

e-Newsletter
March 2020

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Program at a Glance

2020 YTD Statistics

4

Guest Families

3

Families
Transitional Housing
Program

11

Families
After-Care Program



Message from Sherry

March is already here! I recently attended a community forum with non-profits and community agencies to discuss the needs and issues in Shenandoah County and the resources or lack of resources that impact these needs – especially the needs of the population Family Promise serves. I heard a new term – **benefits cliff** – that's what happens when a family is receiving benefits such as SNAP or TANF and a family member gets a slight increase in income (could be \$100 a month or less), then those benefits are suddenly and drastically reduced – before the family has time to make a new budget. The increase in income does not even begin to cover the decrease in benefits.

If you have not seen the proposed [Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2021](#), I encourage you to look at the proposals that will directly impact our guests and other families who are struggling to make ends meet.

Hope to see many of you at the Steak Dinner/Silent Auction on Saturday, March 28!

Sherry Arey
Executive Director



2019 Statistics

16

Families Served

51

Individuals Served

25

Adults Served

26

Children Served

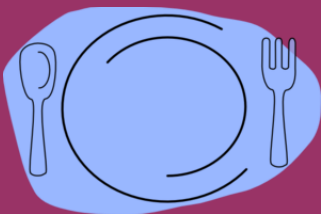
18

Children 5 & Under



5,212

Meals Provided



2,606

Safe Nights



9,500+

Volunteer Hours



Case Manager's Corner

Graduating from the Family Promise Shelter Program and moving into their own homes creates new possibilities and a newfound sense of excitement for our families. It is a new opportunity to become “normal” once again and have a place for their family to thrive and prosper.

At least one parent is working (in some cases both parents are working) to provide an income that supports them on their way back to self-sufficiency. However, before they can reach self-sufficiency many families need to get certain benefits from government agencies like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), or a childcare voucher.

If a family did not already have these benefits in place prior to coming into Family Promise, I assist them in applying for them. Once their income increases due to pay raises or obtaining a higher paying job, their benefits are decreased or in some cases stopped altogether. This is called the ‘*Cliff effect or a benefits cliff*’.

As Sherry and I have seen in numerous graduate families over the last 4 years, this *Cliff effect* can be disruptive while a family works to maintain the progress they have made. Gaining \$100 in their paycheck and losing \$400 in benefits is hard to handle! Unfortunately, in some cases, this may start the homeless cycle all over again.

At FPSC, we work with our graduate families to help them bridge this gap. We have a small food pantry and can provide toiletries, cleaning supplies and other household necessities thanks to your generosity.

Nationally, Family Promise’s position is, “Family Promise is not just shelter; we are a holistic solution to family homelessness.” FP goes on to explain, “Communities across the United States are including shelter diversion strategies to successfully help people identify alternatives to entering shelter and to prevent them from becoming homeless.”

Synchrony Bank has agreed to partner with Family Promise to pilot diversion programming at several Family Promise Affiliates. FPSC has submitted a request for proposal to participate in this pilot program. Your prayers for this extended program are greatly appreciated.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PRAYER
WARRIORS, VOLUNTEERS & DONORS!**



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The 2020 Family Promise Steak Dinner & Silent Auction is coming up on March 28. Don't miss this exciting event and the chance to have some fun while supporting Family Promise!

We are excited to be able to sell tickets online this year and let you have a preview of auction items! Many thanks to everyone who has already donated things for the auction.

[Purchase Tickets Online & View Auction Items](#)

You can also volunteer to help out with the event on line this year!!!

[Volunteer Online](#)

No matter what you do - eat, donate, sponsor, or volunteer - FPSC thanks you from the bottom of our hearts for your support! If you would like to purchase paper tickets or volunteer "live," please contact Becky at 333-1976.

What's With the New Logo

You may have noticed in the last few months that we have an updated logo. FP National rolled out the modernized logo featuring the star in 2019.

The star is important because it represents the five key elements of Family Promise:

1. Shelter
2. Prevention
3. Stabilization
4. Community
5. Promise



Laundry Detergent

13 Gal. Kitchen Trash Bags

Lysol Disinfectant Spray

Hand Sanitizer (10 oz size)

Air Freshener

Paper Towels

Toilet Paper

Leaf Blower w/ Long Extension Cord

Extension Cord

Host Churches & Organizations

All Souls Anglican Church/
Community Mission
Church of the Brethren

Antioch Church of the
Brethren

Buttonwood Lodge/
Camp Caroline Furnace

Lebanon Lutheran Church

Mt. Hermon United
Methodist Church

New Market Seventh-Day
Adventist Church

St. John Bosco Catholic
Church

St. John's United
Methodist Church

Shenandoah Valley Teen
Challenge

Shrine Mont

Strasburg Assembly of God

Strasburg Christian
Church

Valley Pike Church of the
Brethren

Wakemans Grove Church
of the Brethren



Steak Dinner Sponsors

Filet Mignon

Brad Pollack - Attorney

Porterhouse

Antioch Church of the Brethren

Fred Hepner, Jr.
Lydia's Clothes Closet
Chuck & Kathy Shipp

Ribeye

Buchbauer & McGuire, P.C.
Dupont Community Credit Union

Edward Jones –
Justin Baker, Strasburg
F&M Bank
Northern Valley Law
PJ Designs
Chuck & Karen Walton

New York Strip

Patrick Craig
David L. Hensley, Esquire
Fred & Mary Hoerr
Guy & Diane Pence
Mt. Jackson UMC Women
Thomas Family Dentistry



SVEC Operation Round Up Grant

Funds for Operation Round Up come from all co-op members who voluntarily choose to round up their monthly bills to the nearest even dollar.

FPSC was chosen to receive a \$2000 grant to fund H.U.S.H. (Help Us Stabilize Housing), an ongoing project that supports and assists families as they work on becoming stable and self-supportive again.

Many thanks to all who donated to Operation Round Up and to the selection committee.

[Click here](#) to learn more about how you can sign up for Operation Round Up.



Save the Dates

- **Steak Dinner & Silent Auction, Mar. 28, 2020**
- **Barn Dance & BBQ, May 31, 2020**
- **Cardboard City, Sep. 18, 2020**
- **2nd Annual Golf Tournament, Oct. 10, 2020**
- **Family Promise Week, Oct. 18-25, 2020**

Sea glass....if broken pieces of glass can be transformed into prized treasures, God can do even more for any of us who feel broken, lost, or crushed in spirit. No matter how broken we might be, God sees the good in each of us ! Thanks for all you do for our families....your support, encouragement and acceptance of each family member is greatly appreciated!