

Family Promise of Ozaukee County

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR INVOLVEMENT WITH FAMILY PROMISE

First Congregational Church has been a support congregation to Family Promise since the founding of the Ozaukee chapter in 2016. Family Promise is a nationwide non-profit organization which provides shelter, meals and social services to homeless families. Prior to Covid-19, the Interfaith Hospitality Network program used congregations like First Congregational to provide temporary housing and meal support on a rotating weekly basis to homeless families and single women. The pandemic caused two issues. First, the churches closed, leaving the organization with no place to shelter people overnight. Second, the number of phone calls increased dramatically from people seeking services. FPOZ responded by increasing capacity and making ten local motel rooms available to households who were homeless or at risk of homelessness. Additionally, the organization expanded their service delivery demographics to include all household types, including single men and couples with no children. Since April 1, 2020, the motel rooms have been filled to capacity prompting leadership of FPOZ to seek more sustainable and cost-effective solutions. On May 20, 2021 ground breaking on the Portlight Emergency Shelter located at 1505 Sunset Road in Port Washington commenced.

In just the first three months of 2022, staff and volunteers of Family Promise helped a total of 65 households made up of 81 adults and 85 children: \$57,508 was provided in rent assistance, 710 meals were provided by congregational volunteers (like you!), and 983 nights of shelter were provided.

First Congregational Church volunteers worked with members of Parkside UCC and Living Hope Saukville to provide meal support to motel guests for six separate weeks between July 2021 and June 2022. They met at Parkside and packaged meals and delivered them to the motel. When the new shelter is completed, the volunteers hope to be cooking, serving, and eating meals at the shelter with our homeless neighbors.

For more information on how you can become a volunteer, please contact FCC church member Jeanne Mantsch at (262) 243-5193 or jgm@wi.rr.com. Time commitment is as big or as little as you want it to be! Many volunteers sign up for one meal or one part of a meal every cycle and many volunteers help out only one or two meals a year. For more information about Family Promise Ozaukee please visit their website at familypromiseoz.org.