



# FAMILY PROMISE OF SUSSEX COUNTY NEWSLETTER

## STEPPING STONES VETERAN HOUSING SERVICE

Veterans are disproportionately affected by homelessness, facing elevated risks compared to the general population. In response to this critical issue, the Cigna Group Foundation has awarded Family Promise of Sussex County, one of twenty-two organizations nationwide, a grant to launch the Stepping Stones Veteran Housing Service Program. This program aims to improve veteran mental health by focusing on housing stability. Family Promise of Sussex is one of the nonprofit organizations that uses evidence-informed programs and services to help local veterans stabilize their housing, through the Housing First Model, which in turn creates a positive impact on their mental health. The Housing First Model reduces time from housing placement from 235 to 35 days, lowers emergency room use, and increases housing retention.

### **Key features of this program include:**

- **Permanent and Transitional Housing**
  - Shelter for veterans experiencing and facing homelessness.
- **Financial Assistance for Housing**
  - Our organization can offer 3 months back rent, 3 months future rent, 3 months past mortgage payments, and 3 months future mortgage payments. FPSC can also cover security deposit for apartment rentals, coverage of application fees, and other housing-related expenses.
- **Case Management Services**
  - Personalized, client-driven case management before, during, and after program enrollment.
  - Ongoing support for 6 months after housing is secured to ensure stability.

## *From the Desk of the Community Manager*

In the first few weeks of the new administration, there has been much discussion around federal funding. Most of the housing services we offer here at Family Promise of Sussex County are funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, a federal agency. These program dollars work towards homeless prevention, shelter, rapid rehousing, and provide support to our most vulnerable clients who are unable to afford rental payments due to disabilities and the limited fixed income that they receive. Last week the federal Office of Management and Budget released a Memorandum on the Temporary Pause of Agency Grant, Loan, and Other Financial Assistance Programs that had direct impact on our agency and froze all funding from these grants. Although the immediate danger of losing funding has passed, we continue to face an uncertain future.

In times of uncertainty, people often turn to their communities for help and support. For a lot of our clients, that community is the staff of Family Promise of Sussex County. They are counting on us to be here and guide them through their fears. We in turn, are reaching out to our community. Your support is needed now more than ever. A donation today ensures we can support these critical programs while we wait to see the full impact of government changes on our funding moving forward.

As always, thank you for your dedication and commitment to Family Promise of Sussex County and the communities we serve.

*Dawn Hendershot, JD*

Community Manager

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973-579-1180 ext. 1025



✦ **Our BIGGEST fundraiser of the year is happening May 22!**

**Want to get involved?**

**Become a Sponsor today!**

For more information Call 973-579-1180

# Snapshot of our 2024 Impact

Because of our donor's generosity we saw...



821  
Households  
Stabilized

+23  
From 2023



5,925  
Case Management  
Hours Logged

+541  
From 2023

## Educational Resources Provided:

15  
classes

### Stabilizing Tenancy and Eviction Defense and Diversion

*Topics Covered*

- Housing Discrimination
- Familiarizing Yourself with the Law
- Renting Your New Home and Understanding Your Lease
- Rent Increases
- Habitability
- Lease Termination
- Eviction Specific to Landlords
- Property Retrieval Post Eviction

### Money Management Classes

*Topics Covered*

- Credit Reports
- FICO Scores
- Budgeting
- Debt and Payments
- Saving

20  
classes

