

Family Promises

FAMILY PROMISE OF LEHIGH VALLEY NEWSLETTER

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

1ST QUARTER, 2023

A Place to Call Home

January has been a very busy month. Just look at these pictures. Three families have been able to move into their own apartments this month. That is four adults and six children that are sleeping in their own bedrooms in their own apartments. What a great way to start 2023.

These families were fed, mentored, assisted with job searches, reunited and sheltered – all through local congregations and volunteers. It was not easy. They ran into obstacles. They had struggles. But they were persistent, they didn't give up and they succeeded.

Families struggle and sometimes make a mistake and a volunteer may wonder why they are still in the program. Meanwhile behind the scene, there is a case manager meeting weekly with that family. There are referrals to parenting classes, counseling, and financial literacy. There are saving goals, child care goals, job searches and apartment searches taking place.

Families are packing up their things, sharing bathrooms and moving their stuff every Sunday. Children are living in communal

space and arguing with each other like siblings. But they aren't siblings which means parents have to sort out "not being my child's fault" all while keeping it moving forward. And at the end of a hard day, a day where parents got a phone call from their child's school about their behavior, they need to put on a smile and have dinner with volunteers. And that dinner, although much appreciated, might not be something they would normally have prepared or something that agrees with their diet.

As the families leave they have nothing but positives to say. They wish they could tell other families coming in not to be so afraid. The thought of not having their privacy is so scary. Of having to be out at 6 a.m. every day, of not being able to feed your family, of relocating every week is all worth it because the volunteers make you feel so welcome. They are there because they choose to be there and they spread love to you and your children. They care and that makes all the difference.

Thank you to every donor, every volunteer, every congregation... you truly are making a difference one child, one parent, one family at a time.



WELCOME DAVID ZINNI, CASE MANAGER



David Zinni grew up in Conshohocken, PA, a.k.a “Conshy”, a small town in suburban Philadelphia.

David developed a love for sports at a young age and has enjoyed playing, watching, and talking sports for the last 25+ years. He loves rooting for his Philly sports teams, especially the Philadelphia Eagles.

As a freshman in high school, David started to go down the road of alcohol and substance abuse. His grades suffered, class attendance waned, and bridges with friends and family were burned. David failed out of high school his senior year and spent the next two years of his life on and off the streets, homeless, sinking further down into the mire of addiction.

David realized that if he didn’t change, he was going to die. On May 28, 2006, David made the decision to get help and started on the road to recovery. He went to various rehabs and programs, and eventually ended up at the Allentown Rescue Mission. It was at the Mission where David became a follower of Jesus Christ, and through faith, a determination to change, and the help of many dear people, David began to experience healing and restoration in his life.

David obtained his GED, and eventually graduated from LCCC with his Associates Degree. He then got a job working at the Allentown Rescue Mission in their men’s emergency shelter. He worked at the Allentown Rescue Mission for twelve years, eventually becoming the manager of the very program that he graduated from back in 2006.

David is thankful for the opportunities that he had to try and make a difference in all the men’s lives that he had the pleasure to be a part of.

David brings to Family Promise that same passion and desire to help people experiencing homelessness, to inspire and impact their lives as living proof that no matter how bad things may be, there is always hope and the choice to become “better and not bitter” as they navigate the trials and tribulations of life.

David wants to help the families we serve at Family Promise to know and feel that they are loved, cared for, and have an advocate in their corner who will fight for them to better their lives. He is excited about the opportunity to be at Family Promise and be a part of a team that can help the organization reach its goals and continue to develop a winning culture that will make a real difference in the community.

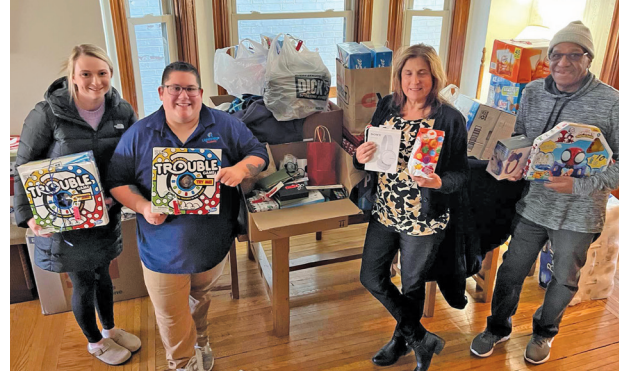
David has been involved in ministry for the last sixteen years in various capacities. He has a heart to serve God, help others, and be a positive influence on those around him. He is married to his beautiful wife of seven years, Sarah. They have two children, Johnny and Sophia.



GENEROUS DONORS

We have had such generous donors this holiday season! In addition to our usual congregations, Lightbridge Academy, Subway, and Packworld USA, Nazareth brought by amazing donations they collected for our families.

We even had some wonderful carolers from Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church come out to bring our families some Christmas cheer.



Shout Out

Shout out to Christ Lutheran Church in Hellertown. Members volunteered to create Thrivent teams who went shopping for household items for our newest graduates. What a great idea.

COMMUNITY SPONSORS

To all our wonderful sponsors, thank you!
We couldn't do what we do without you.



**GREATER
LEHIGH VALLEY
AUTO DEALERS
ASSOCIATION**



Porch, Deck, and Stair Railings



PURSE BINGO

Bingo - Wow!! Amazing. What a great afternoon. Thank you everyone who attended our purse bingo. Special thanks to Jordan UCC, Eleana Belletieri, Sue Roth, Gina Beltrami, and all our amazing volunteers and donors - we couldn't have done it without you!



2022 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

Over 500 volunteers

6101 Bed Nights Provided

18,303 meals provided
& snacks

29 Host/Partner
Congregations

55 Families Served
193 Individuals
78 Adults
115 Children

SHELTER

Families Served	21
Individuals	65
Adults	29
Children	36

PREVENTION

Families Served	34
Individuals	128
Adults	49
Children	79



SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to Kory, a student in the Master's program for Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Kutztown University. Kory did a project this semester on individuals and families in the Lehigh Valley experiencing homelessness. As part of the project, she got her local community in the Slate Belt together and donated some much needed items.



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN
US IN CELEBRATING

Our Annual Homecoming

The Magic of Community & Coming Home

Saturday, April 1, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Aster Event Center • 621 Grange Road, Allentown, PA 18106

COCKTAILS * DINNER * AUCTION * ENTERTAINMENT

Homecoming Sponsorship Levels And Benefits

HOMECOMING SPONSOR - \$10,000

Includes **eight** invitations to the Homecoming and a premier **full-page** ad in program. Additional benefits: publicity at the event, on the FP website, social media and newsletter.

SAFE HAVEN SPONSOR - \$5,000

Includes **six** invitations to the Homecoming, **full-page** program ad, and all additional Homecoming sponsor benefits

SANCTUARY SPONSOR - \$3,000

Includes **four** invitations to the Homecoming and **half-page** program ad, and all the additional Homecoming sponsor benefits

SHELTER SPONSOR - \$1,000

Includes **two** invitations to the Homecoming, **quarter-page** program ad, and all additional Homecoming sponsor benefits

GUARDIAN SPONSOR - \$500

Includes a program **eighth-page** / **business card** ad, and all additional Homecoming sponsor benefits

PROGRAM LISTING - \$250

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS - \$125 | TABLES OF EIGHT - \$800

Includes dinner choice of braised short ribs or grilled salmon

To purchase your ticket or sponsorship now, do one of the following:



1. Scan this QR code
2. Go to the Family Promise Website- fplehighvalley.org
3. Call us at 610-351-1368 or Email us at Devdirector@fplehighvalley.org



Stay Social with Family Promise of Lehigh Valley Follow us on:



[@fplehighvalley.org](https://www.instagram.com/fplehighvalley.org)

1346 W. Hamilton Street | Allentown, PA 18102 | info@FPLLehighValley.org | www.FPLLehighValley.org

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO FAMILY PROMISE OF LEHIGH VALLEY,
YOUR DONATION WILL HELP US STRENGTHEN OUR ABILITY TO HELP CHILDREN
EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND THEIR FAMILIES.