



Rochester, MN

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# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2020





## A Path Forward

**Family Promise Rochester recognizes and appreciates the outstanding support of our community members. To date, we have raised over 71% of our total relocation campaign goal. We are almost there!**



## Garage Sale

**In preparation of our relocation, Family Promise Rochester held a garage sale fundraiser in September of 2020.**

Although it was a hot and steamy day, the support and donations we received from our volunteers and supporters was outstanding.

Volunteers, guest graduates and community members all showed up to support various ways.

In a year when we weren't able to hold fundraising events, this outdoor sale was the perfect fit.

## What's New?

### The Big Move: 811 -> 913

Due to many unforeseen events, we took the biggest leap of faith and purchased a new building at 913 1st St. NW. Our new home, The North Star House, is a guiding light for those in need!

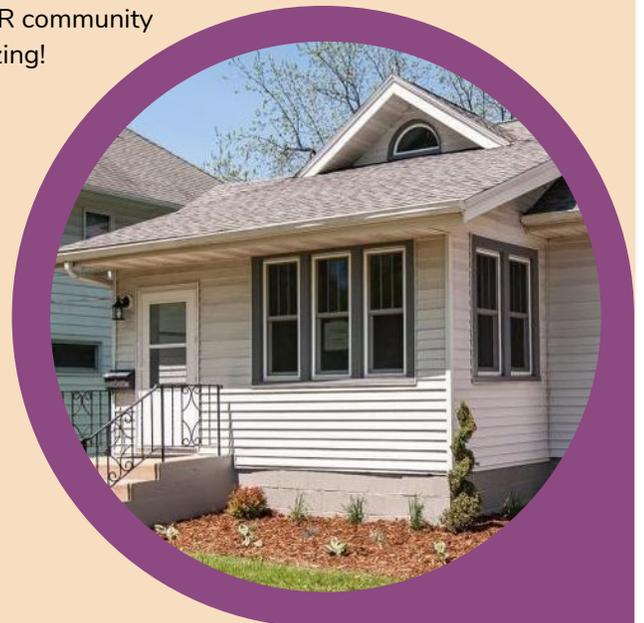
### 2020 GRANTS

- State of MN COVID Relief--\$10,000
- Federal PPP Funds--\$31,902
- Pets with a Promise--\$2,500
- Spectrum Employees Grant--\$2,500
- Rochester Area Foundation--\$19,463
- Cascade Creek--\$7,500

### Life Skills

Due to COVID-19 all life skills classes were moved to an online platform in 2020. Continued education, counseling and support was provided to families in and out of the Family Promise Program.

The FPR community is amazing!





## Family Success

### Mercedes and family

Mercedes and her family came to Family Promise Rochester when her family experienced homelessness in Houston, TX after COVID-19 caused them to lose their jobs. Mercedes reached out to FPR with drive to get her family back on their feet in a new community. With some guidance utilizing our Shelter Diversion tactic that provided help with a security deposit, Mercedes and her family were able to move into their own apartment just before Christmas. She and her family continue to stay connected with FPR by coming to Life Skills classes and seeking ongoing case management supports.

Your support makes it possible for Family Promise to continue helping families like Mercedes's every day with shelter, homelessness prevention, and stabilization.



**17 individuals**  
Shelter Diversion  
Funds/Services Provided



**59 days**  
Average Length  
of Stay



**2,706**  
Bed Nights  
Provided



**42**  
Individuals  
Sheltered during  
COVID-19



**2,478**  
Meals Provided



**Over 200**  
Volunteers



**23**  
Children Served



**94%**  
Families successfully  
Housed



## Family Success

**Ashley and her family spent a lot of time outside this summer fishing, and swimming at the local reservoirs.**

Ashley and her children relocated to MN in the early stages of the pandemic, which made finding employment and housing very difficult, but not impossible, for a determined mom of 4. With the help of our dedicated volunteers FPR was able to provide Ashley and family with safe, clean shelter and food without having to shop for groceries during such uncertain times. Ashley and her family are a part of Family Promise Rochester's Long Term Homeless program which provides affordable housing and voluntary case management services as long as they need.

Thank you to Bear Creek Church at Mayowood Acres for supporting Family Promise Rochester during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Family Promise Coronavirus Emergency relief campaign raised \$14,605 from 77 donors in March of 2020 to support families experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

# Director's Message

Dear Family Promise Rochester Friends and Supporters,

2020 will be a year that I'm sure most of us will never forget. Schools, churches, and many businesses were shuttered; stay-at-home orders were in effect; many employees lost their jobs, saw hours cut, or began remote work; and far too many lives were lost. It was a year of fear, uncertainty, grieving, and change.

The staff and board of Family Promise Rochester were faced with many unforeseen decisions and challenges and were forced to constantly pivot our programs in response to the ebbs and flows of the pandemic's effects on the community's health. But instead of just rolling over and accepting defeat as the pandemic worn on far longer than any of us initially expected, we rose to the occasion and harnessed the unique opportunities that lay before us.

With outstanding support and encouragement from our volunteers, donors, and constituents, we made a relocation sprout from what was once a dream to a reality in just a few short months.

I will spare you the boring details, but so much consideration, thought, planning, conversing, emailing, touring, packing, moving, and dreaming was crammed into the months it took to get us to our new home, the Family Promise Rochester North Star House. The North Star in the sky is a guiding light for the lost traveler, and so we want to be that guiding light for the lost among us who are seeking a path out of homelessness, seeking a better life for their families.

It was certainly a tumultuous year, and not at all what I expected to be taking on just 6 months into my role as Executive Director, but in the darkness of a devastating year, there was so much light to be seen. To us, the North Star House shines as one of the brightest.

As you digest the data and information included in this report, please remember that the safety net that Family Promise Rochester provides to families cannot be done without the support of our donors and volunteers.

Thank you for believing in the mission of Family Promise Rochester and for your unending support as we adapt to change, challenge our strengths, and collaborate in creative ways to best serve the most vulnerable families among us. Thank you for being you!



Sincerely,

**Brie Bednar**  
Executive Director

## OUR STAFF

### **Brie Bednar**

Executive Director  
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### **Nicollette Meyer**

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### **Jace Schroeder**

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### **Mary White**

Administrative Assistant Volunteer  
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## OUR BOARD

**Erin Sinnwell, President**

**Heather Ringuette, Vice President**

**Erich Heneke, Treasurer**

**Chris White, Secretary**

**Warren Harmon**

**Timothy Mackey**

**Kai Miller**

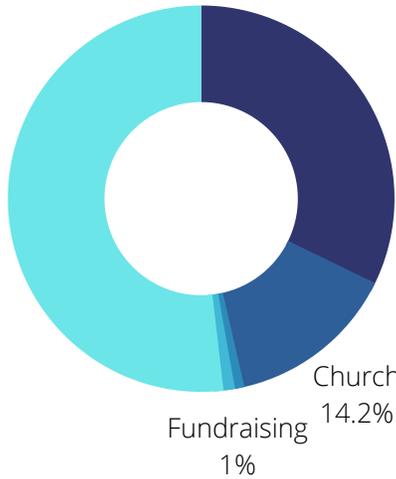
**Rudy Naul**

**Gary Zander**

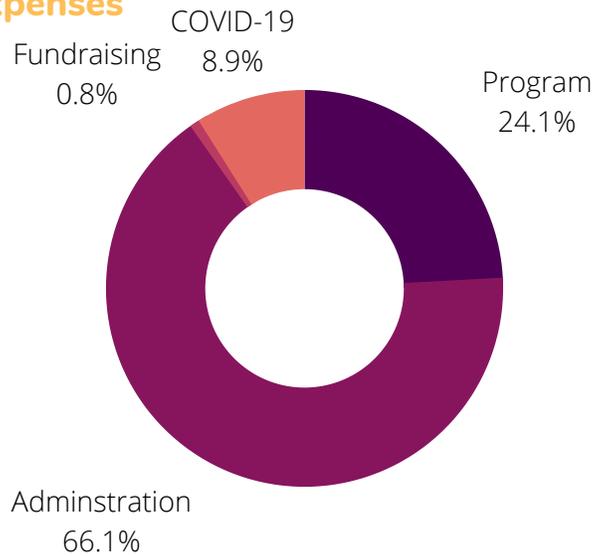
**Ashley Brusse**

# 2020 Financial Overview

## Income



## Expenses



## Programs

### Stabilization

Our Family Stabilization Program is an essential part of our family's road to success. Families begin the intake process with a series of individual screening meetings that assists our case manager in determining if the family is a good fit for the program. Together, they develop goals and then break each one down into workable steps. During the family's stay in our shelter program, they meet many times a week with the case manager to review goals, plan subsequent steps, find resources, and determine realistic outcomes for themselves and their family. We focus on shared experiences and skill building in a home setting.

Families are far more receptive to learn when presented with information by people they know and trust. Therefore, our Life Skills classes are customized specifically to our families' needs and offered at a convenient site. Life Skills focuses on empowering families to achieve and maintain independence. Topics include: parenting, safety, financial literacy, stress reduction, communication skills and professionalism. 90% of families that complete our Family Stabilization Program are successful in staying in their stable housing.

### Shelter

Interfaith Hospitality Network continues to form the backbone of our organization as a collaboration of faith communities participating in our mission of providing evening hospitality, meals and overnight supervision to our families experiencing homelessness. Our network of over 1,400 volunteers donate all the time, labor and supplies to feed and provide activities for our families; keeping our staff costs to a minimum. This partnership also provides supportive relationships, homework assistance, and a vital sense of community for this vulnerable population. We embrace all faiths within our program and encourage all denominations to serve as support churches.

Previously using the Interfaith Hospitality model, Family Promise Rochester has moved to a Static Site model housing families, staff and volunteers in one building providing a more trauma informed temporary housing situation for families experiencing homelessness.



Envisioning a nation where every family has a home, a livelihood, and the chance to build a better future.

We help families experiencing homelessness and low-income families achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response.