

2020 COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION GRANT

Family Promise of Ontario County, Inc. \$2025

Grant Report

Family Promise of Ontario County, Inc.
PO Box 416
Canandaigua, New York 14424

Family Promise of Ontario County Inc. was awarded a grant of \$2,025 in 2020.

What were you hoping to accomplish?

This project reflects the unification of 34 faith communities, including a synagogue, in Ontario County who are working to provide a practical solution to address homelessness for children and families in our communities.

Later in the year, 3 rental apartments were used for emergency housing for 3 homeless families with children.

Who was touched by your project or program?

In 2020, 48 homeless families with children sought housing assistance from the Ontario County Department of Social Services. This number is 50% less than 2019. This is due to the current moratorium on evictions. The Department of Social Services is of the opinion that this will end around May 31 when they again will be flooded with housing assistance requests. Currently, there are no homeless shelters in Ontario County for children and families. In the 2019-20 school year, 352 children were homeless in Ontario County. The 344 includes children 5 – 18 years old but does not include children under 5 years old (50% of homeless children are under age 5).

On 2020, from January through March, before we had to cease the rotation program because the churches closed, we served 7 families including 17 adults, 6 children over age 5 and 8 children under 5—a total of 31 individuals. The average stay per family in the program was 55 days and 4 families graduated to permanent housing.

How did this grant energize or transform your congregation or community?

13 congregations in Ontario County provided overnight accommodations, meals, and volunteers to serve our families. Once we acquired the emergency apartments, 7 families were temporarily housed until permanent arrangements could be made for them.

What did you learn from this project and what are your next steps?

2020 was an extremely challenging for Family Promise. When we closed down the churches when they all closed down because of the COVID19 virus, we had to move quickly to find another way to serve as many homeless families as we could. Our Board approved the rental apartments which we started using midyear. This was costly for us as well. The rotational program cost us nothing because the churches donated their facilities. We are paying for the rental apartments at a cost of \$1000/mo. for 3 apartments. We are aggressively raising funding to keep this effort going.

Family Promise of Ontario County Inc. is most appreciative to have been selected for this grant. We were able to get a matching grant for the money and the funds were used for first month's rent and security deposits on permanent housing for those for whom we were able to find accommodations.

Submitted by:

Claire Hauenstein MBA, Treasurer and Grants Chair
March 15, 2020