



President's Page

by Carol Spicer Board President

Greetings from Family Promise of Warren County (FPWC) "The Neighborhood"! We are very excited to have successfully moved five families through the Shelter Program in the last three months. Our parents have found jobs, FPWC helped secure them safe housing and the families are now living independently. The children are ready for school and/or attending daycare. FPWC's Mission is being fulfilled "To assist families experiencing homelessness in Warren County, Ohio, to achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response".

We are now moving new families into the program who have been on our wait list - - there is such a great need in our community! All of this is possible through your volunteer support, financial giving and prayers.

Summer 2024 has been a busy time for FPWC with our July 4th Run4Home 5K & Kid's Fun Run and Christmas in July events. It is a wonderful time for our families and gets them set up for the

upcoming school year. We have also successfully installed a playground for our children and are in the process of building a Storybook Garden Path. So if you have a green thumb or like to dig in the dirt, we need YOU!

If you have time and a passion to help support the children experiencing homelessness and their families of Warren County, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would love to show you our new "Neighborhood" and share with you how your support and partnership could help our Children.

On behalf of FPWC we want to THANK YOU! We have been blessed with the BEST volunteers and staff who ensure each and every challenge is met or exceeded. We can only make it happen through YOU and very much appreciate all you do for Family **Promise of Warren County.**

600 Cincinnati Ave. Lebanon, OH 45036 www.familypromisewarren.org 513.934.5250 facebook.com/FPWCOHIO

> FAITH • Hope • Love Justice • God peace • Kindness **HOSPITALITY**

New Life • encouragement Family

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Linda's Letter

by Linda Rabolt FPWC Executive Director



Mischelle, our Shelter Case Manager, sent the staff this wonderful photo of Lylah on the first night in her new apartment. The email Mischelle included with the photo said this, "this is my why".

What is your "why"? As Family Promise of Warren County (FPWC) completes 26 years of service to the community, we can thank so many congregations, volunteers, donors, room sponsors, gardeners, and many others for their support of families who enter our shelter without a home, fractured and in crisis.

For some, the "why" is that they themselves were in the crisis of homelessness or very much at risk of becoming homeless. They share their time with inspiration that they were able to pull themselves out of this terrifying place with the help of family, others or even on their own. They have found success, and they want to share that our families too can be successful.

They were hungry and they wanted to share that home cooked meal that they or their children so longed for and needed. They were alone and scared and now they want

to be that support that they wished they had or as my friend Bryon Arnold said so many years ago, they want to "love our families through a hard time." They had no time for fun and now spend time playing UNO with the shelter families or pushing a child on the playground swing. Their "why" is to make a difference in the life of a family that has lost hope.

The "why" can be so many things. I know I speak for the staff when I say our "why" is the children. Oh sure, we love and support the adults. We share expectations, we share our expertise in finding jobs, and help with self-sufficiency, but these children. They did not ask to be in this situation. They did not put themselves in the place of being homeless. They were in an unsafe and many times a scary situation. Studies will show that this alone can cause long term trauma in children.

Our "why" is to allow these children to be the children that they are. We help to take adult concerns away from these children. Children should not worry about when they are going to eat. If they have a place to stay and if they have shoes, clothing

Linda's Letter cont. on next page...

Vision:

"A county where every family has a home, a livelihood and a future full of promise."



St Susanna Church was one of the many groups who redecorated guest rooms for FPWC. It has a bunk bed and a queen bed within. On the day Luka, age 8, joined us with his mom they were given the St Susanna room. While being introduced to their room Luka, with joy exclaimed "I wanted one of these for my whole life!" and then proceeded to climb onto the bunk bed. We are so grateful to provide this type of experience for an 8 year old boy who is in the throes of homelessness and thank each of you for your support!

Mission:

"To assist families experiencing homelessness in Warren County, Ohio, to achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response."



and supplies to begin school. The children are our "why".

Together we celebrate birthdays. We celebrate good grades with tests. We celebrate the silly and we listen to the concerns. Three-year-old Addy has taken to calling the staff "grandma". "Come here, Grandma" is heard often when Addy is around. We celebrate this, as every child should feel comfortable in their space enough to call the adults "Grandma". Doesn't that just give the feeling of home?

FPWC is indeed home. It is home from the great rooms that were renovated by caring folks who decided their "why" was to provide a homelike place to sleep. It is home with the smells of good meals cooking. Our cooks provide the "why" to fill little tummies. It is home as volunteers play, do homework and lend a listening ear and strong shoulder.

Selfishly, my "why" some 26 years ago, was to spend more time with my family, with my children. Well, God had another path for me. HE put me in my place and helped me to find my "why". My "why" was never about MY needs. My "why" was about all the families that I have been blessed to work with. My "why" was about all of the volunteers and donors that bless FPWC every day.

My "why" was Lylah, Addy, Phoenix, Lukas, Luka, and countless other children that I have been blessed to spend a little time with and maybe, just maybe, like each of you touch their lives so that they have pleasant memories of being at FPWC and are never in a place of homelessness again.

I want to thank each of you, who share your "why" with the families that stay at Family Promise of Warren County. It is because of your "why" that FPWC is successful but more importantly it is why our families find housing and success.



Campus Update

Family Promise of Warren County (FPWC) opened our new doors to 5 families on April 21st with Sycamore Presbyterian Church volunteers hosting.

The joy of each family when they entered their rooms was life changing. Can you imagine going from an unsafe, overcrowded place to one of these

place to one of these rooms filled with dignity and renovated with love? The volunteers provided a delicious meal and in addition to crafts there may have been a rousing game or two of UNO.

This has continued over the last few months and each family that is welcomed to this place full of care and concern endeavors to successfully work their case plan and become housed and self-sufficient.

On August 1, we opened Avery's Playground, welcoming all children to a fun and safe environment where they can forget adult concerns and allow them to be the children that they are.

We are so grateful for all of our room, garden, and playground sponsors who so kindly took their time, energy and funds to make this place a home for those who have none. We are especially grateful for the many volunteers from all the congregations, businesses and organizations who have provided meals and fellowship for our families as well as the over 1000 persons who have participated in volunteer training.

Please see our website at familypromisewarren.org to learn how you can participate as an evening host providing meals and fellowship. Training dates are also available on the website as is information on our Try It You'll Like It initiative. There is always much more work to be done and volunteers are welcome to share their time and talents as we continue to provide a place of love for those that we are called to assist.

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Linda Rabolt

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Office Manager/Marketing
Shelter Case Manager
HCRP (A-M) Case Manager
Weekend Manager/Statistics
Program Manager
Driver/Maintenance
Executive Director



Stories of Promise

by Brianna Winkler Graduated Client



Me and my daughter Lylah, who is 18 months, came to Family Promise of Warren County (FPWC) with a lot of lost hope. We had been staying with different family members and I am forever grateful for the people who did help and

care for us along the way, but none of them were home and suitable for a baby.

I had been without work since I was around 6 months pregnant and things were getting hard and I was starting to doubt myself and fall into depression. I was nervous of change and I didn't want to go into a "shelter" but from

day one it was much more than that.

They weren't just case managers or drivers, they actually



cared and loved me and my daughter and did whatever they could to guide me to be the best version of myself. They

helped me gain a good job, a place to call home for me and my kids,

daycare, resources to leave there and make it successfully afterwards and so much more.

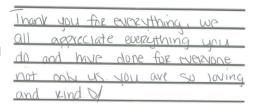
The dinners every week with different volunteer churches were a big thing to me and I did my best to make the amazing

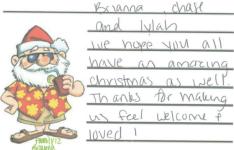
volunteers feel just as welcomed as I did when I first came and I met a lot of amazing people along the way.



I will forever be grateful for taking a chance and going to FPWC and for all the amazing people I met along the way. It's a part of my life I'll never forget and forever cherish. So thank you from the bottom of my heart.

THANK YOU!





COHHIO NEWS CLIPS

(NPR) Not having secure housing is a huge stress for anyone. But when children experience this, especially in early childhood, it can affect their health years down the line. That's the finding of a new study in the journal Pediatrics, which says that teens who experienced housing insecurity earlier in life were more likely to report worse health... But this is important evidence from a longitudinal study that follows children from infancy to adolescence and connects their experiences of housing insecurity with long term health, she adds.





FAMILY PROMISE OF WARREN COUNTY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

RUSTY BUCKET RESTAURANT AND TAVERN -DAYTON, LIBERTY CENTER, MASON & ROOKWOOD

IT'S AS EASY AS...

1. SCAN OR CODE

2. UPLOAD A PHOTO OF YOUR ITEMIZED RECEIPT

3. SUBMIT FOR DONATION!



FORGOT TO SUBMIT click here



USE CODE FAMILY18 WHEN ORDERING ONLINE AT ORDER.MYRUSTYBUCKET.COM

On this day, 15% of your bill* will be donated back to the organization On this day, 15% of your pin win be donated back or the origination.

"Valid for food and soft beverage sales only, excludes alcohol. Not valid towards gift card richases. Flyers are not permitted to be distributed inside or outside the restaurant. Payme in the form of Gift Cards is not accepted for the donation.

Seating is not guaranteed. It is highly encouraged for guests to make a

"I am so grateful for everything you guys have done for my family. Everyone that has helped us has a very special place in our hearts. I can't even express all of my gratitude. I am forever thankful! My babies are so very excited and happy for their gifts."

-Kerri with five children





Storybook Garden Path Update

by Tom Ludeke



If you stop in or drive by FPWC from time to time you have probably noticed the gradual changes being made to the landscape in front of the building. The first big changes came with removal of the motel sign as well as the swimming pool and the rusty iron flagpole with its concrete surround. We then installed an aluminum fence to prevent our youngest guests from venturing into the roadway.

Our vision is to create a walking path covering about two thirds of the front yard that will

loosely resemble a distorted figure eight. The additional area will remain as lawn for games of tag or catch. Inside each of the loops will be raised planter boxes which will be filled with flowering plants or vegetables. Each type of plant will offer educational

opportunities for guests as well as some produce to enjoy at the dinner table. Surrounding the path will be landscaping with a wide variety of plants native to our region. Grandma's Gardens in Waynesville helped install a variety of trees and other plants outside the loop, with more to come in the future. Creech's Lawn & Landscape in Lebanon provided much needed leaf mulch.

The Warren County Master Gardeners have been wonderful partners providing guidance regarding plant selection and installation, and have also rolled up their sleeves to plant and care for the trees and bushes as well as a beautiful garden surrounding the toddler play-set

in the rear of the building. When we win the lottery we hope to pave the walking path so it can be traversed by tricycle and wheelchair but for now it is composed of ground up wood chips generously donated by Cardinal Landscaping and Haddix Tree Service.

With

assistance from volunteers from Crossroads Church and The Gathering Church we have recently installed the smaller of the two loops with twelve raised beds. These beds will be maintained by volunteers who commit to tend their bed for a calendar year at a time. The Town and County Garden Club of Lebanon has adopted a number of beds, and several remain available for adoption. (Please contact Linda Rabolt for more information about adopting a bed.) The consensus of experts has been not to develop more area than we can consistently maintain, so we are now at a point where we'll hold tight to see if we can successfully battle the weeds and keep the desirable plants alive and watered. Once that has been proven we will embark on installation of the second, larger loop of the path.



OK, so what about the storybooks? The vision here is to install 20 pedestals - imagine a 4"x4" post in the ground, roughly three feet high, with a platform mounted on top at a 45 degree angle - on which one page of a children's book can be attached. These would be arrayed along the garden path so an adult could walk the path with a child and help them read the book. Books would be rotated occasionally to relate to a season, educational theme, or holiday. These would likely be installed after the second loop of the path has been completed.





Host Retention

by Mary Joseph Co-Chair

Our Host Recruitment and Retention Team bring late summer and early fall greetings as you read this article. Jennifer Fry and I are pleased to co-chair this committee. When we divide the writing for the newsletter, most of the time Jenn brings you up to date on the "recruitment" portion of our team's work. And I have usually shared our gratitude and thanks to all of you as my focus has been on the "retention" side of our efforts together.

Lately I've been thinking about the definition of the word "retention" as we use it for FPWC. I did a Google search and found something I did not know. "The first record of retention comes from around 1350. It ultimately comes from the Latin verb retinēre, meaning "to retain." You're likely to use this word to talk about how well something is at holding or hanging on to something else." Another meaning is put more simply as "the ability to keep or continue having something." (From the Cambridge and the American Dictionary)

You may be wondering where I am going with this information. Well this is easy — we would like to hold onto the wonderful volunteers with whom we have a relationship. We strive to keep you as you fill the hearts of our families with love and comfort, you listen well to their stories, and you offer hugs to the children and support to the parents. Providing healthy dinner meals is absolutely an important task that you undertake as you pay attention to allergies and the likes and dislikes of certain food items. We know that all of these meals are prepared with patience and care and bringing books or craft items for the children are always welcomed.

So, our Host Recruitment Team and our Board of Directors want to "thank you" once again for your good work. Please know how much we care about each of you who give of your time, energy, steadfastness, and dedication to FPWC and its' journey providing assistance to families facing homelessness. We are very grateful for all that you do.

Host Recruitment

by Jennifer Fry Co-Chair



Many years ago, when I took on the task at my church of coordinating our FPWC response, I thought my recruiting skills would help me create a cohort of people to prepare meals, provide fellowship, and provide an overnight presence for the families that were staying in our church for a week at a time. I was right, those skills did help. I just didn't realize until recently HOW they helped.

What I've learned in both my

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day job and my FPWC activities is this: it's the relationships that count. From the perspective of recruiting employees, I can talk to someone today and find that they're not a fit for whatever I've got available, but a month, six months, even a year or two later I can revisit them and find the best fit for them and the company.

It's much the same with recruiting for FPWC, we may talk to a church, organization, or company and now isn't the best time for them to jump into something, or to jump into something with both feet, but a year later, things have changed, there are more people, and it's all of a sudden a good time and we've got a new partnership with a new organization.

Fact: It wasn't my stunning recruiting skills that got people on board at my church. It was the relationships I had with them, the trust I had built with them, that encouraged them to give FPWC a try. It was the in-person, face-to-face relationships I had with them.

Our Board and recruiting team at FPWC have made hundreds of phone calls, sent email messages, sent post card mailings and letters. Yet, we've only been able to make a few connections. When we do make a connection, it's GLORIOUS! It's exciting! And it almost always ends in a request for more information, an invitation to an information session, and will lead to a new partnership.

In the new facility, we have the space to DOUBLE the number of families we help. Currently, we have the volunteer organizations and people to house, feed, and fellowship with up to 6 families, or 16 people, at a time. If we can double the number of volunteer organizations and people, we can increase that to up to 11 families, or 35 people, at a time. But we need YOU to make that happen.

I hope we'll be chatting soon about how YOU can make a difference to the families in our program!!



Host & Support Churches

Heritage Presbyterian Church St. Susanna Church **Axis Church Compass Christian Church Grace Baptist Church Open Table Church** Lebanon Presbyterian Church

Lebanon Community Methodist Church

Pleasant Plain Presbyterian Church St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

Lakeveiw UCC

True Kingdom Ministries

Nexus Church

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Resurrection Lutheran Church Bethany UCC

Sycamore Presbyterian Church Our Lady of Sorrows

> Monroe United Methodist Church One Community Church The River Church First Church of God

Red Lion United Methodist Church Covenant Presbyterian Church

Springboro United Church of Christ Pilgrim South UCC

Living Water Lutheran Church

Cobblestone Community Church

New Freedom Church

Casseroles of Hope

Lebanon Elks Lodge #422

Summit United Methodist Church Crossroads Church Mason

If you have questions on how to become a host or support congregation, business or organization, do not hesitate to contact Linda Rabolt at (513) 934-5250

Are you receiving our E-Newsletter?

This newsletter keeps you up to date on the most recent improvements to our new building! To sign up for this, visit our web-page at www. familypromisewarren.org/enewsletter or send your email to jesse@ihnwc.org.

Coordinator Corner

by Pastor Steve Rudisill & Mike Saxion Summit United Methodist Church



Summit is a brand-new United Methodist Church started in Lebanon, Ohio. We are a movement of Jesus followers on a mission to love God and our neighbors well. We are passionate about offering the Lebanon community, Warren County,

and the world a genuinely welcoming, accepting, service minded, and loving church. We believe that serving with and for others is not only a privilege, but mission critical to live into who we say we are as a church. We are truly blessed to be a blessing.

Partnering with FPWC has been an incredibly rewarding experience. Every fifth Sunday, we leave the building and worship by serving out in community. This past Summit Serve Sunday on June 30th we worked alongside FPWC's Furniture ministry - Heaven & Hearth. We performed various tasks: cleaning, organizing, and moving furniture. Being able to be a part of such a key component of FPWC's mission, providing families with the ability to furnish their new residence with the essentials, was

such an honor. We followed that up with a great week of hosting families at FPWC's new location assisting with yummy meals, fellowship, fun activities, and overnight sleepovers.

It was such a gift to serve and

be a small part of the positive impact **FPWC offers** to Warren County. We cannot wait to serve again soon and look forward to many years

of partnership. We can't recommend participating in this mission enough.



Christmas Sponsors

Ho Ho Ho!

If you, your family, your business, your church or others would like to adopt a FPWC family for Christmas please contact Nichole or Jesse at the

FPWC office. We will be reaching out to the FPWC families who have been with us in 2024 and asking them for



the Wish List for the children. We will share their wishes with our sponsors and will give our sponsors specific instructions as well as the child's wishes.

All gifts should be brought to the FPWC offices at 600 Cincinnati Avenue no later than December 18 so that

Santa can get them ready to deliver on Christmas Eve. Thank you in advance for providing smiles this Christmas!



1. What do you usually do to volunteer for FPWC? Which is your favorite? As part of the Master Gardener Volunteers of Warren County (MGVWC), we enjoy working on the selection and placement of plant materials that enhance the beauty and educational opportunities of FPWC.

2. How did you first get involved in FPWC?

The team leader is a long-time, dedicated volunteer with FPWC. The opening of Family Promise of Warren County campus gave the MGVWC an opportunity to apply their skills to beautifying and educating.

- 3. What is your "why" for volunteering? We believe the power of gardening can enhance anyone's life.
- 4. What is a memorable moment about your work with us? Watching the plant layouts fill in!
- 5. What would you tell new members/volunteers about volunteering for FPWC? This is a wonderful group who appreciates their volunteers and wants to make it easy for everyone to work toward common goals.
- 6. Tell us a fun fact about yourself! Look inside yourself. How many times in life are you able to pair activities with what you love (gardening), with what you are committed to (native plants and healthier lifestyle) and what you are called to do in life (serve others and educate). FPWC allows the MGVWC to do this. We are like energizer bunnies! It is a win-win for all!





master Gardener
Volunteers of
Warren County

Staff Spotlight

getting to know

Rodney Short

Driver/Maintenance



1. How long have you been a member of the staff of FPWC? What is your position? Tell us a little about what you do and your educational background.

I was hired about three months ago to be the driver and maintenance manager. I spend most of my time driving families to various appointments as well as driving our box truck to pick up furniture and help families move. I also keep up with the maintenance needs at our Campus.

2. What do you enjoy most about being on the FPWC staff?

I love the feeling of ministry by helping others that are in need.

3. What do you love most about your current position?

Being able to help others by fixing their sink or making sure they get to a doctor's appointment is what I love the most.

- 4. Tell us a little about your family.

 I am raising three of my grandkids. My oldest grandson just got a job in maintenance that he is very excited about. My middle grandson started Junior High and plays football. My youngest granddaughter is in Berry Intermediate School and loves attending concerts! We also have two dogs who complete our family.
- 5. What's something about you (a fun fact) that not many people know? I enjoy taking my grandkids out to the lake and watching them catch more fish than me.

CONSIDER A CHARITABLE GIFT TO FPWC FROM YOUR WILL

A charitable gift from your will is one of the easiest and most flexible ways that you can leave a gift to Family Promise of Warren County that will make a lasting impact.



BENEFITS

Benefits of a gift from your will

- Receive an estate tax charitable deduction
- Reduce the burden of taxes on your family
- Leave a lasting legacy to charity

HOW IT WORKS

A gift from your will is one of the easiest gifts to make. With the help of an attorney, you can include language in your will or trust specifying a gift to be made to family, friends or Family Promise of Warren County as part of your estate plan, or you can make a gift from your will using a beneficiary designation form.

Here are some of the ways to leave a gift from your will to Family Promise of Warren County

- Include a gift from your will to Family Promise of Warren County in your will or revocable trust
- Designate Family Promise of Warren County as a full, partial or contingent beneficiary of your retirement account (IRA, 401(k), 403(b) or pension)
- Name Family Promise of Warren County as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy

OPTIONS

A gift from your will may be made in several ways

- Percentage make a gift of a percentage of your estate
- Specific make a gift of a specific dollar amount or a specific asset
- Residual make a gift from the balance or residue of your estate

If you have any questions about leaving a gift from your will to us, please contact us. We would be happy to assist you. If you have been so generous as to include a gift from your will to Family Promise of Warren County as part of your estate plan, please take the time to let us know. We would like to recognize you and your family for your generosity.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The method used to make a bequest will depend on the kind of gift you choose to leave to Family Promise of Warren County.

- Bequests of real estate, personal property, business interests and cash are typically made by way of a will, revocable trust or even a simple codicil to your current estate plan. Your estateplanning attorney can assist you in preparing the necessary papers for you to complete the bequest.
- Other bequests, such as those involving retirement assets, insurance policies, bank accounts and stocks and bonds, are typically made by completing the appropriate beneficiary designation form. Simply contact your retirement plan administrator, life insurance company, bank or investment broker and ask them to send you the appropriate "beneficiary designation" or "payable on death" form. To complete your bequest, you will need to complete and sign the form and then send it back to the person who originally sent the form to you.







Christmas In July

On July 29, a total of 43 children and their parents enjoyed an afternoon of crafts, Christmas dinner and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus (aka Paul and Pam Ford)



Run4Home 5K

Thursday, July 4 was a glorious day despite being a little hot and muggy. A total of 268 people turned out to run and walk at Armco Park to support the programs of FPWC and boy did they!

Brunning Endurance Company got the party started with great patriotic music. Volunteers had the area around Shelter 33 decorated in America's

Red, White

and Blue. We even had many participants show up in their Independence Day best - to include one volunteer who sported a lovely Red, White and Blue tutu!!

Pastor Steve Rudisill from Summit United Methodist Church in Lebanon shared a wonderful prayer to start the event.

We want to thank all our great volunteers, our sponsors and

our participants who helped us to raise a total of \$21,198.33 which will be used towards the programs that support our families while in shelter!

> We look forward to seeing you at our 19th Annual Red, White and Blue Run4Home 5K and Kid's Fun Run on July 4, 2025, at Armco Park!!





We so appreciate all of the wonderful volunteers that spent time organizing this event and acted as Santa's elves in assuring that each child has all that they need to successfully begin the school year.

This year we had the pleasure to work with a team from Leadership Warren County.

These volunteers from LCNB, Lebanon Public Library, Warren County Career Center and Festo's were amazing, enthusiastic and much appreciated as were all the elves under the direction of

> Jennifer Keezer, the Christmas in July chair.

Santa and Mrs. Claus spent time with each child and encouraged them to do well in school this year. They were gifted with many hugs and even a few handmade pictures to treasure.





Christmas in July Thank You Notes

"Thank you so much for taking the time and dedication to make my son a happy boy! I'm so grateful to everyone for always looking out and taking care of us. We love you all! Thank you for being blessings in our lives!"

-Saidi & Phoenix

"We just want to thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. This has been such a fun experience. We love everything you've done and all the wonderful gifts we've received. Thank you for helping us and being there for us, especially during this hardship."

-Lili & family







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So Much Love Was Shared This Summer!

If you are interested in sharing your time or talents with FPWC please contact us at 513.934.5250



































Did you know as of July 31, 2024 FPWC shelter program assisted:

- 20 families
- 60 individuals
- 35 children
- 20 children
 6 years old & under
- 1335 referrals*

*every referral was assisted appropriately and may not have required the shelter program to achieve success.

List of Needs

Looking to donate to Family Promise of Warren County but don't know what we need??? Here are a few suggestions:

- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- 30 Gallon Trash Bags
- Cleaning Supplies
- Financial gifts are always needed and appreciated

Thank you to all the many volunteers at our host and support churches for providing meals, fellowship, hospitality and unconditional love to our families. If you would like to get involved, please contact Linda Rabolt, Executive Director, at 513-934-5250 or linda@ihnwc.org. For more information about FPWC go to: www.familypromisewarren.org.

