

March Newsletter



From the desk of the Community Manager

Last week, we celebrated Universal Human Beings Week (March 1st to March 7th). At Family Promise of Sussex County, we believe that housing is a human right and not a privilege. Yet there are millions worldwide that experience homelessness, struggling to access the basic stability that housing provides.

Why Housing is a Human Right

A safe and stable home is the foundation for general well-being. Without housing those experiencing homelessness face barriers with employment, healthcare, education, and personal safety.

Homelessness is not a personal failure - it is a systemic issue caused by rising housing costs, insufficient wages, and a lack of social support systems.

When we recognize housing as a human right, we commit to solutions that ensure:

Affordable housing options for all income levels

Supportive services for those facing crisis situations

Policies that prioritize stable housing as a public health necessity.

In celebration of this week, let's recognize that everyone deserves a home!

Dawn Hendershot, JD

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CASINO NIGHT

Casino Night is our **BIGGEST** fundraiser of the year, and all proceeds will go towards our Housing Hope.

Too many in our community struggle with the lack of affordable housing, low wages that can't keep up with inflation, and the absence of a drop-in shelter in Sussex County.

Casino Night is dedicated to raising awareness and critical funds for the Housing Hope program that will address these challenges.

Join us as we come together to make a difference-because everyone deserves a place to call home.

**Casino Night tickets
officially go on sale on
March 20th!**

Want your company name to be featured in front of 200+ guests while raising critical funds to end homelessness in your community?

Become a sponsor today!

Check out our website for more information



Thank you to those who came out and supported FPSC in the St. Patrick's Day Parade!

Happy
St. Patrick's Day!



March is National Nutrition Month: Addressing Food Insecurity in Our Community

This month is National Nutrition Month, a time to raise awareness about the importance of healthy eating. Unfortunately, for those experiencing homelessness, or facing a housing crisis, access to nutritious food is often a daily struggle. Malnutrition is a serious issue among unhoused individuals and families, as many rely on inconsistent meals, processed foods, or go without eating for an extended period of time.

The Link Between Homelessness and Malnutrition

Without stable housing, preparing and storing food becomes nearly impossible. Many people experiencing homelessness depend on prepared food, or packaged snacks, which often lack essential nutrients. Limited access to fresh fruits, vegetables, and proteins can lead to serious health issues such as:

- Weakened Immune systems, increasing the risk of illness
- Chronic conditions like diabetes and high blood pressure
- Fatigue and cognitive challenges, which can make it harder to secure employment and housing.

How you can help:

Donate: We are collecting healthy, non-perishable food items such as canned vegetables, beans, and protein rich food such as canned tuna or chicken.

You can also make a monetary donation or donate a gift card to a local grocery store.

Advocate: Spread the word about the important of food security and support policies that expand food assistance programs



Spring Forward: Housing Transition and Support

With winter coming to an end, many winter protection programs are coming to an end. This transition period can be difficult for those who are still seeking stable housing. Our Housing Navigation and Mobile Outreach team are working hard to assist those in need to find resources and long-term solutions to secure housing.



First day of Spring (March 20th)

For those of us in the Northern hemisphere, Spring is well and truly on its way, with the official first day on March 20th.



March 20th is also the first day
Casino Night Tickets will be available
for purchase!
Scan the QR code to buy your tickets.

Helping find a way home...

Sarah contacted Family Promise in September 2024. She discovered that her landlord was in the process of evicting them late in the process because all of the documentation was served to her ex-boyfriend, and he was not honest with her about the non-payment of the rent and was recently hospitalized with a serious illness.

Sarah's former partner had been supporting the family, and she had been able to stay home with their young children.

With the help of the CEDD, HP and HPRP prevention programs, Family Promise paid the arrears owed. Additionally, the HPRP program was able to pay the rent for four additional months' rent. During this time, Sarah was able to enroll her daughter preschool.



She also connected with utility assistance through the FPSC LIHEAP department, obtained SNAP and TANF. With the support of the HPRP program and the Work First program, she worked hard to apply for jobs and expanded her availability by enrolling her daughter in after-care through the YMCA. She just secured a job as a teacher's assistant and will be able to sustain her rent moving forward.

"None of this would have worked out if you guys didn't help me. It took me a longer to find a job than I expected even though I was applying for months but eventually I began to see things fall into place. It's important work, helping people from becoming homeless but it's just as important as a parent not to give up and fulfill your responsibilities even when the situation is bleak. The partnership that Family Promise provides is very encouraging!"

Coming Soon...Stay tuned for more details

Grow With Me

This program will offer group-based youth activities focused on identifying the psychological, emotional, and educational needs of children through the lens of nutritional awareness and self-sufficiency.

Program starts March 17th, 2025

This Program is for

Children in grades 3-8

Check out our website for more information

