromiseontariocounty.org, click on
the YouCaring link in the top right corner
or mail a check to:

FPOC
PO Box 34
Victor, NY 14564



FPOC is a 501(c)3 non-profit. Donations are tax-deductible.

FPOC Heroes

Hero Spotlight of the Month



The bed that Fernando Soberon and his dad built *crashed*, but July’s Bed Race felt like a victory to the 8-year-old from St. Benedict’s. That day, he made a new friend in fellow bed-builder Derek Garretson, who helped his dad build the “Presbyterian Pirates” bed. Fernando spent undivided time with his parents and sisters and discovered an extended family in the many congregations gathered around a common cause. Fernando looks forward to St. Benedict’s hosting homeless families, so that he can play with the children and perhaps teach them a new game, depending upon their interests. When asked why it’s important for people to have a home, Fernando replies, “it’s nice to live in a place where the rain can’t come in and to have a kitchen and living room, a place you can paint things on the walls—and to make cookies. I like cookies.” No doubt, even off the bed-race course, this big-hearted boy will make a difference!



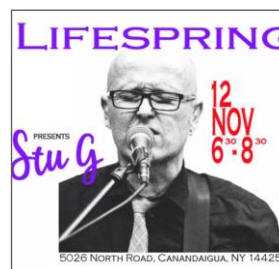
David Jacobus, **Farmington-Victor Kiwanis Club** Zone Chairman, presents Lauren Lamb with a generous contribution to FPOC.



The Echomen chose FPOC as beneficiary of this year’s reunion concert and raised more than \$1,300! Thank you to all who donated baskets!



The youth of **Willowbrook Christian Church** and **First Presbyterian Church of Victor** held the first FPOC Rock A Thon, raising more than \$1,500!



A huge thank you to **Lifespring Community Church** for donating all the proceeds from the Stu g concert to FPOC!

Willowbrook Christian Church raised over \$1,400 at a BBQ to benefit FPOC. Thank you!

Finger Lakes Tech & Career Center (BOCES) students are transforming our donated school bus into a Family Promise transport vehicle--making modifications, performing mechanical and electrical work, and painting!

Opening Our Doors in 2018

We have been doing meaningful work over the last year, looking to make significant changes in how our county deals with homelessness. The updated 2016-2017 homeless student figures (345 students ages 5-18 are reported as homeless!) underscore the need for a program like Family Promise. Bringing together the faith community is something that has never been done on this scale and is a huge accomplishment. We also have had great success in building a project team that has navigated the non-profit waters and gotten us the official recognition that we need. Layer that on a donated van, building a diverse board, successful fund development events, educating the community, and all the other work that has been done, and it's pretty amazing. Now it's time for us to really ramp up our fund development success. We have already raised 25% of the funds needed, so our goal now is to raise \$90,000 by May 31, 2018, so we can open our doors in September 2018.

Your financial support of the Program is but one piece of the fund development puzzle, but it is an important and meaningful one. Won't you please consider making a donation this holiday season to help Family Promise open its doors to serve families in need? Thank you!

Day Center

The special use permit requested by FPOC and St. John's Episcopal Church to use the St. John's Rectory as the Day Center site was denied in September by the City of Canandaigua Planning Commission. We are actively looking for a temporary site for the Day Center in the anticipation that it will take time to go through the process again to secure a permanent site. We continue to accept donated items for the Day Center. Please visit our website for needed donations and contact information.

Fund Development

Please "like" and "share" us on Facebook and invite your friends and their friends to do the same. Inviting through email works, too. As of the end of October, our reach increased by nearly 600%!

The "Home is ..." strategy helps explain the importance of stable housing for both children and adults. People finish that statement with words and/or a drawing. Videos (less than 30 seconds) can be made, too! Please contact Brenda Calabria at fpocweb@gmail.com or 315-719-4096 to request "Home is..." and release forms (so that we can post responses/photos/videos on our website).

Grants: We received a \$5,000 grant from the Realtors Charitable Foundation and are most appreciative! The grant is to be used for cots/beds and to establish a homeless emergency fund. Achievement of secure, affordable, independent housing and related services offered by our program supports the Foundation's funding priority to "mitigate critical housing needs".

Growing the FPOC Family



Welcome new Board Members!

Thank you—Secretary Eileen Tiberio and Directors Kim Aliperti, Dr. Rick Constantino, Bill Fox, and Father Michael Costik—for your commitment to Family Promise.

Welcome New Congregations!

We now have 26 congregations in our FPOC network! Welcome St. John’s Lutheran Pumpkin Hook, Penn Yan United Methodist Church, and Bluff Point United Methodist Church!

Host Congregations

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, *Geneva*
First Presbyterian Church of Victor
Victor United Methodist Church
Farmington Friends Church
Wellspring Church, *Clifton Springs*
St. Benedicts’s Parish
St. Mary’s Church, *Canandaigua*
St. Bridget’s Church, *Bloomfield*

Willowbrook Christian Church, *Victor*
St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, *Victor*
Presbyterian Church in Geneva
Temple Beth-El, *Geneva*
Gorham United Methodist Church
St. John’s Lutheran Church, *Victor*
First United Methodist Church, *Geneva*
St. John’s Episcopal Church, *Canandaigua*

Support Congregations

Seneca Castle United Methodist Church, *Stanley*
St. Peter’s Parish
St. Felix, *Clifton Springs*
St. Dominic, *Manchester/Shortsville*
St. Francis, *Phelps*
St. John’s Lutheran Pumpkin Hook, Farmington
United Church of Phelps

Clifton Springs United Methodist
Geneva Hispanic Church of God
West Bloomfield Congregational Church UCC
Farmington United Methodist Church
Rushville United Methodist Church
Penn Yan United Methodist Church
Bluff Point United Methodist Church
Geneva Assembly of God

More Ways to Be a Hero



FPOC is enrolled in Thrivent Choice, a charitable grant program sponsored by Thrivent Financial, and a welcome funding source for congregations and non-profit organizations. Since 2010, more than \$330 million has been distributed to churches and non-profits nationwide. If you are an eligible member of Thrivent Financial, you can direct your Choice Dollars® to Family Promise. For more information, visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice

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like us
on →*



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Choose to make a difference! Your purchases here at smile.amazon.com will support Family Promise of Ontario County! go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/81-4353748> and FPOC will receive a 0.5% donation from every eligible purchase.



The Runway of Hope-Canandaigua Academy Heroes Monday, 11/20/17 @ 6:30PM, 435 East Street

CA Fashion Merchandising Class and Leadership Students will present fashions from around the world, with 100% of the proceeds going toward helping Ontario County homeless families.

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