

Vol II: Falling into Autumn



Hope for Hometown Heroes

At Family Promise of Sussex County, we know that veterans and former service members are at a greater risk of experiencing homelessness than the general population. Higher cost of living, mental health conditions, lack of affordable housing, and increasing inflation make it nearly impossible for our country's heroes to maintain housing stability and sustainability.

This year FPSC is hosting its first Service Strong Veterans and Service Member Fair that is intended to connect our current and former servicemen and women and their families with resources for physical and mental wellness as well as community organizations available to provide them with services and support and connect them to available local jobs and businesses.

Our goal is to provide information, services, and hope for our hometown heroes as a thank you for them dedicating their lives to protect ours.

FamilyPromise
of Sussex County...because everyone deserves a home

Service Strong Veterans Fair
Creating Hope for Hometown Heroes

*Where: Sussex County Community College
When: November 9th from 6:00pm - 9:00pm
Thank you for your service!*

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Fair Spotlight



The New Jersey State Fair began in early August at the Sussex County Fairgrounds and was 8 days filled with fun and excitement. The fairgrounds were transformed into a lively circus featuring games, rides, vendors, and food stalls that attracted visitors from different counties.

This year, the fair introduced a new feature: a daily nonprofit spotlight, allowing patrons to donate to the selected nonprofit. Family Promise of Sussex County had the honor of being the spotlight on the fair's opening night. Our staff members set up a table to showcase the different services and programs we offer to those experiencing a housing crisis in the community.

We were thrilled to see so many people of all ages stop by to learn more about who we are and what we do. Our staff had a great time spreading FPSC's mission to fairgoers and other vendors, and we are already looking forward to next year's fair, where we will once again share FPSC's vision and enjoy the delicious fair food!



Children's Day at the fair!



On August 6th, Children's Day at the Fair was held at the Sussex County Fairgrounds in the Planet Networks Performing Arts Tent. The tent featured various nonprofit and service organizations at tables with information for parents and adults and crafts for the kids to enjoy. FPSC had a table with brochures detailing our programs and services, an upcoming event schedule to generate interest, and DIY pinwheels for kids to make and decorate. In addition to the crafts, the Performing Arts Tent hosted shows and demonstrations, including a puppet show, a live animal presentation, and science experiments for the kids to participate in. Our Community Outreach team had a great time interacting with parents and children and spreading the mission of Family Promise of Sussex County. We are looking forward to returning next year!



FPSC at a Glance

Shelter Program



Impact
4 households

Housing Programs/Services



Impact
95 households

CEDD (Comprehensive Eviction Diversion Defense)



Impact
170 households

Mobile Outreach



Impact
61 households

Transitional Housing



Impact
8 households

August - September



Family Promise of Sussex County (FPSC) began as a grassroots organization 25 years ago, established by dedicated volunteers who wanted to give back to their community. Volunteers have always played an integral role in FPSC's mission and continue to do so today. On August 7th, the agency was filled with Selective Insurance volunteers who took the day off from work to donate their time to FPSC. The volunteers spent the day organizing and cataloging the resource room, which is filled with in-kind donations for clients, including coats, shoes, school supplies, and clothes. They also helped organize the agency's food shelves so our case managers could easily find donated food items to distribute to clients as needed. FPSC is extremely grateful to Selective Insurance for choosing our agency for their volunteer day and sincerely thanks them for their hard work! If you are interested in volunteering at FPSC, please contact Tori Young at tyoung@familypromisesussex.org.



FPSC Receives Grant for Landlord/Tenant Law Workshops

Stabilizing Tenancy: Eviction Prevention Program (STEPP) began September 10th at Family Promise of Sussex County's Newton Office

The New Jersey State Bar Foundation was founded in 1958 and is responsible for the charitable and educational ventures of the New Jersey State Bar Association. In addition to a grants program, NJSBF offers speakers, educator training, free publications, and programs for school-aged children.

The STEPP Program will provide a series of 10 workshops to educate both landlords and tenants on their rights and responsibilities. Topics will include housing discrimination, leases, rent increases, habitability, eviction, boarding houses and mobile homes, and accessing local resources. There will be another five classes specifically on eviction. The courses will be held at Family Promise of Sussex County's Newton headquarters at 19 Church Street, led by Frank Zywicki, J.D., Program Manager.

In New Jersey, eviction was the second most reported cause of homelessness, per the 2023 Point-in-Time count. Eviction rates in the state have remained high since the eviction moratorium was lifted in January 2022, leaving many people owing more back rent than they can afford. With no constitutionally protected right to counsel in civil cases, and legal aid only able to help a fraction of tenants who receive eviction notices, 98% are left to represent themselves, per an NJ.com article. The STEPP program seeks to educate and empower tenants, while providing useful information to landlords and encouraging more cooperative relationships between the two groups.

The workshop series started on September 10th at 5:30 p.m., and eviction courses will be offered in September, October and November.

If you are interested in registering to attend the workshops, please go to one of the links below or call 973-579-1180.

Workshop series: <https://familypromisesussex.charityproud.org/EventRegistration/Index/19768>

Eviction courses: <https://familypromisesussex.charityproud.org/EventRegistration/Index/19957>

Hear Their Stories



Frank, a 71-year-old male with disabilities, lived in his truck for several years after losing his wife and then his home. FPSC placed him in our shelter program and started the process of finding a long-term solution for Frank. Through our Permanent Supportive Housing program, our dedicated case managers were able to secure long-term housing. Now that he is stabilized, Frank can enjoy the comfortability of having a home again.

Donor Spotlight

Business

Visions Federal Credit Union

For selecting FPSC as the recipient of their Denim Days initiative!

thank you

Individual

Peter Lewis

For donating financial assistance to help provide case management!

thank you

In-kind

Connie Gibson

For donating winter coats and hats!

thank you

Volunteers

Selective Insurance

For spending the day volunteering their time at the agency!

thank you

We appreciate
all that you do

From the Hearth Baked Apple Cider Donuts

Prep time: 35 Minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Total time: 50 minutes
Yield: 12-14 donuts



For the topping

1 cup (200g)
granulated sugar

3/4 teaspoon
ground cinnamon

3/4 teaspoon
apple pie spice

6 Tablespoons
(85g) unsalted
butter, melted

For the apple cider donuts

1 and 1/2 cups (360ml) apple cider
2 cups (250g) all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
3/4 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon apple pie spice*
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 Tablespoons (28g) unsalted butter, melted
1 large egg, at room temperature
1/2 cup (100g) packed light or dark brown sugar
1/2 cup (100g) granulated sugar
1/2 cup (120ml) milk, at room temperature
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract



Instructions

- 1.Reduce the apple cider: Stirring occasionally, simmer the apple cider in a small saucepan over low heat until you're left with about 1/2 cup. Start checking at 10 minutes, 15 minutes, 20 minutes, etc until you have 1/2 cup (120ml). Mine takes about 20 minutes. If there are any spices or solids on top of your reduced apple cider, leave them. Set aside to cool for 10 minutes.
- 2.Preheat oven to 350°F (177°C). Spray donut pan with non-stick spray. Set aside
- 3.Make the donuts: Whisk the flour, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon, apple pie spice, and salt together in a large bowl. Set aside.
- 4.Whisk the melted butter, egg, brown sugar, granulated sugar, milk, and vanilla extract together. Pour into the dry ingredients, add the reduced apple cider, and whisk everything together until smooth and combined. Batter will be slightly thick.
- 5.Spoon the batter into the donut cavities—for ease, I highly recommend using a large zipped-top bag. Cut a corner off the bottom of the bag and pipe the batter into each donut cup, filling about halfway.
- 6.Bake for 10-11 minutes or until the edges and tops are lightly browned. To test, poke your finger into the top of the donut. If the donut bounces back, they're done. Cool donuts for 2 minutes then transfer to a wire rack. Re-grease the pan and bake the remaining donut batter.
- 7.Coat the donuts: Combine the granulated sugar, cinnamon, and apple pie spice together in a medium bowl. Once cool enough to handle, dunk both sides of each donut in the melted butter, then generously in the apple spice topping.
- 8.Donuts are best served immediately. Leftovers keep well covered tightly at room temperature for up to 2 days or in the refrigerator for up to 5 days.

FPSC Annual Coat Drive

This winter, Family Promise of Sussex County is committed to ensuring that every individual and family facing homelessness in our community has access to a warm coat, but we need your help to make this possible. We are now collecting new, unworn coats to share with our street-level homeless and housing insecure clients. Donations of any size are appreciated, although our greatest need is for adult coats, sized large and up.

Your generosity can provide warmth and comfort to those who need it most during these cold months. Whether it's a child's first winter jacket or a coat that allows a parent to travel to work without braving the harsh cold, your donation can make a significant difference in the lives of many.

If you can help, we have provided a few ways below to do so:

- FPSC can help your group organize a coat drive. We will provide everything you need and can work with you throughout the process.
- Visit our Amazon Wishlist and order for delivery directly to our agency. We can also provide a flyer to distribute to your group with a QR code directly to the site.
- Drop off new coats to our main office located at 19 Church Street in Newton, M-F from 8:30-4:30. We love seeing the smiling faces of our community and welcome you to see what we are doing in person.

Together, we can make sure that no one is left in the cold this winter. Each coat you donate will wrap someone in warmth and let them know that their community stands with them. Thank you for your continued support and generosity towards Family Promise of Sussex County. Your kindness truly makes a difference.

FPSC Presents Our Blog:

Live, Love, Learn

We are happy to share that our new blog, Live, Love, Learn, has gone live on our website. Our talented blog author and housing navigator, Laura Busch, shares her thoughts, feelings, and questions in a new blog post every week.

Go to our website at familypromisesussex.org or click the link below to check it out!

[Live, Love, Learn Blog](#)

Schools in Session
SEPTEMBER 11, 2024
While technically we are still in Summer, Fall is in the air! I have already noticed some leaves changing color and falling from the trees and saw my first "Spooky Halloween" shop being advertised in a local strip mall. How do you and your family cope with the change in seasons and back to school? Below are some tips to help you and your kids transition from summer to fall and back to school.
READ MORE >

Free Landlord / Tenant Law Workshops
SEPTEMBER 11, 2024
With the help of a grant from the New Jersey State Bar Foundation, Family Promise of Sussex County is pleased to offer a two-part workshop series to educate both landlords and tenants on their rights and responsibilities. Topics will include housing discrimination, leases, rent increases, habitability, boarding houses and mobile homes and accessing local resources.
READ MORE >

Free Money Management Classes
AUGUST 23, 2024
Family Promise of Sussex County is pleased to offer a series of Money Management classes free to the community. The 5-part series will cover topics including: credit reports, FICO scores, budgeting, how to manage, pay off your debt and saving - to remind you to not forget to pay yourself as well.
READ MORE >

Tips for Staying Cool and Hydrated
AUGUST 23, 2024
Well, we are more than halfway through the Summer and have already been through several heat waves this year! As a reminder all county libraries are open cooling centers and charging stations. Please see the end of this blog for specific library hours of operation. When you are not cooling off at one of the county libraries here are some tips for staying cool and hydrated.
READ MORE >

The NJ State Fair / Sussex County Farm and Horse Show
AUGUST 23, 2024
One of the most anticipated events of the summer has arrived! The NJ State Fair / Sussex County Farm & Horse Show is being held this week at The Fairgrounds 27 Plains Rd, Augusta from August 2nd - 10th. Family Promise of Sussex County is honored to be one of the "Non-Profit Spotlight" organizations this year! Special thank you to the organizers of the fair for this recognition and opportunity! Please come enjoy the Sussex County Farm & Horse Show where farm meets fun!
READ MORE >



Ways to Give



check out our website for more information on different ways to donate such as monthly giving, planned giving, and volunteering!

WHAT'S NEXT?



At Family Promise of Sussex County



Service Strong Veteran's Fair
Nov. 7th 6:00pm - 9:00pm
Sussex County Community College



The Service Strong Veterans and Service Member Fair will connect our current and former servicemen and women and their families with resources for physical and mental wellness and employment opportunities. The Service Strong Fair will feature numerous nonprofit and community organizations and businesses who wish to connect with this specific audience, as well as employers seeking to hire veterans.

Our veterans and service members have unique skillsets and a wealth of experience that makes them ideal candidates for a variety of careers across many different industries. Sign up to join the job fair as an employer to meet with potential hires, gather resumes, and talk about your business needs. For more information, please reach out to Vicki Sadiwnyk at (973) 579-1180 x 1034 or vsadiwnyk@familypromisesussex.org

Family Promise of Sussex County Hosts
Trivia Night at O'Reilly's Pub and Grill
Every 4th Monday of the Month
Trivia starts at 6:00pm

Join us at O'Reilly's Pub and Grill at 271 Spring Street in Newton and test your knowledge, enjoy delicious food and drinks, and support a great cause! Our trivia game is free to play.



Septembers Theme: It's Game Time
Octobers Theme: Spooky, Scary Skeletons

STEPP Classes



FPSC is hosting an educational series called Stabilizing Tenancy and Eviction Prevention Program, a 10-class workshop series on landlord-tenant issues and how to navigate the eviction process. Classes are held every Tuesday from 5:30pm - 7:00pm

In Our Community



Jack O'Lantern Experience
Sept. 20th - Nov. 3rd



From September thru November, Skylands Stadium will be transformed with over 6,000+ Jack-O-Lanterns, for an Original 45-minute Walk-Thru Spectacular. Sussex County's Family Entertainment Destination is set ablaze with spectacular visuals, a thrilling Fall Festival & more! Perfect for families, date nights, and lovers of Halloween spirit.



Great Pumpkin Festival
Sept. 14th - Nov. 3rd



Heaven Hill Farm, Vernon, New Jersey
Included with admission are 35+ family fun outdoor activities, including hayrides to the pumpkin patch, "The Big Top" themed corn maze, farm animals, pig races, Canine Dog Show, pedal cars, touring cars, giant slingshot, giant straw pyramid, boo barn, Baseball Speed Throw, and more activities for the entire family!

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