

# March Newsletter

## **From the desk of the Community Manager**

As a community manager, I have the privilege of meeting neighbors from all walks of life. I also see firsthand how quickly life can change, especially for individuals living with a disability. When disability and homelessness intersect, the challenges multiply in ways many of us may never fully see.

People with physical, intellectual, or mental health disabilities are at a significantly higher risk of experiencing housing instability. Many rely on fixed incomes such as Social Security Income or disability benefits, which often fall far below the cost of rent in today's housing market. When housing costs increase but income remains the same, a single unexpected expense - a medical bill, car repair, reduced work hours, or change in benefits - can quickly push someone into crisis.

There are also significant administrative hurdles. Applying for housing assistance, disability benefits, or supportive services requires documentation, appointments, phone access, and reliable communication. When an individual or a family is already in crisis, navigating complex systems without stable housing can feel overwhelming.

For individuals with physical disabilities, accessible housing options are limited. Units that accommodate mobility needs are not always available, and when they are, they are often in short supply. For those living with intellectual or mental health disabilities, the stress and uncertainty of housing instability can worsen symptoms and make daily functioning more difficult.

What we see is a cycle: disability can increase the risk of homelessness, and homelessness can worsen a disability.

This is why our work at Family Promise of Sussex County focuses not only on short-term solutions but on long-term stability. Case managers work with clients to get the necessary documentation, to find housing that fits the clients' needs, and to work beside them to ensure that their housing situation is not only stabilized but sustainable to build a better future.

*Dawn Hendershot, JD*  
Community Manager  
dhendershot@familypromisesussex.org  
973-579-1180 ext. 1025



## **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

#### **What to expect:**

- Professional casino-style game tables
- Champagne Toast
- Hors d'oeuvres
- Live DJ entertainment
- Buffet dinner
- Cash bar

**Tickets go on sale on April 1st!**

For more information, please contact  
Vicki at or 973-579-1180 ext. 1034  
vsadiwnyk@familypromisesussex.org



# Community Corner

As a community, we can make a meaningful difference through advocacy, partnership, and support. Together, we can ensure that individuals and families are not left navigating housing instability alone, but are met with compassion, accessibility, and opportunity.

When we invest in accessible housing, coordinated services, and individualized support, we strengthen our entire community. Stable housing gives families the breathing room they need to manage medical needs, maintain employment, and build independence.



*Scan here to give the gift of home*

## Success Story Spotlight

At 73 years old, after the loss of both his wife and his brother, our client found himself facing more than grief—he was facing homelessness.

For decades, \*George's wife had been his partner in every sense of the word. After her passing, the emotional toll was immense. Not long after, he lost his brother as well. The compounded grief, paired with mounting financial strain, ultimately led to the loss of his housing.

At the same time, he was grappling with chronic health conditions that significantly impacted his mobility. Simple tasks, such as attending appointments, completing paperwork, or searching for apartments, became overwhelming barriers.

\*George was referred to Family Promise of Sussex County for assistance, and our team immediately began working alongside him. His caseworker provided not only practical support but consistent encouragement during a time when hope felt distant. Together, they navigated housing applications and searched for an apartment that would accommodate his physical needs.

After many challenges and setbacks, he was approved for an apartment that met his accessibility requirements, providing an affordable and stable home where he could move safely and begin to rebuild.

His story is a powerful reminder that homelessness can happen at any age and can present unforeseen challenges. With compassionate support and the right resources, stability is possible.

# URGENT



The moratorium on electricity and electric heat **ends**

**March 15**

Don't get left in the cold!  
Apply for utility assistance today

**Call 973-579-1180 to get an application started**

## Flowers Flowers Flowers

*In March, plant a little good!*

Each time a specially marked \$11.99 Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet is sold at the Stop & Shop located at 5 Town Center Drive in Sparta, NJ, we will receive \$1.

*Let's grow positive change together!*

*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!**

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



SCAN HERE