

Family Promises

FAMILY PROMISE OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY NEWSLETTER

SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

1ST QUARTER, 2022

Roslyn, our Executive Director at Family Promise, received a phone call from Denise at 1-800-Charity Cars in October. She asked Roslyn if there was a family who would be able to use a FREE car. At first, you can imagine she was a bit skeptical that what Denise was explaining to her would all come to fruition. However, Roslyn knew that a car would be a blessing to one of our Family Promise families and she was familiar with the program.



Patrick has been working full-time at Dr. Pepper and has had to rely on public transportation and family and friends to get to work. He has finally found a good job with benefits and a car would allow him to have reliable transportation and also make it possible for him to work overtime when offered. Sheri, his wife, is also looking for work. A car would aid her in her job search and also be helpful in taking their newborn infant to doctor visits and daycare.

Patrick and Sheri met with Dave, our caseworker, and filled out the necessary paperwork. It was explained that they would need to pay for the title, tags,



and insurance before they could receive the car, a Ford Escape. Firestone Complete Auto Care in Allentown committed to replace all the tires and give it a tune-up and oil change. Christ Lutheran Church, Allentown, offered to store the car on their parking lot until Patrick and Sheri saved enough to cover the amount, they were responsible for.

Patrick and Sheri were able to save the money they needed for the title, tags, and insurance in December – just in time for Christmas! They were so thankful and excited

to finally have a car.

Family Promise continues to work with this family as they continue to save and look for an apartment. We are always elated when we see the growth in our families and are grateful to be part of their journey. We invite all of you to join us as we work with families experiencing homelessness. Please call 610-351-1368 to speak to Roslyn about how you can share your talents to help to make a difference in someone's future.

- Please contact our office if you are aware of any housing opportunities for any of the hardworking families in the Family Promise Program. All participants are enrolled in the Family Promise Aftercare Program upon graduation from the program.

Why I Give

Stephen Kovacs

I was attracted to Family Promise by the two core principles underlying its mission. First, we assist families, with children, as they transition themselves to stable housing and financial security. Second, the two important parties regarding homelessness are the homeless and those who want to help the homeless. It is our job to bring these two parties together. Our professional staff recruits, trains and coordinates the efforts of private citizens, using private facilities, thereby enabling them to assist their less fortunate neighbors in the best possible way. The work is daunting, there are about 1,900 children under 17, who are experiencing homelessness in Lehigh and Northampton counties.

In 2017, we were a small group of concerned citizens, meeting at fast-food restaurants and church social halls, planning the future. Today we have a director, two part-time staff members and over 500 volunteers representing 27 committed congregations. I have seen the hand of God assisting us every step of the way, sending us talented staff, volunteers, and generous donors.

My volunteer work and financial support are rewarded in multiple ways. I see the many families being helped; I see families coming back to contribute supplies to the program that assisted them escape homelessness; finally, I received a big hug from a young boy while delivering a mattress to our 6th Street apartment. He was finally going to have a bed of his own.

Volunteer Spotlight

Saint Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church



On Sunday, December 5th St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church began its first week of hosting Family Promise families. Twenty-one members of the congregation and six volunteers from other churches donated their time to this event. Hosting weeks are aimed at supporting the families experiencing homelessness through food and lodging accommodations as they pursue the goal of getting an apartment and returning to a regular lifestyle.

These hosting weeks also have other unforeseen benefits to congregations. I can best categorize the benefits we received at St. Timothy's into three areas: (1) as the week progressed, the families and the volunteers began to see each other as friends with life's common concerns and issues; (2) the congregation, which met every Sunday, had an opportunity, while serving as dinner hosts, evening hosts, and overnight hosts, to get to know each other better and to see the benefits of their labors helping other people who were trying to complete a quality program that would give a new lease on life for them and their children; and, (3) the experience of serving the families gave our hosts an appreciation of the energy and commitment these families are making to keep their families together as a family unit under exceptionally difficult circumstances during very difficult times.

When we looked back on the hosting week, we all realized that this opportunity to host was a 'Gift of Purpose' that impacted our congregation as much as it impacted the families. Roslyn, thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to share in this heart-warming experience.

Gordon Pethick
St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church



amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

**COVID has struck
Family Promise again
and we need your help!**

Unfortunately, our families are once again being forced into hotels for their safety and our volunteers safety. Each night is costing \$71 per family. This is very costly but our families are more important. Your donation would be greatly appreciated.

Items Needed: 13 gallon garbage bags, juice boxes, baby wipes, hand soap

Family Promise Homecoming 2022 Opening Hearts & Opening Doors

Virtual Auction
begins Wednesday,
March 23 at 9 a.m.
Virtual tickets \$25

Scan to
purchase
tickets or
sponsor



SATURDAY MARCH 26, 2022 • 5:30-9:00 PM

Aster Event Center/Hyatt Place
621 Grange Road, Allentown

*Please join us for a special night of fun as we celebrate
Family Promise of Lehigh Valley*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Cocktails • Dinner • Auction

\$100 per person

**TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT
FPLEHIGHVALLEY.ORG**

RSVP BY MARCH 7, 2022

Dressy Casual Attire

CDC guidelines will be followed. The CDC currently recommends people wear a mask indoors in public if they are in an area of substantial or high transmission regardless of vaccination status.

Family Promise 2021 Impact Report



24

Families
Served

78

Individuals

38

Adults

40

Children



5,096 Bed Nights Provided

27 Host/Support
Congregations

SHELTER

16 Families Served

51 Individuals

21 Adults

30 Children

Over **500** volunteers

5,096 dinner meals provided
+Breakfast, Lunch & Snacks

Prevention

8 Families Served

27 Individuals

17 Adults

10 Children

"Family Promise is a Godsend!

Not only have I been able to get back on track but
was always greeted nicely and treated with respect.

I will be ever thankful."





Matching Gifts and Grants

Did you know that if you are employed or retired and you work or have worked at any of the businesses listed below that they will match your gift to Family Promise! That's right your donation will increase and those monies will allow our programs and services to grow. We appreciate your generosity.

- GAP – Matching Gift
- Choice Hotels – Matching Gift
- Bristol Meyers-Squibb – Matching Gift
- Coca Cola – Matching Gift
- Avon – Matching Gift
- Air Products – Matching Gift
- Verizon – Matching Gift & Grant of \$750 (up to \$1500) after you volunteer for 50 hours
- Exxon -Grant – after you volunteer for 20 hours
- Aetna – Grant – after you volunteer for 20 hours
- Allstate – after you volunteer for 16 hours



Please contact Eleana at 610-351-1368 if you have any questions.

A Special Thank You

from our Executive Director, Roslyn Kuba

Family Promise, along with the families and children that we support, are always so grateful for the generosity of our friends, neighbors, and partners. The kindness that you have extended made the holiday. It is so wonderful to be able to give our families a little extra joy at the holiday. From donations of personalized stockings, pajamas, toys and gift cards to major donations from our year end appeal, every donation is appreciated. Family Promise is supported through donations. However, like every nonprofit December is not the only month that donations are needed. The bills are year round...Homelessness is year round. Your support is always appreciated and always used to benefit those whom we serve.

Special thanks to some special holiday angels

Linde/Proxair

Skakieah, Kevin,
and Savannah

Theta Beta
Sigma Phi Master

Congregation
Keneseth Israel

Allentown West
Rotary Club

Chestnut Hill Church
Women's Group

Ruth Joyce

The Barn

Subway

Along with all our
generous donors.



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



@fplehighvalley.org

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