

FAMILY PROMISE OF SUSSEX COUNTY

EMERGENCY SHELTER: A CRISIS RESPONSE

Homelessness in the age of COVID-19

One of the original and core programs at Family Promise of Sussex County is the Emergency Shelter Program, which is designed to address the immediate shelter needs for families experiencing housing crises. A large part of the program's success is due to the consistent support of county congregations, community members and volunteers. When a family is placed in our Shelter Program, community churches open their doors and welcome our families by facilitating all overnight sleeping arrangements. Furthermore, our dedicated volunteers assist with overnight stays by ensuring families' safety, comfort, and meal preparation. While responsible for meeting the basic needs of these families, volunteers provide indispensable moral support, encouragement, and empathy during such traumatic periods. During overnight shelter, volunteers engage clients in valuable conversations, in which strong social bonds are built, and long-lasting friendships are formed. This added soft touch by volunteers is vital to our overall mission's success. It gives clients hope for the future by improving and maintaining a healthy mental state. Empathy and courage promote successful outcomes of client case

management, where positive minds can overcome any obstacle or barrier with a transient existence.

Emergency Shelter During COVID-19

*HAVING A SHELTER PROGRAM
IS AN IMPORTANT PUBLIC RESOURCE
THAT GIVES PEOPLE A BOOST OF WILL
TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES*

With the increasing health risks with COVID-19, host locations were forced to shut their doors in the effort to protect the community and prevent the potential spread of the virus. Subsequently, this resulted in the complete shutdown of this important community resource. Diversion methods have been implemented to meet the needs of homeless families and replace the emergency shelter. Unfortunately, it appears that this change may be long lasting and have a greater impact on the future of the Emergency Shelter Program at Family Promise of Sussex County. The agency is now faced with the challenge of finding an alternate and permanent shelter site, able to withstand any future health crisis.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: THE STATIC SHELTER PROJECT

Securing funding for a permanent shelter site is a challenge that we have never had to experience prior to COVID-19, but one that we are ready to tackle! With a static location we will be able to provide greater stability for the program and to the homeless community while maintaining the high level of volunteer opportunities and community interactions that have always made our program unique. We invite you to join us as we embark on new fundraising events and campaigns to raise money to build this important community resource.

Family Promise Supporters

WE SOLUTE YOU

Permanent Supportive Housing Program

Family Promise of Sussex County has been working with inspiring families who have proven that with the proper resources and effective case management, they can return to stable and healthy living. Alex is a Family Promise Housing Specialist for the PSH program. Clients in this program have experienced long periods of homelessness and have significant barriers to stabilization due to permanent disabilities. Through the professional resources of the program the families have found support that has brought housing stability to their families. Once families successfully secure housing, Alex continues to work with and support clients through case management to ensure families have the proper skills and knowledge to sustain their residence in the long run.

Why Case Management Works?

Case management may be one of the most misunderstood professional practices. Case managers are professionally trained to provide a support system to evaluate and assess the needs of vulnerable populations and help to guide these individuals to access the resources needed to meet their household needs. Case managers help to determine what resources would best meet the needs of a client. They work with clients to create goals and help institute an action plan to achieve stated goals that meet the interests and expectations of the client (socialworktoday.com). Case managers build working relationships with clients that empower the individuals to take charge of their lives, to learn new life skills, and to advocate for their own needs.

Over a year ago, a family of three came to our office, homeless and in need of assistance to address some barriers that were preventing stability. Through case management, the case manager engaged the client and built a level of trust to begin working to effectively

provide services that helped them to identify these barriers and create a plan for a healthier tomorrow. The family was assisted in learning financial techniques for successful household budgeting. They created a financial plan to reduce unnecessary household costs and they learned how to set healthy personal boundaries.

Their working relationship helped to focus attention on the importance of self-investment and the value of education. For instance, the family showed strong support for their child's secondary education, ensuring successful completion of his senior high school year. Furthermore, during the state-mandated quarantine period, the head of household experienced a drastic decline in income due to limited hours at work. The client took the financial hardship and turned it into an opportunity. He decided to enhance his skill set and knowledge. Currently, he is pursuing his college education in the field of Information Technology. His decision to invest in himself will greatly improve the household's financial independence and stability in the future.

Promoting Public Health

Thanks to the dedicated volunteers, county organizations and businesses, Family Promise received overwhelming support and donations of personal care and safety items. Thank you to the Grace Financial Group, Forever 21, our many volunteers, and the social clubs who have provided donations of face masks, cleaning supplies, and food for our clients. Thank you to Atlantic Health for providing much needed cases of hand sanitizers.

**ARE YOU IN NEED OF HELP, OR
DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS?
Give us a call today at 973-579-1180**

FAMILY PROMISE OF SUSSEX COUNTY

Community Impact

Food Shelf Program



The Food Shelf Program was launched during the pandemic to address food insecurity and the growing needs for safe access to foods for our vulnerable households who were unable to risk exposure to the virus. Many households experienced layoff and furloughs and have struggled to maintain a steady supply of healthy food while they awaited unemployment benefits. Our volunteers graciously devoted their time and resources to support the needs of these neighbors and did personal shopping, curbside delivery, and food drives that responded to the crisis created by this pandemic. We are proud of our many volunteers who stepped forward to help and are deeply committed to the overall



health of our community.

With the help and support of our volunteers, Family Promise of Sussex County provided over 3,400 meals to support the needs of our neighbors during the month of June.



Because of the consistent support of volunteers, businesses, and organizations, our clients have enjoyed nutritious meals. Family Promise of Sussex County wants to thank our supporters for lending their resources and time during these challenging times. COVID-19 caught us all by surprise. Although we have emergency plans in place to deal with critical events, the impact of the pandemic we now know as COVID-19 has been far reaching and more deadly than we ever imagined we would need to plan for. However, our community has shown us such resilience and strength and a great dedication to helping each other. We are proud to be Sussex County Strong!

Volunteering has no age limit!

Check out one of the youngest Family Promise of Sussex County supporters!

Entrepreneur Kaleb Nelson, a Fredon student, and resident began his business after identifying a growing need for vulnerable families to have access to fresh produce. Kaleb saw that many of his community neighbors were unable to visit their local grocery stores, so he decided to make a difference. His new business **Quick Veg** is a weekly home delivery service of fresh produce to customers in Sussex, Warren, and Morris County.

Great job Kaleb!



*Stay Safe
and
Healthy*

An extra special **Thank you** to our Food Fairies and Food Delivery Fairies for the weekly donations and deliveries to housebound clients!

- Elaine & Randy Smith
- Elenor Reilly
- Emillie Dupont
- Erika McDonald
- Erin Coriston
- Genevieve Appel
- Kasia Juan
- LeeAnn Fulmer & Bob Nagel
- Lori Boryeskne
- Mike Vrable
- Robin Garzoni

A special thank you to St. Francis De Sales Church, Chelsea Assisted Living, Sparta Women’s Club, Sparta United Methodist Church, Sparta Evangelical Free Church, Girls Scouts, Newton Presbyterian Church, Vernon Women’s Club, Newton Democrats, Maxwell & Molly’s, Benny’s Bodega, Sweet Pickins, Forever 21, Today’s Choice, Operation Chill Out, Premio Foods, Lafayette Federated Church, Sparta Ecumenical Church, Macaroni Kid, Camp Nejema, Ladies LIFE Team-Garden State Church, Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Redeemer Lutheran Church and the many individuals and families who have done so much to support our work!

**Family Promise Supporters,
we salute you!**

*Please be COVID aware
because we care!*

ARE YOU BEHIND ON RENTAL PAYMENTS? OR BEEN SERVED AN EVICTION NOTICE?

HAVE YOU BEEN FINANCIALLY IMPACTED BY COVID-19?

We may be able to help!

Family Promise of Sussex County

Call Family Promise of Sussex County today to see if you qualify for assistance.

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