



Family Promise

of Grand Rapids

ending homelessness...

one family at a time

★ Executive Director's Report



Dear Friends,

I'm thankful to report to you that 2010 was a year of growth and celebration for Family Promise of Grand Rapids! As the year began, we continued to find new ways to meet the demanding needs of our community to find shelter and housing services for a record number of homeless and about-to-be homeless families.

Through partnering with 14 Host Congregations and 10 Support Congregations, we were able to meet the critical housing needs of over 500 men, women and children in 2010. Since Family Promise provides housing for families with children, we are often called upon to meet basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, transportation, diapers, school supplies/fees and personal care items. Thanks to the generous support of two foundations, churches and donors we were able to replace our 15-passenger van which is critical since it transports families to and from Host Congregations seven days a week, 52 weeks a year.

We are celebrating the successes achieved among the families we served in 2010. Ninety three percent of them found permanent housing! Furthermore, among the families we have served since 2009, 91% still live in permanent housing creating a sustainable change for our community!

Every family's journey to permanent housing is a milestone and cause for celebration.

The need for organizations such as Family Promise is great since the number of families facing homelessness is at the highest level we have seen in decades. As families lose jobs, lose homes and are often faced with homelessness for the first time, their children are counting on us to help make their futures bright. Through over 1,600 volunteers and mentors, we are able to provide the hope, respect, compassion and dignity that allow our families to soar.

You are a very important part of the celebration! Your support brings HOPE to mothers and fathers who are working hard to provide for their families. Thank you for your generous donations, your volunteer service, dedicated mentoring and spirit of compassion and encouragement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl Schuch". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Cheryl Schuch

★ History | Mission | Goals

Family Promise of Grand Rapids, founded in 1997 as the Greater Grand Rapids Interfaith Hospitality Network, partners with local congregations, individuals, families, foundations and corporations to provide emergency shelter and viable solutions for families with children who are facing a housing crisis.

The mission of Family Promise of Grand Rapids is to ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY and faith-based organizations in ENDING HOMELESSNESS ... one family at a time.

Our goals are ambitious and achievable:

- ★ Family Promise will help homeless families with children find permanent housing, and, through our continuum of supportive programs and mentors, help them achieve sustainable self-sufficiency.
- ★ Family Promise will help families achieve permanent housing and self sufficiency so that children do not continue to cycle through our community's homeless emergency system.
- ★ Family Promise seeks to permanently change the path of homeless families.
- ★ Family Promise will be sensitive to and help many families who are homeless due to situations (job loss) and/or are experiencing a life crisis (illness, divorce, domestic abuse) which has led to first-time, and for many, only-time homelessness.
- ★ Family Promise will allow families to remain intact during a housing crisis. This will lessen the negative impact on families and children. Separation adds additional stress and takes time away from the goals of securing permanent housing and employment.



- ★ Family Promise will maintain an 85% or greater permanent rate of families moving into permanent housing (double the average for homeless shelters).
- ★ Family Promise will work with families in assuring that 80% or more remain self-sufficient for one year or more

Good friends are for caring and playing

★ NEED

Families with children are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population in our country and Michigan is no exception. In 2008 and 2009 the number of homeless children in West Michigan grew by 22% (Holland Sentinel, August 3, 2010). The National Conference of Mayors announced that in 2010 the number of families becoming homeless increased by another 9%. These children are our next generation. They are the ones who will be the leaders of tomorrow. We need to help their families secure a stable place to call home so they can thrive in their education, health, and independence. Family Promise of Grand Rapids is dedicated to making this dream a reality for the homeless children in our community. We are committed to walking beside these families to ensure a stronger tomorrow for us all.



★ RESPONSE

There are over 160 Family Promise affiliates across the nation providing interim housing services to families who are homeless. We are dedicated to keeping families together while they are in crisis by allowing fathers and teenage boys to remain with their families. When a family becomes homeless, we know that they get their strength from each other and the most traumatic experience would be to separate that family.



We also have a special model for providing emergency services like shelter and food to our guests. Fourteen local Host Congregations and ten Support Congregations provide compassionate overnight shelter and support as families work to find independent housing. This network provides two important components. It utilizes already existing resources to provide basic needs to our families. This allows us to spend almost 90% of every dollar we receive directly on children and families. The second important part of our congregational network is the over 1,600 volunteers who are engaged in providing hope and compassion to each family when they need it most. This helps our families build a new community network which in turn allows them to become more successful in maintaining their independence. In 2010, 93% of our families found independent housing. Furthermore, 91% of those families that moved into a new home in 2009 have remained independent for a year or more! This is a sustainable and lasting change that will improve the future of our community.

★ PROGRAMS

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)

IHN is an emergency shelter for homeless families where local congregations along with our day center provide meals, private sleeping quarters, and volunteers to create a home away from home for the families.

ReBuilding Individuals (RBI)

RBI is our Rapid Rehousing and Prevention Initiative that provides short term rent subsidies and assistance with long term case management to qualified families as they move into housing.

Partners in Housing (PIH)

PIH is our permanent housing initiative that provides a permanent housing solution using manufactured homes located in family parks throughout our community.



Family Mentoring

Our Mentoring Program is a support initiative that builds long term, trusting relationships between mentors and economically vulnerable families, helping them to achieve independence, self-sufficiency and long term success.

Furniture Donation Program (FDP)

FDP collects furniture and household items from donors in the community to assist families in their transition as they move into permanent housing.

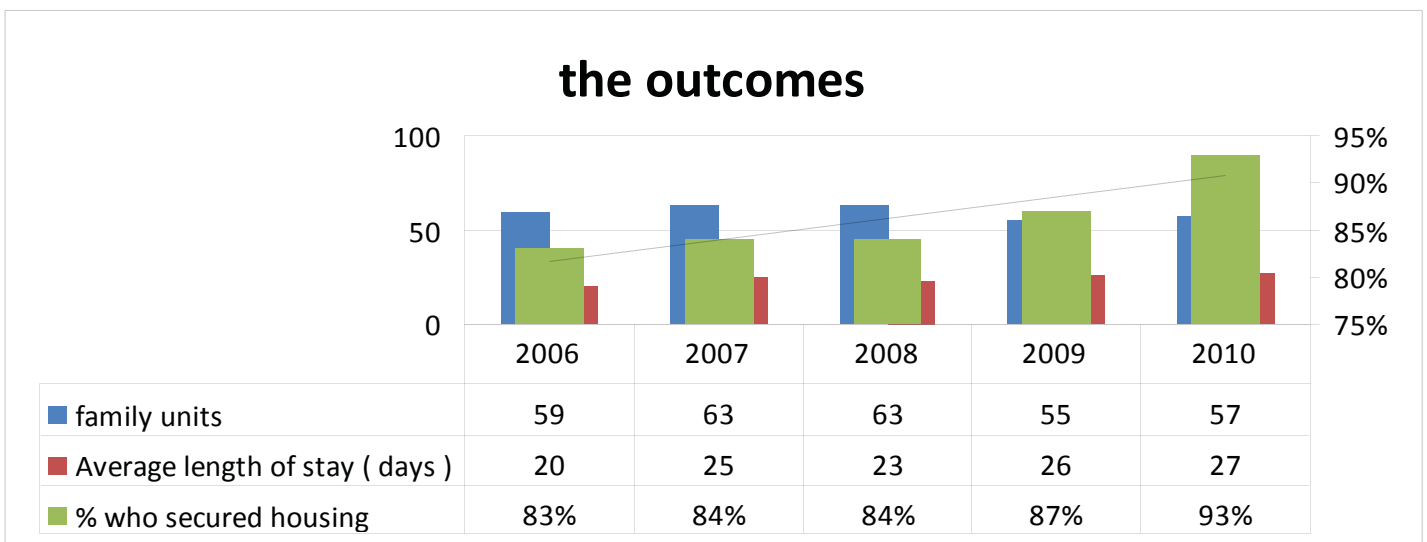


Dedicated to assisting
homeless families
in Kent County

★ OUTCOMES

In 2010, Family Promise of Grand Rapids served over 500 people through its comprehensive programs. Housing, independence, and strengthening overall family health are the goals each program strives to achieve.

Through our IHN program shelter and emergency services were provided to 57 families including 38 single parent families, 19 two-parent families and 113 children. Ninety three percent of the families were able to find permanent and independent housing. The families successfully found housing in an average of only 27 days. Thirteen of the parents, who were not already employed, found employment during their stay. Over 91% of the families who found housing in 2009 are still housed over one year later!



★ MAKING A DIFFERENCE

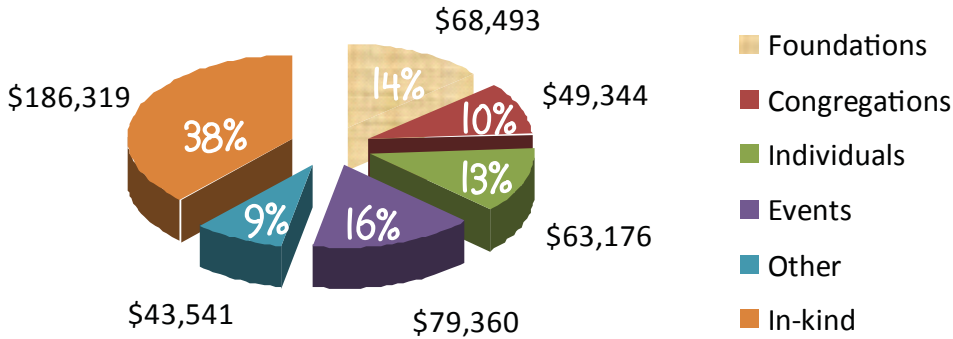
Families need your help. We assist many families every week. Yet, on average, nine families call who we are unable to assist due to our limited resources. Each is faced with not knowing where their children will sleep that night. We are grateful for the amazing work of our Congregational Network that provides hope to the many families we serve, but we must do more.

You can share in the Family Promise mission of helping homeless children and their families find a new home by engaging your family, organization, congregation, and work place in volunteering in one of our many programs. Something as easy as making a meal or reading to a child helps provide the stability needed for our families to move forward. Engaging in our group mentoring program helps provide the support network needed for many of our families to become sustainably independent. Providing financial assistance helps us continue to provide the supportive services needed to help the families we serve find a new home and keep it!

“Homeless, I am, yes indeed. Hopeless? That I will never be.” – Cassandra, 15, IHN Guest

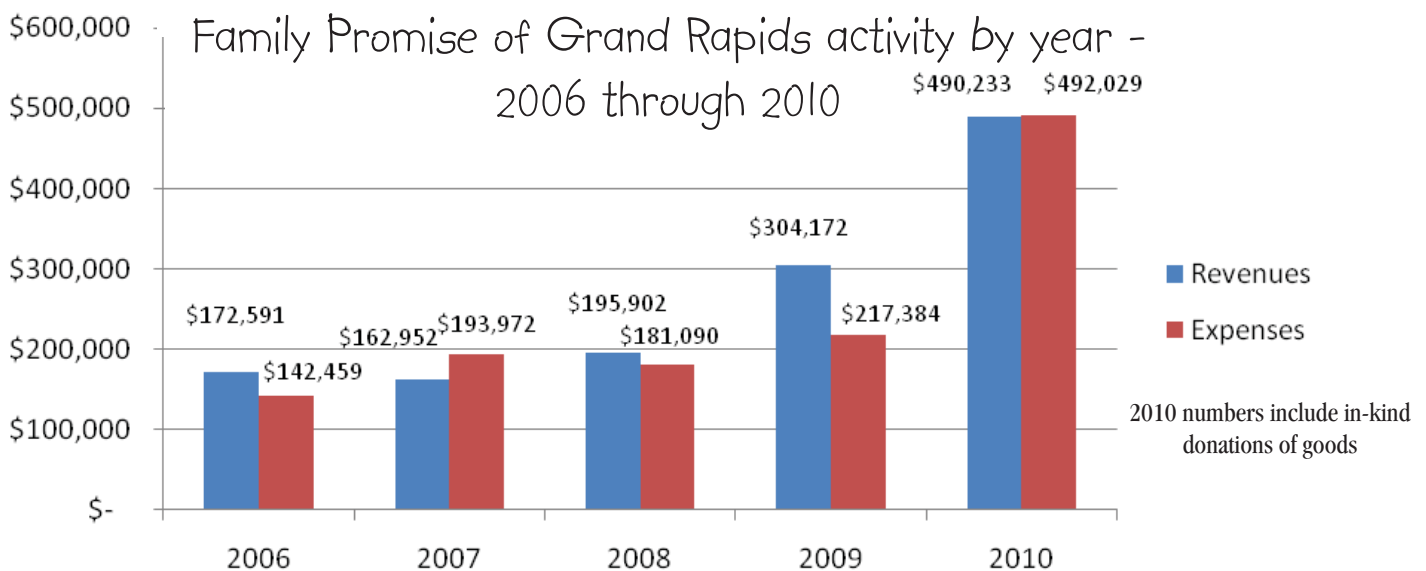
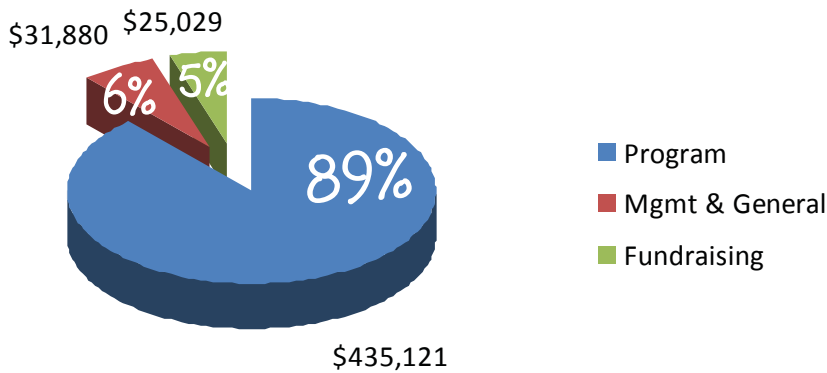
★ 2010 NUMBERS

2010 Revenues



totaling over
\$209,560

2010 Expenses





2010 TEAM



Family Promise of Grand Rapids always welcomes new Host and Support Congregations to our Network. Contact us at www.familypromisegr.org for further information.

Host Congregations

- Calvin Christian Reformed Church
- Cornerstone United Methodist Church
- East Congregational Church
- Fifth Reformed Church
- First United Methodist Church
- Grace Episcopal Church
- Ivanrest Christian Reformed Church
- Mayflower Congregational Church
- Neland Avenue Christian Reformed Church
- Plymouth Congregational Church
- Princeton Christian Reformed Church
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
- St. Paul's United Methodist Church
- Trinity Lutheran Church

Support Congregations

- Aldersgate United Methodist Church
- Brookside Christian Reformed Church
- Eastminster Presbyterian Church
- First Reformed Church (Grandville)
- Fountain Street Church
- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
- Oakdale Park Christian Reformed Church
- Plymouth Heights Christian Reformed Church
- Renaissance C.O.G.I.C
- St. Stephen Catholic Church

Board of Directors

- Jerry Broersma - President
- Michael Sytsma - Vice President
- Boyd Griswold - Treasurer
- Mary Kay Baker - Secretary
- Cheryl Schuch - Executive Director

- Cynthia Champion
- Pat Clifford
- Becky Heath
- Amy B. Kramer

- Randy Locke
- Sue Rowe
- Trent Taylor
- Laura Young

Family Promise Staff

- Cheryl Schuch - Executive Director
- Barbara Zylstra - Assistant Director
- Kristie Baker - Director of Volunteer Services
- Mary Brown - Family Mentoring Director
- Donna Evans - Housing Resource Specialist
- Edie James - Transportation Coordinator

Donations are vital in enabling Family Promise of Grand Rapids to continue to help hurting families. We are a 501(c)(3) organization so your contribution is tax deductible. Please consider what you can do to help Family Promise of Grand Rapids financially. Donate online at www.familypromisegr.org



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