



# 2023

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# Annual REPORT



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# Message from Executive Director

2023 marked a pivotal year of transitions and adaptation to new post-pandemic norms. With the lifting of the moratoriums on evictions and shutoffs, the harsh reality of pandemic induced financial strains became apparent for many clients and landlords. While pandemic relief funds initially provided crucial support, the year unveiled deep-seated wounds in the psychological, emotional, and financial well-being of countless households.

Initially there was a hopeful leveling off and reduction in requests for assistance. However, further examination revealed a growing number of households facing a heightened level of need. New eviction prevention and mobile outreach programs were launched in response to these findings.

The Eviction Diversion program has provided advocacy and support to households facing eviction, many for the first time. Similarly, the Mobile Outreach team has been instrumental in identifying and assessing the needs of unsheltered individuals and families living in their cars, tents, storage facilities, or other places not meant for human habitation. Family Promise of Sussex County adapted its shelter program early in the pandemic transitioning to individual apartments to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This new model has allowed for more effective outreach to single adults experiencing chronic homelessness, many with untreated medical and mental health conditions.

The pandemic's impact on homelessness has been stark with New Jersey experiencing a 17% increase in homelessness and Sussex County reporting a 137% increase in homelessness. Foreclosures are also on the rise, with New Jersey seeing a 34% increase in households facing foreclosure.

Amid these challenges, Family Promise of Sussex County remains committed to expanding shelter and transitional housing resources to address the community's growing needs. Collaboration and support from the community are vital in achieving housing stability for our neighbors in need.

We invite you to join our mission and contribute to building a brighter future for our communities. Whether through volunteering, joining a committee, or making a donation, your support can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors.

Together, let's work towards a post-pandemic where every individual and family have access to safe and stable housing. Reach out to learn how you can get involved and make a positive impact.

Best regards,  
**Chris Butto, LSW**  
**Executive Director**



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# Rising Homelessness in New Jersey



New Jersey is currently facing a severe homelessness crisis:

- The 2023 Point-in-Time count has revealed that the number of homeless individuals has exceeded 10,000 for the first time since 2015
- This marks a 17% increase in homelessness compared to the previous year
- As of November 2023, New Jersey holds the highest foreclosure rate in the country, with 1 in every 595 homes in foreclosure
- Since January 2022, the lifting of the COVID-19 eviction moratorium has worsened the housing crisis in NJ, resulting in a backlog of eviction cases in the court system
- According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition's Gap Report, there are only 31 affordable rental units available for every 100 extremely low-income households in NJ
- 74% of extremely low-income individuals are under severe financial strain to maintain housing

# Homelessness in Sussex County

Sussex County is facing significant challenges related to housing:

- Sussex County experienced a 137.3% increase in homelessness from the prior year, according to the 2023 Point-in-Time count
- The county is among the top five in the state with the highest foreclosure rates, with 1 in every 273 households affected
- Renting a one-bedroom apartment has increased by 40% in 2023, which is higher than the increase in wages, making it difficult for families to find affordable housing
- According to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition's Out of Reach report a full-time worker in Sussex County would need to earn \$30.88 per hour to afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent
- The Out of Reach report also found that 16% of renter households in Sussex County are spending more than 30% of their gross income on housing
- Eviction rates in Sussex County continue to remain at an all-time high

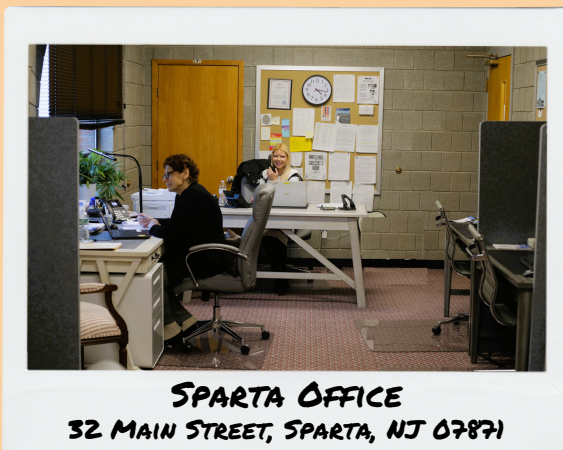


# FPSC's Expanding Homelessness Services

Due to the rising demand for services in Sussex County, FPSC has expanded its offerings. Our staff has grown, and we have introduced new programs aimed at addressing homelessness and enhancing housing stability in our area. These initiatives include:

- **Mobile Homelessness Outreach and Engagement**
- **Comprehensive Eviction Defense & Diversion**
- **Transitional Housing to Rapid Rehousing (Domestic Violence)**
- **DASH: Housing Resources**
- **Data-Driven Decision Making**

Furthermore, we have established new satellite locations to better cater to our community, such as Sussex United Methodist Church on Bank Street in Sussex, and a computer lab at the First Presbyterian Church on Main Street in Sparta. Our offices at both Newton locations remain operational.



# FPSC's Growing Impact

Throughout the years, the unwavering dedication of our staff at Family Promise of Sussex County has been truly remarkable. In 2021, we assisted 582 households in stabilizing their housing situations. This number saw a significant increase in 2022, with 674 households benefiting from our services.

By 2023, our commitment only strengthened as we reached out to an impressive 863 households through our housing programs and mobile outreach efforts. Moreover, our utility assistance team extended aid to 2904 separate households, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to supporting our community. The dedication of our staff is evident in the substantial increase of case management hours delivered, soaring to 5,411.

**2,904** HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED WITH UTILITIES

**863** HOUSEHOLDS STABILIZED

**5,411** CASE MANAGEMENT HOURS LOGGED

**27%**  
increase  
from  
2022

**Homelessness isn't only bad for those who are homeless,  
it's bad for the community**



# Client Stories

*Anna made the difficult decision to take her pre-teen twins and flee.*

She and the twins, one of whom has special needs, found safety in a domestic violence shelter, and remained there until they were no longer in danger. But Anna knew that once they left the shelter, they'd have nowhere to go. Anna was referred to Family Promise of Sussex County and entered the Rapid Rehousing Program. Here she had the financial and case management support she needed to get back up on her feet. She was determined to succeed and get back the normalcy her children had lost when they fled. She wanted a home, where her twins would have their own room again and she'd have a real kitchen where she could cook her family meals.

While in the program, Anna was able to increase her income, grow her savings and establish a home for herself and her children. The family of three and their beloved little terrier mix are now thriving in their two bedroom apartment with a full kitchen and a room just for the twins.



*Jimmy is living in his own apartment for the first time in 26 years.*

He's a veteran and after a drug addiction made daily living difficult, he settled down in one of New Jersey's state parks. Though he'd isolated himself in the park, he maintained a connection with his best friend, Brian, who would visit and help Jimmy when he needed it. Until a drunk driver took Brian's life.

Without Brian's support, Jimmy knew he would need to make a change. Family Promise of Sussex County enrolled him in the Emergency Shelter, which was a struggle for him at times because he wasn't used to sleeping on a bed or hearing the sounds of other people. But he persisted and after a little more than four months, he was ready for the next steps. Jimmy was admitted to the Permanent Supportive Housing program to support his chronic health issues, and has been living in his own apartment for the last ten months. He is so grateful for the help he receive that he's driven to give back, often offering to house others who need it.



*Jenna found herself pregnant and homeless at 17.*

She had been living with her grandmother, but the elderly woman lacked the resources to continue supporting her granddaughter. But Jenna didn't give up. She was motivated by her unborn child. She was determined that her baby would have everything he needed no matter what she needed to do to get it.

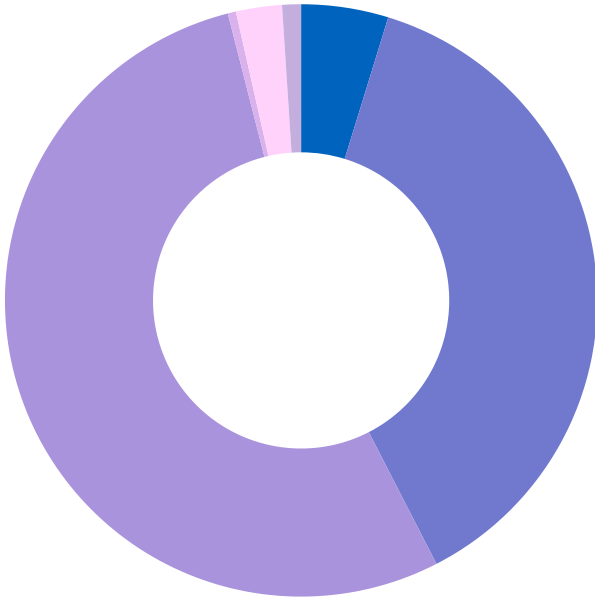
She found temporary respite at Birth Haven and spent the bulk of her pregnancy and the first four months of her newborn son's life there. But even though Jenna worked hard and was even able to get a better job, landlords didn't take her seriously. She was only 18 with a baby and no credit history. At Family Promise of Sussex County, she was connected to a landlord FPSC had worked with in the past and able to finally secure housing. Jenna has built up her savings and is living in a one-bedroom apartment with her now toddler son. She has big plans for the future.





# 2023 Financials

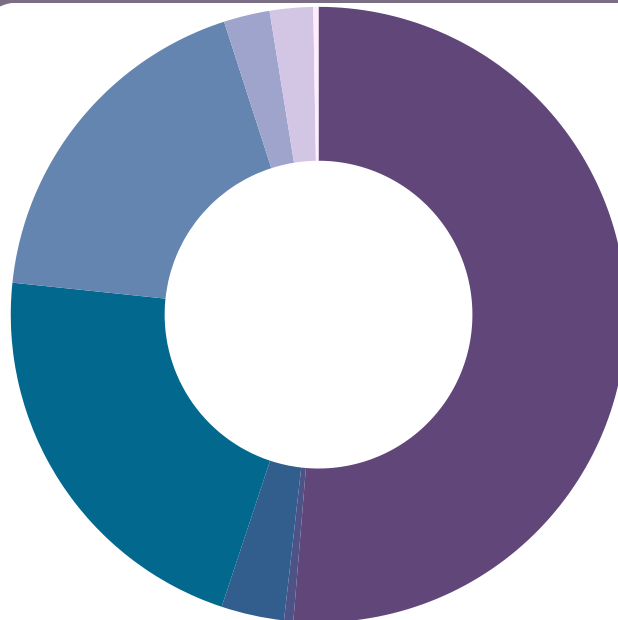
## ANNUAL REVENUE



- Foundation & Trust Grants \$139,644.62
- Federal Indirect Public Support \$1,107,466.33
- State Indirect Public Support \$1,573,811.36
- County Indirect Public Support \$13,053.50
- Direct Support & Annual Appeals \$73,759.53
- Special Events \$30,196.27

37%  
increase  
from  
2022

## ANNUAL EXPENSES



- Personnel Expenses \$1,486,500.27
- Facilites and Equipment \$7,896.00
- Business Expenses \$65,869.37
- Program Expenses \$70,073.24
- State Funding Program Expenses \$532,516.44
- Total Federal Indirect Expenses \$624,685.22
- Operating Expenses \$95,752.52
- Special Events Expenses \$14,066.21

# Client Events

FPSC hosted various events throughout 2023 to provide our clients with crucial support. This includes two pop-up thrift stores with Nick's Hope, one providing summer clothing and a second to offer winter coats and gloves. We also organize an annual toy distribution, alleviating the financial strain of holiday gift-buying for our clients' children. Moreover, our inclusive holiday dinner welcomes all clients, providing a stress-free way to enjoy the holidays together.

**All FREE Thrift Clothing Day  
For The Entire Family**  
Saturday June 24th  
11am a 1:00pm



Location:  
Family Promise  
19 Church St.  
Newton, NJ

Brought to you by Nick's Hope

&

Family Promise



**SNOWFALL SUPPER  
ANNUAL CLIENT HOLIDAY DINNER**



**ANNUAL TOY DISTRIBUTION**

# Social Media Campaigns

We've spearheaded impactful social media campaigns in 2023 to amplify awareness about homelessness through engaging initiatives like our "Homelessness Has No Season" and "Night Without a Bed" campaigns. Leveraging the power of social media, we've also dedicated efforts during Family Promise Week to spotlight Family Promise of Sussex County and our exceptional, dedicated staff.



# FPSC in the Community

Family Promise of Sussex County has actively participated in numerous community events throughout the year, further solidifying its presence and commitment to community engagement. Some of the events FPSC attended include:

- **St. Patrick's Day Parade**
- **Sussex County Day**
- **Newton Day**
- **NJ State Fair**
- **First Baptist Church Back to School Outreach**
- **Project Self-Sufficiency Health Expo**
- **Trunk or Treat at Barn Hill**
- **American Legion Dinner to Benefit Homeless Veterans**
- **German Christmas Market**
- **Project Self-Sufficiency Back to School Fair**
- **Sussex Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit Fair**

...And many more!



# Coming Soon in 2024

Get ready to mark your calendars because FPSC is gearing up for an action-packed 2024 with a lineup of thrilling events that will keep you entertained and engaged all year long! Here's just a taste of what we have in store:

- *Casino Night*
  - *Dine to Donate- Krogh's, AG Pizza, Andre's Lakeside*
  - *Veterans Event*
  - *Financial Literacy Workshops*
  - *Stabilizing Tenancy Program*
  - *Landlord Symposium*
- ... *And many more!*

Connect with us on social media to stay in the loop and discover even more exciting events coming your way in 2024! Get ready for a year filled with fun, community, and making a positive impact together!



**DINE TO DONATE @ PIZZA ONE  
JAN. 23, 2024**



# FPSC's Goals for 2024

In 2024, Family Promise of Sussex County is dedicated to expanding its impact and reach in the community. Our primary goals include the expansion of our shelter and transitional housing program, providing additional units to accommodate those in need of housing stability. Additionally, we aim to increase support for seniors facing challenges in meeting rising housing costs on fixed incomes.

We are committed to addressing the issue of unsheltered veterans by enhancing outreach efforts and providing tailored support to this vulnerable population. Furthermore, we are dedicated to expanding our capacity to assist marginalized and difficult-to-house groups, including individuals with disabilities, members of the LGBTQ+ community, domestic violence survivors, and chronically homeless households.

As part of our holistic approach to empowerment, we plan to offer more workshops on essential topics such as financial literacy and landlord/tenant law. These workshops will not only benefit our clients but also extend our support to potential clients and other community members, fostering resilience and self-sufficiency. Together, we strive to create a more inclusive and supportive environment where everyone has access to safe and stable housing.

CHASE  
Goals



# Thank You!

Thank you to all our community partners, sponsors, donors, and private grantmakers for your ongoing support. Your financial contributions play a crucial role in sustaining and advancing our mission here at Family Promise of Sussex County. With your generous support, we are able to provide essential services and resources to families and individuals experiencing homelessness, offering them a pathway to stability and independence.

Your support directly impacts the success of Family Promise of Sussex County, enabling us to continue our vital work in addressing homelessness and empowering families to build brighter futures. Together, we are making a difference, one household at a time.

Thank you for standing with us in our mission.



Alleluia Fund  
American Legion Post 86  
Angelo Merendino  
Band of Brothers  
Ben Bergman  
Blessing Tree Service  
Byram Jewelers  
C&B Realty  
Carol Podoto  
Cornerstone Title & Settlement, LLC  
Chris Butto  
Chris Ferrari  
Christ Episcopal Church of Newton  
Christina Siple  
Colleen Duffy  
Colleen Guber-Decker  
Danielle Zito  
Danise Tellefsen  
Deacon Family Foundation, Inc.  
Delaware Valley United Methodist Church  
Derek Pivko  
Dianna Kollar  
Don Bagnoli  
Douglas Vizae  
Ernest Bailey  
First Presbyterian Church of Sparta  
Franklin Mutual Insurance Company

Fredon Animal Hospital  
German Christmas Market  
Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey  
Glenn Calabrese  
Grace Cosenza  
Grace Reformed Bible Church  
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Ted Mezejewski  
Thermacell  
The Dorso Community Foundation, Inc  
ThorLabs  
TJX Foundation  
Visions Federal Credit Union  
Wallkill Valley Swim Conference  
William Bennett





# Family Promise

of Sussex County...because everyone deserves a home



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