

2021 Annual Report


of Waukesha County



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www.familypromisewaukeshawi.org

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Joe
Nettesheim

2021 was another challenging year due to the pandemic. While there was much out of our control, your commitment to financially support families in danger of homelessness has led to many successes. In this annual report you will hear about increasing our Apartment Shelter units from one to four, serving 47 families through our prevention program, completing our Day Center and hiring additional staff.

We hope you will read stories about Josh and Nadia, and the perspective of our case managers Callie and Courtney. Most importantly we hope you will hear an overwhelming expression of gratitude for your generosity, and caring for families in need.

As we near summer of 2022, there remains a significant number of shelter requests that we are unable to accommodate. There are not enough beds for families to find shelter in Waukesha County, and there is concern that this current situation is creating chronic homelessness. We want to offer a plan for families in our shelter, once stabilized, yet still unable to access affordable, independent housing.

We need your continued support more than ever. There are challenges ahead but with your continuing support and willingness to get involved, our team will find creative ways to respond to the needs of families experiencing homelessness in Waukesha County.

Thank you!

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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Courtney Rutkowski, Lead Case Manager, ext 102
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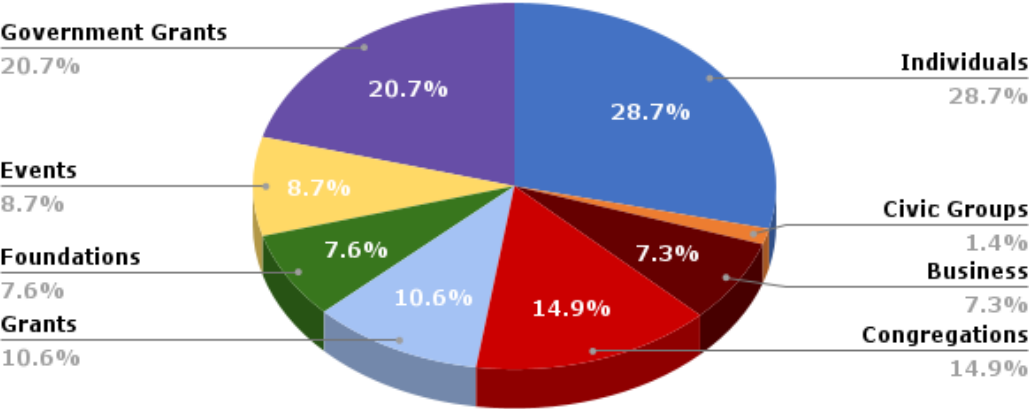
Ziera Wilkes, Program Coordinator, ext. 103
ziera@familypromisewaukeshawi.org



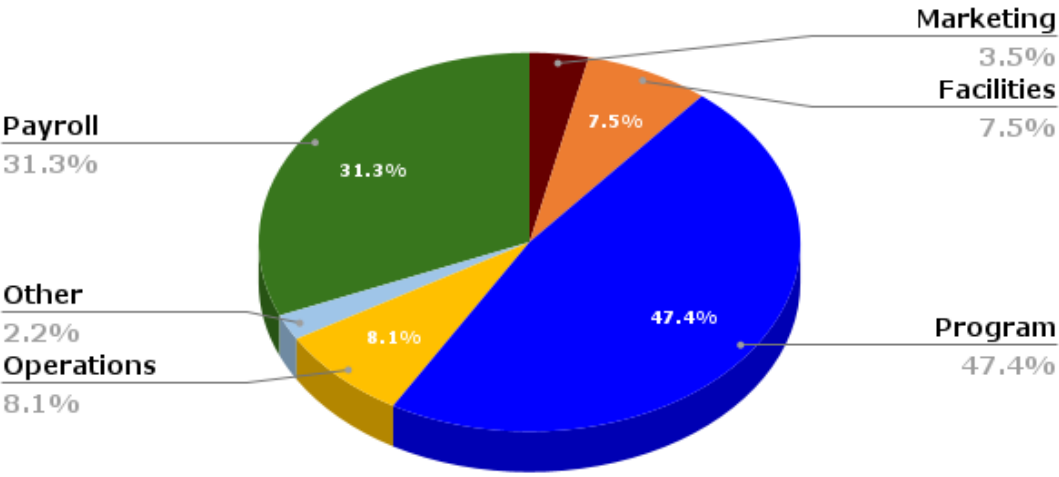
FINANCIAL REPORT 2021

As our programs have shifted so has our budget. Expenses have gone from \$211,000 in 2019 to \$393,000 in 2021. We went from an organization that used donated space, provided programs with volunteers and had 2.5 paid staff to making payments for rent, utilities and leasing apartments to provide shelter. What is remarkable is that despite the increase in expenses, we ended 2021 in the black and are in a strong financial position. This is only possible because of the generosity of our community. Thank you for your support. Here is a summary of our finances at the end of 2021.

INCOME 2021



2021 Expenses



- Individual donations is the highest percentage of our income.
- Significant increase in Government funding due to receiving Cares Act funding for the prevention program.
- Grateful for an increase in support from businesses.
- Some civic groups unable to fund us as Covid-19 impacted their ability to fund raise.
- Percentage of case manager salaries included in program.
- Both program and payroll expenses have increased.
- Facility expenses have been flat.



UPCOMING FAMILY PROMISE EVENTS



OPEN HOUSE RESCHEDULED!

Saturday, April 23
12-2 pm, Program at 1 pm

GIVING DAY

Thursday, April 28

GOLF OUTING

Monday, July 25

For more information about these events visit www.familypromisewaukeshawi.org

2022 GOALS

It is important as an organization we are flexible to respond to the ever changing needs of those we serve. We set the following goals to respond to the main issues facing families today.

1. Re-Engage volunteers in a static or rotational shelter program.
2. Develop a long term plan for housing programs.
3. Evaluate staffing needs for new programs.
4. Provide shelter to 20 households in four apartments.
5. Provide rent/utility assistance to 75 unique families.
6. Grow our volunteer base.
7. Implement three “formation/workshops sessions.”
8. Grow relationships with landlords.

2022 Family Promise Golf Outing

Monday, July 25, 2022 - Oconomowoc Golf Club



NEW DAY CENTER OPEN HOUSE



Family Promise of Waukesha County purchased a new Day Center in Waukesha in July 2020. In 2021 work was done on the second floor to update the space. We moved to Waukesha to provide clients access to public transportation, other social service agencies, wider variety of jobs and W2 child care. The space provides more confidentiality. See the information below about our Open House on April 23 from 12-2pm. Read about how this project came together on our website:

<https://www.familypromisewaukeshawi.org/post/day-center-thank-you>



NOW RESCHEDULED

**FAMILY PROMISE OF
WAUKESHA COUNTY**

OPEN HOUSE!



SAT., APRIL 23, 2022

12 - 2 PM

CEREMONY AT 1PM



**139 E North St
Waukesha 53188**

PARKING:

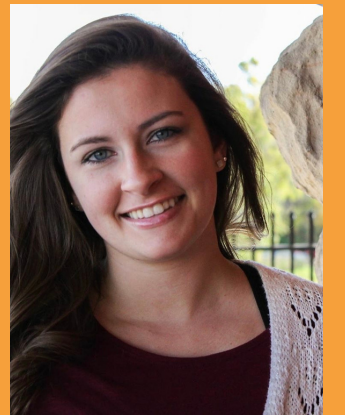
Available 1 block north of us at Waukesha Metro
on Brook St., or
at Waukesha State Bank on St Paul Ave



FAMILY PROMISE CASE MANAGERS MAKE VITAL CONNECTIONS

In the last six months, Family Promise of Waukesha County has welcomed several new staff members in an effort to honor our mission to help low-income families and families experiencing homelessness to achieve sustainable independence.

Courtney Rutkowski, Lead Case Manager, joined the team in November and works with families in the shelter program. With a Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Social Work from UW-Whitewater, Courtney shares her passion for giving individuals tools and resources for success and finds joy in helping others on their journey. "I assist families in setting and meeting goals and getting them connected with the community and other organizations that can help them. I meet with them in person and over the phone. Sometimes I'm just someone to talk to!" she said. "Family Promise helps give people a fresh start. Some families have just been dealt a wrong hand, or they've made mistakes, or they're young and didn't have the best start. My role is to give them the support they need to keep them accountable and meet their goals."



Courtney Rutkowski

When Callie Pauc, Case Manager started working at Family Promise last August, she brought experience in serving people experiencing homelessness as well as a passion to help people work towards and achieve their goals. Callie holds a Bachelor's in Psychology and Human Services and is working on a Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.



Callie Pauc

"I came to Family Promise with the desire to support those facing adversity. I want people to feel like they aren't invisible, and their stories deserve to be heard. Our Prevention Program is vital because so many people are in need of emergency assistance. We offer help with expenses like rent, utilities, and car repair so families can stay in their homes. We also provide resources and important connections so families can help themselves," she explained.

Both Courtney and Callie agree that the Family Promise team strives to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable families in Waukesha County. "We all work so well together. We challenge and support each other and are always working on continuous improvements of our programs," added Callie.



TIME TO ASK FOR HELP



The Family Homelessness Prevention Program provides financial assistance to help families in danger of becoming homeless. This program is supported by individuals, congregations, businesses, civic groups and foundations. In 2021 we distributed almost \$96,000 to prevent homelessness. One of our supporters is United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties. This story about program participant Sasha Sabban was written by Katie Kuhn of United Way.



Sasha knew it was time to ask for help.

In January of 2021, Sasha's fiancé, Kevin, passed away suddenly. Sasha and her two children were devastated. "I never imagined my life would take this turn," said Sasha.

At the same time, Sasha began to worry about how she would pay her mortgage. Kevin had been the primary breadwinner since Sasha lost her job in 2018. She knew she would need a little bit of help while she took time to grieve with her family and heal enough to begin looking for work.

Sasha searched "help with house payments" online, but the first organization required that she already be behind on her payments to qualify for support. Then, Sasha found Family Promise of Waukesha County.

With a mission of helping low-income families and families experiencing homelessness and housing instability, Family Promise of Waukesha County is a critical resource in our community. Your donations to United Way's Safe & Stable Homes initiative helped Family Promise keep 25 families from experiencing homelessness last year.

"United Way has provided funding to Family Promise to prevent family homelessness," said Family Promise Executive Director Joe Nettesheim. "Prevention is best for all involved. Children do not have to change schools and have their routine interrupted. Parents don't have to completely start over. Families can avoid the chaos of homelessness."

Family Promise connected Sasha with the funds she needed to cover three months of mortgage payments. Then, when she experienced car trouble, they helped her cover a portion of the repair bill.

This bridge of support allowed Sasha a critical break from the stress of worrying about money. During this time, Sasha could be with her children, take time to grieve, and start to think about her next step.

"I usually don't ask for help, but I was in a predicament," said Sasha. "Family Promise was so compassionate; I was very taken aback and so appreciative."



Today, Sasha and her family are on their healing journey, but they still have difficult days. With a job she enjoys that allows her the flexibility to see her children off to school at different times, Sasha feels a little more stable.

"We have a roof over our heads, and I can get to my job," said Sasha. "I can't thank Family Promise enough."



FAMILY PROMISE IS A BLESSING

Rebecca Seymour

Last December, Josh and Nadia and their three young children were living in their car before finding temporary shelter at the Hebron House in Waukesha. After 30 days, the family needed to find another place to live, so they called Family Promise of Waukesha County.

"Family Promise put us in a really nice two-bedroom apartment and it has been a blessing. They've provided us with food and transportation and helped me find a job. Everything is going great and it just feels better mentally. This is the best I've felt in a long while," Josh said.

Josh is working two jobs currently, even walking one mile to work when the buses aren't running. Nadia is dedicated to taking care of their children ages 5, 3 and 2. The couple is learning how to manage their finances and other skills with help from the case managers at Family Promise.

"It has been like a journey. We've had to learn a lot to be where we want to be," added Nadia. "We meet with Family Promise three times a week and they're helping us keep track of our goals to get us ready for the real world. It has been a blessing."

2021 STATISTICS

APARTMENT SHELTER PROGRAM

15 HOUSEHOLDS

9 FAMILIES

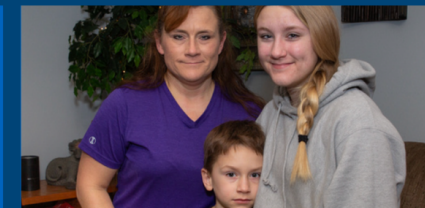
6 SINGLE WOMEN

30 INDIVIDUALS

14 CHILDREN

77% FEMALE

67% AFRICAN AMERICAN



HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION PROGRAM

47 UNIQUE FAMILIES

3 ALUMNI FAMILIES

84 ADULTS

111 CHILDREN

86 PAYMENTS

18.5% HAD NO INCOME

58% SINGLE MOM

62% WHITE

In 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic Family Promise of Waukesha County had to suspend our congregation based shelter program. We instituted a shelter program using single family apartments and a prevention program to help families avoid homelessness. The graphic above shows our 2021 statistics for both programs. We hope the stories on these pages provide insight into the families we help.