



Family Promise of Ontario County

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Overview

No matter the time of year, there are a significant number of families in Ontario County who are homeless. Many have children who are under five years of age. Yet there is no reliable way to house these families while they get back on their feet.

That's why a committed group of local volunteers are in the process of establishing Family Promise of Ontario County, a nonprofit, nondenominational interfaith hospitality network whose goal is to help homeless families become sustainably independent within 60 days. We unite faith communities, a Day Center, volunteers, and social service agencies to provide shelter, meals and professional services targeted to the individual needs of each family.

HOW?

By utilizing existing resources within area congregations to provide a program that works on interfaith cooperation. No one congregation is asked to help more than four weeks in a year and we currently have fourteen (14) congregations already committed to being a host congregation. The in-kind financial benefit that each host congregation provides in one year is estimated to be \$30,000.

IS THIS PART OF A LARGER PROGRAM?

Yes. Family Promise is a national organization that has been in existence since 1985 (www.familypromise.org). There are 200 affiliates across the country, with 49 currently in development. Three are in NYS, including Rochester (www.raihn.org), Buffalo (www.fpwny.org), and Albany (capitalregionfamilypromise.weebly.com).

WHAT DO THE CONGREGATIONS DO?

For one week at a time, host congregations provide overnight lodging, meals and hospitality. Hosting rotates among multiple congregations. When it is their turn, the host congregation provides lodging for up to fourteen individuals, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 am the next morning. The congregations supply the volunteers to cook and serve meals, play with children, help with homework and stay overnight to ensure a safe environment.



WHAT DO THE FAMILIES DO DURING THE DAY?

Guests use a local Day Center approximately 7:30 am to 5:30 pm to shower, care for preschool children, seek employment, and receive other professional services. Many guests are employed during the day and go to work. During the school year, children go to school. The Day Center provides guests with a mailing address and a home base from which to conduct their housing search.

HOW DO THE GUESTS GET TO THE DAY CENTER?

We have a 14-seat passenger van that will transport the guests to and from the Day Center.

WHERE'S THE DAY CENTER?

We are currently working on securing the Rectory of St. John's Episcopal Church in Canandaigua as the Day Center.

WHO COORDINATES ALL OF THIS?

We will hire a Director who will oversee the program, create an individual case plan for each family, and provide professional assistance in connecting with existing social service programs in the County.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

Volunteers are always needed to help in the development process. We have much work to do to get our congregations ready to host, improvements need to be made at our prospective Day Center site, and much fund development work is needed. Our biggest hurdle right now is raising the annual budget of \$150,000 so we can open our doors on February 11, 2018. If you are interested in helping raise money, please contact us. Donations are always welcome, and your tax-deductible check can be made payable and mailed to:

Family Promise of Ontario County, Inc.

PO Box 34

Donations can also be made on-line at www.familypromiseontariocounty.org.

WHERE CAN I OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION?

For more information about the program, go to the FPOC website at www.familypromiseontariocounty.org, or contact Kathleen Wagner at 585-704-9776 or dwagne2@rochester.rr.com.