

December Newsletter



From the desk of the Community Manager

As winter approaches, the families and individuals we serve face increasingly harsh conditions and heightened uncertainty. At Family Promise of Sussex County, we are doing everything we can to ensure that those experiencing homelessness have access to warmth, safety, and stability during the coldest months of the year. However, ongoing funding cuts to essential programs are making this work more challenging than ever.

To continue meeting the needs of our community, we are seeking monetary donations, non-perishable food items, and gift cards. Each of these resources plays a critical role in helping our neighbors stay safe and supported this season.

Your support during this time is not just helpful - it is essential. Every donation strengthens our ability to respond quickly and compassionately to the increasing number of people seeking assistance as temperatures drop and resources shrink.

Thank you for standing with us and for helping ensure that the most vulnerable members of our community are not left out in the cold. Together, we can offer warmth, hope, and a path forward this winter.

Dawn Hendershot, JD

Community Manager
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973-579-1180 ext. 1025

For more information or to donate,
please visit our website at
www.familypromisesussex.org
or scan the QR code



Hope is in full bloom with our
**Flowers for a Fresh Start
fundraiser!**

**Family Promise of Sussex
County and Crayola
Flowers are partnering to
end homelessness.**

**We receive 10% of each
bouquet sold!**

These flowers would make a perfect gift for a holiday host, a special occasion, or for someone who loves to give back and see their community blossom.

Scan the QR Code below, or visit the Event page on our website



What We've Been Up To...

Family Promise of Sussex County is proud to be an active partner in the Town of Newton's 90-day Homelessness Resolution Sprint, which is already demonstrating measurable progress and offering a replicable framework for communities across New Jersey.

Launched in October 2025, this intensive collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA), Sussex County, Department of Health and Human Services, Town of Newton, Newton Police Department, local nonprofits, and health-care partners has already helped more than a dozen chronically unsheltered individuals secure safe housing in Newton.

At Family Promise of Sussex County, we see firsthand the impact that coordinated, compassionate action can create. This sprint reinforces what our team has long believed: when organizations come together with shared purpose, significant change can occur in weeks, not years.

The early success of the sprint is rooted in the deep groundwork laid by local nonprofits serving on the front lines of homelessness prevention and response. Family Promise of Sussex County, along with Samaritan Inn, continues to provide essential emergency shelter, long-term case management, life-skills training, and advocacy. Our longstanding relationships within the community are vital in reaching individuals who may hesitate to engage with traditional systems.

As the sprint continues, Family Promise of Sussex County remains committed to ensuring that each identified individual is connected to stable housing and the wraparound services necessary for long-term success. We are proud to stand with our partners in this work and to witness the transformative power of community in action.



We're a Target Circle participant.

Vote for us.

**Voting runs until
December 31st**

**Support a local non-profit
while doing your holiday
shopping!**



Utility Assistance

Having trouble paying your heating and electric bills?

Our dedicated utility assistance department can assist you in completing a **FREE** home energy assistance application.

Our team is committed to getting you assistance as soon as possible and will complete the application or walk you through the application process.

What's Included?

- Natural Gas
- Propane
- Heating Oil
- Electric
- Wood Pellets
- Firewood



Contact us today for FREE assistance

utilities@familypromisesussex.org

973-579-1180 ext. 1025

For decades, the public image of homelessness has been shaped by a narrow stereotype: an older man sleeping on a park bench, possibly struggling with addiction or mental illness. While individuals in these circumstances still need and deserve our compassion, this picture no longer tells the whole story.

Today, homelessness is increasingly the story of working families, single parents, young adults, and seniors on fixed incomes. These are our neighbors—people holding down jobs, raising children, and trying to do everything right—who simply can't keep up with the skyrocketing costs of housing, healthcare, food, and other basic necessities.

Across our community, the rise in homelessness is impossible to ignore. It's not just increasing — it's becoming more visible, more urgent, and more heartbreaking. That visibility is not by choice, but by necessity, as those experiencing homelessness are being pushed out of the few spaces where they once found safety and community.

At Family Promise of Sussex County, we provide housing-focused programs that help individuals and families move from homelessness to housing stability. Our approach works. But just as the need has grown larger than ever, the funding for these life-changing programs is being slashed or eliminated. Services that once offered emergency shelter, case management, and housing navigation are being cut at a time when they are needed most.

With colder months approaching, the risk to those without housing is not just discomfort — it's life-threatening. We need your help now.

Your donation directly supports programs that offer shelter, housing support, and the hope of a better future to our most vulnerable neighbors. Without your support, these programs cannot continue to meet the rising need.

Please donate today. Because everyone deserves a safe place to call home — no matter their circumstances.

To donate to your neighbors in need, please visit our website at www.familypromisesussex.org or scan the QR code



February is

LOVE YOUR LOCAL NON-PROFIT MONTH



In an effort to support non-profit organizations in Sussex County, the Ampersand Inn has designated February as "Love Your Local Non-Profit," month.

During February, room revenue will be distributed to Sussex County non-profit organizations selected by guests.

All rooms are offered at a highly discounted rate of \$100/night (2-night minimum on Friday/Saturday) and \$200/night on Valentine's weekend.

**Valentine's Weekend
(Fri, Sat, Sun)
Super Bowl Sunday**

February 2026



****2-night minimum on weekends**

①

**Book a room online
(ampersandinn.com) or by phone
(973-300-0395)**

②

**Provide credit card info to hold the
booking
(you will NOT be charged)**

③

**Check in and donate directly to
the Sussex County non-profit of
your choice**