

FAMILY PROMISE OF THE LAKESHORE

Did you know that the average age of a homeless person in the U.S. is 9; that Michigan ranks 3rd in the U.S. in the number of homeless children; and families make up more than 40% of the homeless in the U.S.? Did you know that if a family includes a male teenager or male parent there are no facilities in Muskegon/Ottawa County that will house them as a family unit?

During this past year Family Promise of the Lakeshore has been created to bring shelter, meals, support services and hope to families without homes. Family Promise is part of a national organization which was established in 1988. More than 5,000 congregations in 39 states nationwide participate in the program. By using the resources of congregations and volunteers, it is estimated that 150 homeless family members will find permanent homes annually in the Muskegon/Ottawa County area.

Church of the Dunes is a host congregation for Family Promise. Typically, we host up to five families (no more than 14 individuals) for one week four times per year. From Sunday to Sunday volunteers cook evening meals, provide transportation, play games, and support families. The families go to the Day Center every morning where children are bused to their home schools and families receive support and guidance from the Program Director. The families return to the church in the evening for dinner.

If you would like more information about Family Promise, please contact Dave Hoffman at 616-847-8438 or Karyn Gillan at 616-842-1362. We ask for prayers and/or financial support. We also need volunteers for cooking, driving, laundry.

You can demonstrate the love of Christ in a very hands on way and make a lasting difference in the lives of homeless families while helping them back on their feet.