

February Newsletter

From the desk of the Community Manager

Across our communities, a growing number of seniors are facing a housing crisis that many never imagined they would experience. After a lifetime of working, raising families, and contributing to their neighborhoods, older adults are increasingly at risk of housing instability and homelessness.

For many seniors, the path to homelessness begins with a single disruption. A rent increase, the loss of a spouse, rising medical expenses, or a sudden health crisis can quickly make housing unaffordable. Fixed incomes from Social Security or pensions often fail to keep pace with the rising cost of rent, utilities, food, and healthcare, leaving seniors forced to make impossible choices between paying for housing or paying for medication.

Seniors experiencing homelessness face unique and often compounded challenges. Chronic health conditions can worsen without consistent shelter, access to nutritious food, or reliable transportation to medical appointments. Many also face increased vulnerability to age-related physical limitations, injury, and extreme weather, which can be life-threatening as the body becomes less resilient with age. Social isolation, grief, and untreated mental health conditions further compound these challenges. Fixed incomes or limited employment opportunities make it particularly challenging for seniors to secure housing and regain their independence.

Addressing senior homelessness requires targeted solutions. Affordable and accessible housing, rental assistance, eviction prevention, and supportive services that integrate healthcare and social support are critical, especially given that seniors can remain on waitlists for senior housing for years before receiving placement.

As a community, we have a responsibility to ensure our seniors can age safely and securely. By raising awareness, supporting local programs, and advocating for policies that protect affordable housing, we can help prevent housing crises before they begin.

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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 the perfect
Valentine's Day gift 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



SCAN HERE



DID YOU KNOW?

Homelessness can accelerate aging. Those experiencing a housing crisis can be exposed to extreme temperatures, unsafe conditions, and heightened stress, all of which can lead to rapid physical and mental decline. For some, even short periods of housing instability can have long-lasting impacts on their health and well-being.

Feelings of fear, shame, and isolation are common, particularly for seniors who have never asked for help before.

Success Story Spotlight

When Margaret called Family Promise of Sussex County, winter was already settling in, and so was the weight of her grief. She had recently lost her husband of more than forty years. With him went the sense of security she had always known. The house felt colder now, in more ways than one. With her heating oil tank nearly empty and a limited, now single, income, she didn't know where else to turn.

Margaret came in asking for help with fuel assistance, as she was worried that she might not make it through the week. She was overwhelmed and in tears, but our staff listened, offered comfort, and assured her she wasn't alone. We were able to arrange an emergency fuel delivery to keep her home warm and safe.

But the support didn't stop there. Knowing that winter was far from over, our team also helped Margaret complete a Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) application, setting her up for assistance with a future fill-up and easing the anxiety of what might come next.

As Margaret left, she shared that for the first time since her husband passed, she felt a sense of relief. As she thanked her caseworker for all the help provided, she was reassured that heat would fill her home again, and she would have a warm place to stay, but just as important, she felt the warmth of a community that cared.

What We've Been Up To

The Point-in-Time (PIT) is an annual count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in a given community. Data collected is crucial for planning services and funding. PIT counts are essential for tracking progress in reducing and ending homelessness. The data is submitted to HUD and used to make informed decisions and measure progress. This data also helps inform outreach and advocacy teams and create solutions to better support our neighbors in need.

Family Promise of Sussex County recently participated in the annual PIT Count, working alongside community partners to identify and engage individuals and families experiencing homelessness in our area.

Through this effort, we were able to connect people directly to our organization, helping them access services and vital resources. The count also allowed us to capture an important snapshot of homelessness in our community.



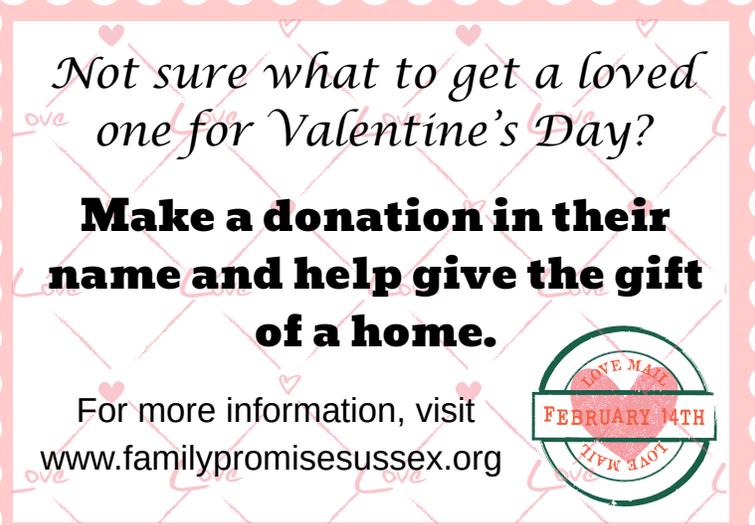
Casino Night

**Betting on a Better Future:
All-in to End Homelessness**

SAVE THE DATE
Thursday, June 11th, 2026
Doors open at 5:00 pm

The Conservatory at
The Sussex County Fairgrounds
37 Plains Road, Augusta, NJ

For more information, please contact
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Not sure what to get a loved one for Valentine's Day?

Make a donation in their name and help give the gift of a home.

For more information, visit
www.familypromisesussex.org

