

Make a Donation Today!

Your tax-deductible gift of any amount makes a BIG difference and is especially important during summer months.

Give online using the QR code or at www.familypromisewm.org/donate, or use the envelope provided. THANK YOU!



In-Kind Donations!

Considering a donation of items or organizing an in-kind donation drive to benefit our kids and families? We accept basic-needs donations by appointment, and we love to learn about donation drives in advance so we can support your efforts! Our highest needs are cleaning supplies, twin bedding, pillows, and nonperishable food items. Visit our website or contact Kelsy at kelsyv@familypromisewm.org for more information.



Infants & Kids
Diapers
Baby Wipes
Pack and Plays



Small Appliances
Toasters
Coffee Makers



Bedroom
Pillows
Sheets (Twin & Queen)
Air Mattresses



Bath
Shower Curtains
Shower Hooks
Bath Towels



Hygiene
Shampoo
Conditioner
Deodorant
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Bodywash



Kitchenware
Pots & Pans
Dishes
Cups
Silverware



Cleaning
Mops and Brooms
Windex
Multipurpose Spray
Paper Towels



Food
Mac and Cheese
Cereal
Canned Vegetables
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Fruit Cup

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Did you know that summertime is when there is the greatest number of homeless families with children in West Michigan? It may sound counterintuitive, **but we have more families with children contacting Family Promise of West Michigan during the summer than any other time of year**—and the number continues to grow.

In fact, on average, over 40 families with children—every day—have no place to go. This means hundreds of children are living in cars and other spaces not meant for human habitation. A family can find themselves facing homelessness for a wide variety of circumstances—including the loss of a job, a medical emergency, divorce, the sale of the property they were renting, and many more. Rising rent costs outpace wages, leaving families with little or no savings to fall back on.

And school meals that children have access to during the academic year become unavailable, adding hunger to the crisis. Family Promise of West Michigan's talented and dedicated team works diligently to help families and children through their immediate need and walk alongside them as they regain their self-sufficiency.

Some of our most recent successes include:

- Successfully launched the Family Resource Center at Buck Creek Community Church
- Executed the purchase and renovation of our Wyoming Park Family Shelter
- Acquired two manufactured home communities, allowing Family Promise of West Michigan to protect affordable housing and generate revenue to expand our programming!
- Nearly doubled the size of our staff!

Through our innovation and courage to dream, we continued to **empower families to move from surviving to thriving**. But, as we celebrate these great achievements and growth, the reality is that we are stretched to the edge of our capacity and need your help.

Your involvement, donations to our Family Resource Center, and especially financial contributions, are **urgently needed** and will make a profound difference during these challenging summer months.

Please visit our website, www.familypromisewm.org to learn more about how to volunteer and to see the list of items needed. You can also make a tax-deductible gift online or by using the envelope provided.

West Michigan is known for being a place that offers an unparalleled quality of life. Knowing this, we have a great opportunity to positively impact our most vulnerable demographic—children experiencing homelessness.

We thank you for your generous support and are grateful that you continue to be our trusted and faithful partner in our ongoing mission to foster hope and provide crucial support to local families, and work towards the eradication of homelessness one family at a time!



Dear Family Promise Friends,

I recently had the great privilege of attending our annual Pastor's Breakfast and spending time with several of the dedicated leaders from our Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN). This network of over 40 congregations from across West Michigan provides shelter, meals, connections, and encouragement to families and children experiencing homelessness.



I absolutely love the time we spend celebrating our pastors and congregations. The work they do to support our community of children and families is such a blessing. We are able to move children and families from sleeping in cars and spaces not meant for human habitation to sleeping safely in churches, with access to food and other basic needs. Families are safe, secure, and dignified while our staff continue to walk alongside them on their journey to finding housing.

Family Promise is committed to bringing housing within reach for the children and families we serve. As a result of our mission-driven efforts, we have diverted 248 families from homelessness totaling 1,383 people with 845 of them being children. Although we celebrate the ability to support so many families, the reality is that today there are still 36 families living in cars, abandoned buildings and spaces not meant for human habitation.

I need your help to change this narrative. Family Promise does great work, but we do our best work when we come together as a community. Thank you to our partners, volunteers, donors—and YOU, for being part of that community.

With sincere appreciation,

Tenisa

Tenisa Frye

Chief Executive Officer



Volunteer Highlight: Thank you Amway!

Amway Finance Division Volunteer Day 2024

We had an incredible and impactful volunteer day with Amway's Finance Team! Over 80 Amway staff worked across multiple locations in support of Family Promise families by painting homes, preparing meals, landscaping—and so much more—to uplift families and refresh our spaces. We are grateful to Amway's team for providing hard work and creating a welcoming environment. Thank you!



Early Childhood Millage Renewal on August 6 Primary Ballot

Family Promise is honored to be a Ready by Five service provider.

With other West Michigan organizations, Family Promise helped serve over 14,000 children and their families in 2023.

This supportive programming includes:

- Prenatal Support
- Help navigating the early childhood system
- Home visits that support caregivers
- Play and learn groups which help develop language and learning skills
- Elimination of hazardous substances (like lead) from homes
- Therapy for children dealing with behavioral health issues
- Books to support reading at home

The millage that funds this work is up for renewal on August 6th.

If approved, the millage is expected to generate \$8.8 million in the first year!

Please vote August 6!

More information on the millage can be found at www.firststepskent.org/millage



Remembering Crystel Imperi



Crystel Imperi, 42, passed away on May 25, 2024, after a brief battle with brain cancer. Crystel's many contributions to the community, especially her impact as a board member to Family Promise for over five years, will be remembered for years to come.

We are thankful for her talent, kindness, and heart for service and will miss her dearly. She was truly passionate about ending homelessness, one family at a time.

In-Kind Donations Make an Impact!

Sheets, pillows, & towels are just a few of the constant needs for the families we serve. A big thank you to **Hyatt Place Grand Rapids/Downtown** for its partnership to generously donate these items for use in our shelters!



For information on ways your business can support Family Promise of West Michigan, contact Michelle Scudder at michelles@familypromisewm.org

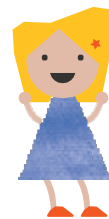


Doing More for Families -- Together!

We are to announce a new community partnership between Family Promise of West Michigan (FPWM) and Exalta Health.

Through this partnership, Exalta Health will accept referrals to provide essential medical, dental, and behavioral health care services to families in FPWM programs.

Together, we are helping families with compassionate, safe, equitable, and accessible healthcare.



**WEST MICHIGAN'S
BEST AND
BRIGHTEST®
COMPANIES TO WORK FOR
WINNER 2024**

Family Promise of West Michigan is once again honored to be recognized as a **“Best & Brightest Companies to Work For®!”** Winners distinguish themselves as having the most innovative business acuteness and human resource practices.

Winning companies were assessed by an independent research firm, which reviewed several key measures (relative to other nationally-recognized winners), such as communication, employee education, diversity, recognition, retention and work-life balance.

“Our team is one of the reasons we’re able to continue to impact the community. We’re grateful to be recognized as a place that supports employees so they can support families.” said Angel Braden, Director of Human Resources and Administration