

Family Promise

of Barry County

Issue 7 • December 2020



Above: Stockings for our staff and families

Christmas Time at the Day Center

The Christmas spirit is strong at FPBC!

Our living room is all ready for Santa to visit our kids later this week.

We are blessed to be able to provide a warm, safe, and homey place for our families to celebrate this holiday. We couldn't do this without the steadfast support of our community!

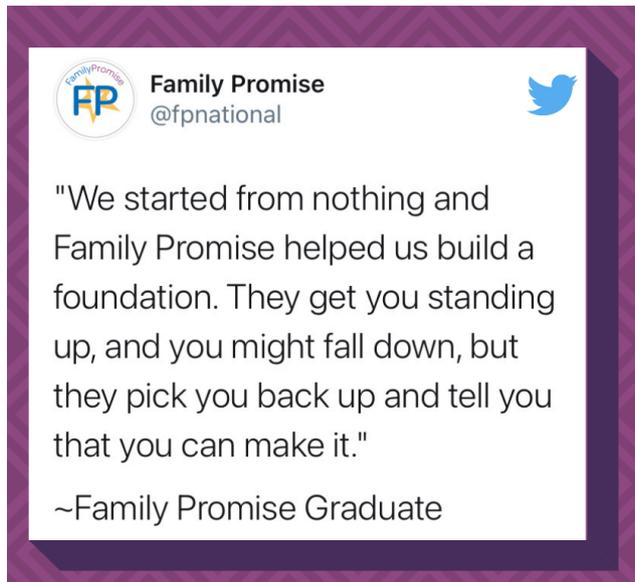


Above: Our Christmas tree in our living room.

Trivia Challenge:

What's the highest grossing Christmas movie of all time?

Find the answer inside!



Ending homelessness, one family at a time



In This Issue:

- Upcoming events
- Words from our Board
- Our Wednesday Warriors!
- Celebration of Support



2020

By the numbers

46

families served

20

individuals sheltered

23

churches involved

1

amazing community



A Proud Barry County United Way Partner Agency



A WORD FROM OUR STAFF

The sun rising as I entered our Day Center one morning last week.



Luke 2: 11-14 (NLT)

The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

Dear Friends of FPBC,

As 2020 comes to a close and as I think about my Christmas wish, there's so much to reflect upon.

I am so deeply overwhelmed with the ways I see the generosity of our community on a weekly basis. Visiting our PO box is always a fun adventure to see what new donations have been mailed. People have been generously giving personal care items, paper products, and other items our families need. I've had lots of visits lately with other gifts (see the next page!) It is a true joy to watch our community support our families. It makes me so proud to live here. The Christmas spirit is truly alive in Barry County!

In His Service,
Martha Ports,
FPBC Executive Director

Brr... it's cold outside!
We can help keep you warm!

**The Rack:
Outdoor Winter
Clothing Pantry**

Adult, Children's & Infant Sizes

- coats
- snowpants
- boots
- scarves
- blankets
- socks
- gloves
- mittens
- hats

Open Hours by appointment only.

Must be a Barry County resident.

Thanks to our December host churches!

Green Street Church
Hastings Free Methodist
Lakewood United Methodist
McCallum Church
Hastings Baptist Church

Register for your shopping appointment with Barry County Cares at 269-948-9555.

Pantry located at Hope Church (2920 S. M37 Hwy, Hastings)

We're also accepting donations of new/gently used outdoor clothing items. Call Barry Co. Cares to set up a donation time. Donations MUST NOT be left at the church without an appointment.

FPBC Wish List

If you are able to donate any of these items, please call us at 269-953-6189

- DVD players (2 or 3) and Roku devices (3)
- Gas cards (for the FPBC bus and for families)
- Hair styling products



Grateful for our Community Support

The outpouring of support from our community has been so great in 2020. Join us in thanking the companies, organizations and individuals who have recently donated to help end homelessness, one family at a time!



Left: Lake Trust employees Patti Anes, Jamie Smith, and Laura Trosien with FPBC director Martha Ports. They delivered a support check and 78 bottles of shampoo, conditioner or body wash!



Left: Matt Gibbons and Kristen Smith from Viking's Union, United Steelworkers Local 5965, present a gift to FPBC



Above: Wendy Marble recently donated \$300 she collected from returning pop cans!



Thanks to the staff at The General Store and all who came out to support our fundraiser on Dec. 5! Almost \$200 was raised to support our families!



Customers from Family Farm and Home donated almost 500 toys, 350 hats and 21 pairs of socks to FPBC!



2020 FPBC
Board of
Directors

- *Jeff Gibbs,
President
- *Robin Walters,
Vice President
- *Kim Metzger,
Secretary
- *Jason Watson,
Treasurer
- *Sue Larghi
- *Jerald Jones
- *Vicki DeMaagd
- *Jessica Troyer
- *Kara Hollars

A WORD FROM OUR BOARD

As 2020 concludes, Jeff Gibbs's term on our Board will come to an end. Join us in thanking Jeff for his faithful service to FPBC!

Wednesday Warrior

MEET JEFF

- Serves as the Board President of FPBC
- Attends Kilpatrick Church
- Served in Marine Corps for 24 years
- Enjoys farming, serving others, and the Michigan Wolverines
- Married to Betsy, has 6 kids and 6 grandkids
- Favorite Verse: Jeremiah 29:11--"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."



Jeff Gibbs works behind the scenes to end homelessness, one family at a time.

Reflections on my service to Family Promise of Barry County

As the outgoing Chairman of the Board of Directors of Family Promise of Barry County, I have had the pleasure of serving beside many GREAT individuals that have given so very much and worked so hard for the mission of FPBC. It's been a busy couple of years!

- *We worked and worked at raising the needed funds and put in place events to sustain our fundraising goals.
- *We set forth on a project to find and make an offer for our Executive Director, our Captain of the ship, our CEO, and we sure did hire the right person for that job.
- *With Martha on board we then spent countless hours reading, editing, and implementing policy and procedures to protect our guests and staff.
- *We trained each and every Host Church and their faithful volunteers.

- *We had a significant Grand Opening on April 11th 2019 and very soon afterwards started our mission of ending homelessness in Barry County.
- *We learned so much and grew a lot as we worked through our Host Church rotations. Just when we thought we had it all smoothed out and ready to look for the Auto Pilot button, along comes this little pandemic to muddy the waters, but with the Grace of God and all the brotherly love we persevered.

I want to say "Thank-You" to each and every one of the volunteers and donors of Family Promise of Barry County. And especially to my fellow board members, I was not able to personally speak to each of you on our Zoom Board Meetings, "Thank-You" for all of your hard and very rewarding work.

In His Service,
Jeff Gibbs



FPBC Community Partner Highlight

Project Linus provides twin-sized quilts for the children who are sheltered with us. The kids can keep their blankets as they transition into their new homes.

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets



The mission of Project Linus is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer "blanketeers."

Our local chapter's representative, Deb Kajпуст, makes sure we have blankets for the children we shelter. If you'd like to hand-make brand new blankets for Project Linus, contact her at 616-446-4259. Blankets can be crib to twin size, and can be fleece, quilts, or crocheted.

We are so grateful for this organization and how it supports our families! Each child gets a quilt that they may keep as they leave for housing and set up their bedroom in their new home!



Support FPBC as you shop online!

Answer to our front page trivia

What's the highest grossing Christmas movie of all time?

Home Alone

This 1990 movie made over \$477 million!



Use smile.amazon.com and donate 0.5% of your online purchases to FPBC!

Sign up for Amazon Smile and donate to FPBC while you shop!

1. If you are not already an AmazonSmile member, sign up on your web browser at smile.amazon.com. Simply select Family Promise of Barry County to start generating donations, at no cost to you.
2. Download or update to the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app on your phone. You can find it in the App Store for iOS or Google Play for Android.
3. Open the app and find 'Settings' in the main menu (☰). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

FPBC Host Churches

- * Delton Community Church
- * Emmanuel Episcopal Church
- * First Presbyterian Church
- * Green Street UM Church
- * Hastings Baptist Church
- * Hastings Free Methodist Church
- * Kilpatrick Church
- * Lakewood UM Church
- * Lifegate Community Church
- * McCallum UB Church
- * Michigan Avenue Church of Christ
- * Organgeville Baptist Church
- * Thornapple Valley Church

Host Churches host our families in their buildings four times a year for one week at a time. They provide all meals and up to 110 hours of volunteer time each host week!

FPBC Support Churches

- * Freeport UM Church
- * Grace Lutheran Church
- * Gun Lake Community Church
- * Hastings Church of the Nazarene
- * Hastings Seventh Day Adventist
- * Hope UMC
- * Peace UM Church
- * St. Rose
- * Welcome Corners UMC
- * Woodgrove Christian Parish

Support Churches support FPBC and guests in material ways, financially, or help Host Churches fulfill their hosting duties.

Thank you!



Celebrating our Wednesday

Warriors

Wednesday Warrior

MEET KIM

- Works at Grace Lutheran Church, Southeastern Elementary, the CERC and as a private tutor
- Attends Grace Lutheran Church
- Has been working with FPBC since it first got started
- Married to Ed
- Loves music, art, reading, swimming, volunteering for Relay For Life, CROPWalk, and ELCA World Hunger
- Favorite Quote: Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God.
- Loves FPBC because we are helping others so families can stay together. We all may need a hand up sometimes.



Kim Domke works behind the scenes to end homelessness, one family at a time.

Wednesday Warrior

MEET JENNIFER



Jennifer Jarman works behind the scenes to end homelessness, one family at a time.

- Works as the Family Educator and Kinship Coordinator for the Family Support Center of Barry County
- The love of her life is Nicholas
- Graduate student at WMU and interning with Barry County Community Mental Health Authority
- Loves playing soccer, lifting weights, traveling, and spending time with her cats
- Favorite Quote: "A good laugh heals a lot of hurt."
- Loves FPBC because of the dedication and collaboration to transform our community one family at a time.

Wednesday Warrior

MEET JENNIFER

- Works from home for an insurance company
- Married and has 2 adopted children
- Attends Green Street Methodist Church
- Comes from a large family
- Loves traveling and doing things with her family
- Favorite Quote: Treat others the way you want to be treated
- Loves FPBC because I feel closest to God when I'm helping others



Jennifer NeSmith works behind the scenes to end homelessness, one family at a time.



Each Wednesday we highlight someone as an FPBC Warrior. These selfless volunteers give their time, talent, and resources to help FPBC guests or support our staff in meaningful ways! We can't thank you enough for giving your time, talent, and energy!



Watch our Facebook page every Wednesday for the next FPBC Warriors!



Partner Highlight

Hastings Free Methodist Church



Thank you, Hastings Free Methodist Church, for your support of FPBC!

Visit their website at hastingsfreemethodist.com or call 269.945.9121 for more info about this community focused church.

Services at 9 and 10:30 am



Know of a company that would be interested in becoming a partner of FPBC or financially supporting this work? See the contact info below!

SAVE THE DATE



Simulator Tournament: March 6
Traditional Tournament: June 26

2021 GOLF OUTINGS



Watch for the registration coming soon!

FPBC's Golf Simulator Tournament is POSTPONED for the safety of our wonderful community due to COVID-19 restrictions!

The new date is Saturday, March 6, 2021!

While it has been a difficult decision, we remain excited to host you on our new date and will get back to you in January with more information on registration.

Thank you for your continued support for our tournament and for being a part of the Family Promise of Barry County community.



Pictures of The Legacy's simulators in 2019



Questions?

Feel free to contact us!

Office: 269.953.6189

Email:

executive.director@familypromisebarrycounty.org

Website: bcfamilypromise.org

Mail: PO Box 312, Hastings, MI 49058

For the latest FPBC news, follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/fpbarry county/](https://facebook.com/fpbarrycounty/)

FPBC is a registered 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax deductible.