

# September Newsletter



## From the desk of the CEO

Homelessness is sharply increasing in Sussex County and statewide. Federal and state funding freezes have jeopardized critical preventive and supportive services. Family Promise of Sussex County has lost government funding for many of our core programs, which serve those experiencing a housing crisis. As a result, we have been forced to lay off over a quarter of our valued employees and have had to limit the essential services we provide to those in need.

Although there are many challenges we are having to navigate, our core mission remains the same - to empower those experiencing a housing crisis to achieve stability and sustainability, because everyone deserves a home.

Appeals for support often include the phrase, "your help is needed now more than ever!" This phrase may seem commonplace, but there has never been a time in our history when we've needed your support more. The needs of the community we serve are visibly increasing. With the ongoing cuts expected to government assistance programs, the need will only continue to grow.

Please support us as we continue this vital work to ensure the strength and prosperity of all our communities.

*Chris Butta*, LSW  
Chief Executive Officer

## **The 2025-2026 Home Energy Assistance Program opens on October 1<sup>st</sup>**

*Get your documents  
ready now!*

### **What do I need to apply?**

Social Security Verification  
Address Verification  
Income Verification  
Utility Bills

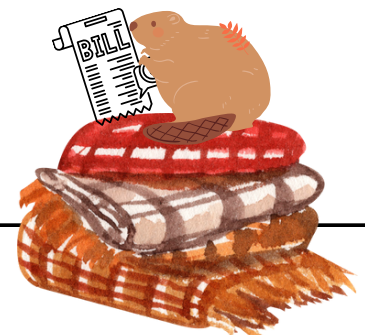


### **What's Included?**

Natural gas  
Firewood  
Propane  
Pellets  
Oil

Assistance is based on gross income and household size.

Call 973-579-1180 for more information



# Homelessness is growing in Sussex County...



Homelessness is not just a distant issue affecting big cities - it's growing right here in our own backyard. In Newton, Newton Green has become an increasingly popular gathering place for those who have nowhere else to go. This once peaceful community space now reflects the harsh reality that more and more of our neighbors are living without stable housing.

Instead of receiving the help they need, many are met with summonses - penalties that only deepen their struggles. For someone already facing the seemingly impossible task of finding food, safety, and shelter, a ticket or fine adds yet another barrier to stability.

This trend is more than concerning - it's heartbreaking. It highlights the urgent care for compassionate, sustainable solutions to homelessness in our community. Every citation written is a reminder that behind each name is a person: someone's parent, child, friend, simply trying to survive.

Across our community, the need for housing has never been greater. Families, individuals, veterans, and seniors are all facing homelessness at alarming rates - and the demand for support continues to rise each day.

Yet at the very moment when help is most needed, funding for housing programs is being cut.



These cuts have a devastating ripple effect, forcing Family Promise of Sussex County to make heartbreaking decisions, including reducing staff who provide essential services and resources to those in crisis.

This means fewer hands to guide families into safe housing. Fewer advocates to connect individuals with vital programs. And fewer opportunities to help our neighbors build stability for the future.

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

While our resources may be shrinking, our commitment to helping those facing a housing crisis and ending homelessness remains unwavering.

**We need our community's support more than ever.  
This is where you come in.**

Your gift provides:

## **Housing Stability Services**

for those facing a housing crisis and with nowhere to turn to

## **Case Management**

to help families and individuals find safe, permanent housing

## **Essential Resources**

that help sustain households, so they don't fall back into homelessness



TO DONATE, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE