



Women of **DISTINCTION**

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Kathleen Wagner

Kathleen Wagner works tirelessly to tackle the problem of family homelessness in Ontario County, and the inability to turn her down is born of her infectious passion, compassion, and can-do attitude. In fact, at September's Grand Opening of Family Promise® of Ontario County (FPOC), the question was raised by Jack Marren, Chairman of the Ontario County Board of Supervisors, "How many of you have tried to tell Kathleen Wagner 'No?'"

FPOC is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to unite the faith community, volunteer organizations, and agencies to provide a pathway for homeless Ontario County children and their families to secure reliable housing and self-sufficiency. Ms. Wagner is a former partner of WGT Performance Consulting and is an active member of First Presbyterian Church in Victor. She has pursued many community volunteer activities over the years that support her mission to improve the lives of others and engage others to do the same, including Volunteer NOW, Field Trips to Futures, Maggie's Kids Summer Camp, and the Victor/Farmington Food Cupboard.

Ms. Wagner has seen firsthand the growing problem of family homelessness. Through research, she determined that Family Promise® was an innovative model that would work in Ontario County. She held an open forum in May 2016 to share what she had learned, built a team and continues to do what she does best: listen, lead, encourage, and have faith in others.

A true collaborator, Ms. Wagner draws many to the fold. They, under her leadership, worked tirelessly to open FPOC's doors in September, and her influence is inspiring. FPOC Vice President Lauren Lamb has stated that, "With love, she matches (or exceeds) our work, step for step...she brings the best out in me."

To date, 738 volunteers have provided more than 600 bed-nights of safety for homeless families in Ontario County. That is 4,605 hours of service to the community, all because Ms. Wagner believed that she could galvanize her neighbors to end homelessness with love and compassion. She was right. When Executive Director Bill Burns joined FPOC and witnessed the progress made in two short years, he marveled that in his 25 years of working with the homeless population he never saw such a commitment to making sure people are safe.

Ms. Wagner will tell you that she and her organization have only just begun. The hundreds of FPOC volunteers committed to its mission and Kathleen's vision agree. Family Promise of Ontario County is honored that Ms. Wagner was selected for the New York State Women of Distinction Award.

***Kathleen Wagner was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Rich Funke.***

