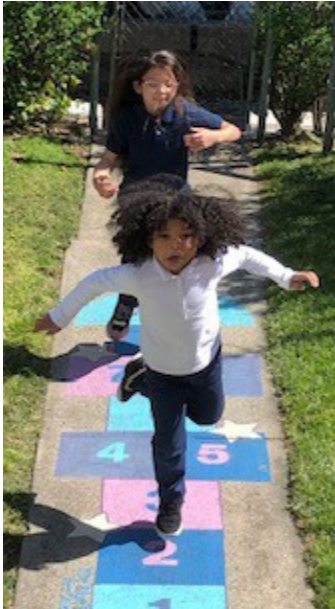


Family Promises

FAMILY PROMISE OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY NEWSLETTER

SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

2ND QUARTER, 2022



Look at these children. How happy are they to be out of the hotel and back into our congregations. The Day Center is hopping after school. We are so grateful for all the support during the pandemic. Families were housed the second year at WoodSpring Suites. Their staff was very accommodating to with us as we transitioned back and forth between hotel and congregation. A special shout out to their General Manager Mayra for always accommodating us. Volunteer appreciation was last month but we would like to give a big thank you to these amazing host congregations.

- Congregation Keneseth Israel
- Greenawalds United Church of Christ
- Heidelberg Union
- Holy Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church
- Jordan Lutheran Church
- Jordan United Church of Christ
- Life Church - Macungie Campus
- New Covenant Christian Community Church (NC4)
- Neff's Union United Church of Christ
- Notre Dame Catholic
- St. John's United Church of Christ Laury's Station
- St. Joseph the Worker
- St Timothy's Lutheran Church
- Weisenburg Lutheran Church



Why I Give

Laura, from Coopersburg, PA

"It is all about the children," Laura responded when we asked her why she supports Family Promise of Lehigh Valley. "Family Promise offers a caring and supportive environment that provides at-risk children with an opportunity to redefine their future—to have a future."

The adverse effects of homelessness on children are well documented. Children who experience homelessness are nine times more likely to repeat a grade, three times more likely to be placed in special education, and nearly half will drop out of school. They also struggle emotionally. Half of these children develop depression and anxiety and are seven times more likely to attempt suicide.

Family Promise is helping to reverse these trends.

Laura, a long time Lehigh Valley resident,

discovered Family Promise when a local church began sponsoring the program. Fourteen host congregations in the Lehigh Valley extend themselves in a rotation to host our families who are in transition to self-sufficiency. Laura got involved by providing meals for the families and the church volunteers. "I saw firsthand how critical Family Promise is," she said. "I felt determined to help Family Promise assist the families they serve." When COVID-19 closed the local churches, Laura began to donate items requested on the Family Promise website, which she ordered through Amazon and had delivered to our offices.

She emphasized how rewarding it is to help out and support the program. "You can't imagine how much you gain by extending a helping hand to someone in need. You bridge them toward hope. You help them to thrive again. That gives the children, and their families, hope for a brighter future."

Anyone can become homeless.

Unexpected health issues, job loss, change in marital status, lack of affordable housing, or other conditions can change your life. "It is not an 'us and them' situation," Laura said. "Many people are one paycheck away from a downward slide that could result in homelessness."

The mission and purpose of Family Promise is to be there for families with a continuum of care from prevention to restored housing to aftercare. As to why she gets involved, Laura explained, "My family and I have been blessed. I want to give something back." Laura and her family support other nonprofit children's programs but plan to continue supporting the mission of Family Promise for a long time to come. Thank you, Laura!

A Heart of Gold

We honor and remember a very special volunteer, Dr. Kathleen Ott. Kathy had a heart of gold and would bring a cake to the day center the first Friday of every month. The families always looked forward to seeing Kathy and eating her delicious creations!. Kathy was working on a grant for Family Promise to help children continue their learning through the summer. She had a love for our families and would volunteer at her local congregation New Covenant Community Church (NC4) when it was their week to host. Her son-in-law John developed our website. Kathy always had a smile on her face and raised four amazing children and was blessed with 8 grandchildren. In honor of Kathy, a family friend Heather brought by a cake to be shared for the month of May. Her children, Robert, Michael, Stephen and Jacqueline honored their mother's love of Family Promise by requesting donations in lieu of flowers be made to Family Promise. Kathy's favorite quote was "The important thing is this: to be able at any moment to sacrifice what we are for what we could become." - Charles Dubois
Kathy, you will always be remembered and missed!



Volunteering Begins at Any Age

For her Confirmation Project, Annabel Zarychta, decided she wanted to bring happiness to young children. She knew about Family Promise and inquired if anyone was preparing Easter baskets for the children of our guest families. When she found out there were no specific plans for baskets, she asked if she could make individual baskets for each child. She was excited when she got the word to proceed and the children were beyond excited to receive their baskets. Thank you Annabel!



**100
PEOPLE
WHO CARE**

100 People Who Care chose Family Promise of the Lehigh Valley to speak at their April meeting. This is an opportunity to share the good work we do. As a result we received \$3,700 in donations. Family Promise is very grateful for this amazing opportunity to share our message and receive such generous donations.

Stabler Foundation Grant



Family Promise of Lehigh Valley is so happy to be receiving a grant from The Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation. The Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation was established by Mr. and Mrs. Stabler in 1966 exclusively for charitable, religious, scientific, literary, or educational purposes. We are thrilled that they recognize our contribution to ending homelessness in the Lehigh Valley one family at a time.

Family Promise of Lehigh Valley is proud to announce that they have officially been accepted as a partner agency of United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley. We are thrilled and looking forward to a great partnership. Make sure if you donate through United Way that you choose Family Promise of Lehigh Valley.



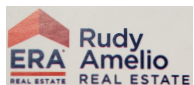
United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley

Special thanks to everyone who made Homecoming 22 such an incredible night. Our co-chairs, Patty Mikus and Angele Tran of the Homecoming Committee out did themselves. Committee members Sue Roth, Karen McClincey, Eleana Belletieri, Tony Crimaldi (MC), Steve Kovacs and Kathy Kling spent countless hours planning everything to perfection. Our auctioneer John Pfeiffer was amazing. Thank you Dr. Larry Karper for speaking and Rick Focht and Kevin Bechtel for providing the evenings wonderful music. A special thank you to our two amazing families who came back to tell their stories Davina, Nicole and Tim. We are so very proud of you.

Save the date
Homecoming 2023 will be Saturday, April 1.



Also, to all our wonderful sponsors, we couldn't do what we do without you. Please be sure to support them our Homecoming, Safe Haven, Sanctuary, and Shelter sponsors listed below...



- Karper Family -
- Kling Family -
- Meyerhoefer Family -
- Kovacs Family -

Prevention Program will Continue

We are so pleased to announce that we have been awarded another \$10,000 to prevent homelessness in the Lehigh Valley. The grant is part of the national initiative, A Future Begins at Home (FBH) – a collaboration between Family Promise and Clayton focused on preventing family homelessness.

The grants, distributed through cycles throughout the year, will keep families in their homes, divert families from emergency shelter into stable housing, create and strengthen bonds with landlords and property managers, and help stabilize families as they continue their independent lives. This is the second year we have received this grant. From the time we welcomed our first family in September we have already prevented 21 families from being homeless. This is a matching grant and we will be looking for a \$10,000 match over the next year.



Welcome Susan Logomasini

Director of Development

Susan is a development professional with over 20 years of successful fundraising and leadership experience. Skilled at building and leading operations, Susan has enabled the growth of several distinguished non-profit organizations.

The focal point of Susan's career has been working as a development executive in healthcare philanthropy for nearly 17 years. In this capacity, she helped to raise significant funding for the expansion of hospital services and patient care initiatives for two hospitals systems in New Jersey.

Prior to working in healthcare philanthropy, Susan was the Development Director for Eva's Village, a comprehensive anti-poverty nonprofit. Susan is excited to join the dedicated staff and volunteers

at Family Promise to support families in need as they move toward financial independence and self-sufficiency.

Susan is an outdoor enthusiast who enjoys hiking, skiing and all outdoor activities.

Susan earned a MS in Human Services from Murray State University and her BA from Ramapo College of New Jersey. Susan lives in Stroudsburg, PA with her husband Robert.

Items Needed:

- Pillows
- Self inflating air mattresses
- Juice boxes
- Granola bars



SCAN ME

Honor your Special Loved One this Fathers Day

Looking for a great way to honor your Mother or Father this year? How about helping another mother or father who is struggling. Make a donation online or in the enclosed envelope and specify the special person you would like to honor. Include their address and we

will send them a personalized thank you card that our children made. This is a great way to honor the most special people in your life. A \$50 donation provides an air mattress and pillow for a child to sleep comfortably on. Please contact us with any questions, 610.351.1368.



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.