

Family Promises

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

4TH QUARTER, 2023

FAMILY PROMISE OF LEHIGH VALLEY NEWSLETTER

Let's Talk Prevention

PREVENTION is a highly effective approach to the national crisis of family homelessness.

Our program “A Future Begins at Home” supports families with children facing imminent eviction from their residences due to an unexpected hardship with critical resources like case management, landlord mediation, and rental assistance. This helps keep families housed and moving forward. To date, Family Promise of Lehigh Valley has helped 61 families remain in stable housing—preventing 128 children from the trauma of homelessness.

Since COVID, many landlords no longer renew yearly leases and instead implement a month-to-month arrangement. As soon as a family starts to struggle and can't pay their rent, they are immediately sent to eviction court where the judge has no choice but to grant the eviction because the family no longer has a lease. This is where Family Promise steps in.

We negotiate with Landlords to stop the eviction and then we help families get back on track. When families face hurdles such as low hourly wages,

shortage of hours, childcare issues, utility costs, or choosing between food and rent, our case manager, David Zinni, helps create a plan with goals for the families that eventually lead them to financial stability.

Kenia fell behind in her rent due to missing work when taking care of her 10-year-old son Jayden, diagnosed with osteosarcoma and frequently had to miss school. Daily, Kenia transported her son to chemotherapy and other doctor appointments, making it impossible to maintain full-time work. After meeting with our case manager, Kenia joined our prevention program and was able to pay the overdue rent and retain her family's home. Now, Jayden has finished chemo, and, after successful surgery, he is now cancer-free and back to school for the first time in a year. Kenia states that now, “everything is good” and she is thankful for all that Family Promise did to help her with.

With our prevention program, this story and many other stories have a very happy ending.



Testimonial

Hi, my name is **Hannah** and I had the pleasure of getting connected with Dave from Family Promise. I have a 6-year-old son and an apartment that only myself and my son live in. On June 3rd I got in a very bad car accident that had me drowning in overdue rent and bills. Family Promise and Dave have been such a huge help in my life during this tough situation. When we first met, Dave immediately heard out my story and wanted to help. Family Promise helped me catch up on my rent and Dave pointed me in the right direction for other services. Dave has been consistent and extremely helpful. Without Family Promise I would've lost my apartment. Family Promise is a great organization and helps people in need.

Join us for the Family Promise 3rd Annual

Designer Purse

Tickets include 20 games!

\$30 - in advance

\$35 - at the door

\$5 - 5 special games



January 20, 2024 11am-2pm

Jordan United Church of Christ - 1837 Church Rd, Allentown PA

Register here

Congratulations to Miriam and her son for “working” the program and moving into an apartment of their own. Miriam and her teenage son were both able to find jobs while in the program. They saved their paychecks faithfully and were able to graduate on time. We love when we see hardworking families attain self-sufficiency. Wishing you all the best and don't forget to come back and visit.



VOLUNTEER/DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

KATHY KLING

This month we had the privilege of sitting down with Kathy Kling to ask her what inspires her to give of her time, talent, and treasure for Family Promise.

In addition to her many responsibilities in the community, Kathy is one of the founding members of Family Promise in the Lehigh Valley, a board member, and a host congregation volunteer.

After reading about Family Promise of Carbon County in the Allentown Diocese Newspaper, Kathy started to research if there was a similar program in Lehigh County, telling us “I was so moved by the stories of hope I wanted to get involved.” After some research she found that several people were in the process of starting a Family Promise program in Lehigh County.

She attended an organizational meeting at UCC Greenawalds in the fall of 2017 and has been involved ever since. After the program was up and running at UCC Greenawalds, Kathy got busy bringing the program to Notre Dame Church and she and her husband volunteer by spending the night when the church is hosting families.

Volunteering isn't something new to Kathy, she grew up with it. Her parents both volunteered for their church. “I was raised by parents who willingly helped others, so it is second nature to help out when I can. There are so many sad stories. I am glad I am able to help, says Kathy.” She is especially happy to see the families she has spent time with at Family Promise gain their self-sufficiency and independence.

Kathy adds, most of the time when people come to us, they have exhausted everything else. They are hardworking people whose lives were derailed by a lost job, a medical crisis or a relationship gone bad. I am happy to see a lot of good people getting involved and helping to make a difference.” Kathy is excited that we are taking the steps needed to grow our programs and the number of people we serve. Kathy is not shy about sharing the mission of Family Promise with her family, friends and local businesses and has helped us to raise considerable funding to grow our programs.

Thank you, Kathy.



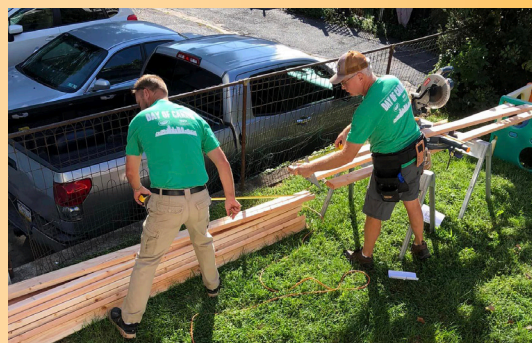
Evident Scientific recently stopped by the Day Center to volunteer. They organized all our donations and event items on the third floor. They also helped lay this amazing carpet that was donated. Thanks for all your hard work.

It is always extra special when a family returns and is doing well. So great to see them, and they brought us pudding. Yum.



THANK YOU to Jackie and all the amazing women from Lehigh Valley Women of Adventure that came out to support Family Promise of the Lehigh Valley. We are so fortunate to be partners with such an amazing group. What a collection of items for our families experiencing homelessness. If you love being outdoors be sure to check this group out.

This year we were thrilled to participate in the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley and the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley's volunteer Day of Caring !!! Our work project could not have turned out any better. Look at these amazing shelves. **Quadrant Private Wealth** did an amazing job. They even had extra time to clean up other areas of our basement. Our families are thrilled to have a nice place to store their personal items.





It wasn't the best weather, but we managed to have a wonderful night at the Sip and Mingle "Friend Raising" Event. Over 270 people signed up to learn more about Family Promise while enjoying a wonderful evening of food, beverages, music, fellowship. So many amazing volunteers and sponsors went in to making this event extraordinary. You could hear laughter and discussion about Family Promise's mission all evening. We can't wait to do it again next year.

What an amazing night. We were honored to be Univest's choice for the IronPigs Double Plays Pay Partner 2023. We celebrated with board members, staff, friends, and families! We had a great night. We will certainly put the \$2500 to good use supporting families experiencing homelessness in the Lehigh Valley! Univest, thank you for recognizing our impact in the community.



- Proceeds will benefit families with children who are experiencing homelessness in the Lehigh Valley
- Event Sponsor**
Larry & Susan Karper
- Red Sponsor**
Chad and Mimi Meyerhoefer
- White Sponsors**
American Fiber Ops Corps
Greater Lehigh Valley Auto Dealer Association
Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays
Thrive Word Voice
- Blue Sponsor**
Josh Early Candy
- Listings**
American Fence and Flag
Century 21 Kern
Doe Wire Electric
First Presbyterian Church of Allentown
Higher International Human Resources
Killy & Sons King
New Trifid Bank
Renaissance Wealth Management, LLC
Univest Financial
Wind Creek
Working Dog Press



Thank you Brianna. Brianna just finished her Girl Scout Silver Award project. She loves to read and wanted to share the joy of reading with others. For her project, she built a bookcase with the help of some Boy Scouts and held a book drive to gather books. Doing so, she received ample books. The bookcase and books are set up at Family Promise for all to enjoy for years to come.

Join our team of volunteer DRIVERS! FPLV is looking for a few additional drivers to help transport families in our 14 passenger van/bus. A regular driver's license, clean driving record from PennDot and background clearances are required. Families are picked up at Lehigh Valley congregations at 6 a.m. and at the Day Center (1346 W. Hamilton Street) at 6 p.m. except Saturday and Sunday mornings which is 7 a.m. Congregations are within a 30-minute drive of the Day Center, some just minutes away. Volunteers can pick one or two shifts per week. Contact us if interested.

Thank you Christ Lutheran Church, Allentown PA. Volunteers brought over welcome kits for our new families. The kits include a great carrying bag, inflatable mattress, pillow, towels, body wash and a stuffy for the children. What a great way to support your neighbors experiencing homelessness.



Message from the Development Director

Dear Friends,

“Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall.” –F. Scott Fitzgerald, “The Great Gatsby”

Back to school, back to work – the fall is a great time to get busy preparing for the future.

At **Family Promise** our families work tirelessly to gain financial independence as they strive to find a permanent home before winter sets in. Their work is supported by a dedicated community of volunteers, congregations, board members, community partners, generous individuals, and the local business community. We truly appreciate your support.

Thank you to the volunteers, sponsors and attendees who made the **Sip and Mingle for a Great Cause** a big success.

Special thanks to **Univest Bank** for a great evening at the Iron Pigs Game.

This Fall, we are celebrating **National Family Promise Week** from October 15th through the 22nd with hundreds of communities across the country. Since 1988, more than one million children and their families have turned to **Family Promise** for assistance with homelessness prevention, shelter, and housing. This year **Family Promise Week** culminates with a **Night Without a Bed** on October 21st. This social media challenge raises awareness and support for families battling homelessness. Participants are asked to sleep anywhere without a bed for one night: cars, a tent, a treehouse, living room floor, or a couch, and post a video or photo and tag us on Facebook. Last year, **Night Without a Bed** raised over \$100,000 to help families across the country.

Every year in America, over 3 million children experience homelessness. These children are 8-9 times more likely to repeat a grade, 3 times more likely to be placed in special education programs, and 7 times more likely to attempt suicide. 42% will drop out of school at some point and 47% suffer from anxiety, depression, or withdrawal. Please help us to raise awareness and support for child homelessness this fall by doing the following:

1. Take part in **Family Promise Week**. Like and share Family Promise Week information on Facebook
2. Host a third-party event and give the proceeds to **Family Promise** – Holding an event can be fun. Contact me at Devdirector@fplehighvalley.org for information on hosting an event
3. Get ready for our **Purse Bingo**- January 20, 2024 - We reserved Jordan UCC to hold the event and are beginning to take donations of designer purses to be used as bingo prizes. Please let me know if you would like to donate a purse, director@fplehighvalley.org.

Partnership with the Business Community

Thank you to our Community Partners listed below who have joined with us to serve our community. This fall as your company is preparing its 2024 budget, please consider joining Family Promise as a Community Partner.

The Family Promise of Lehigh Valley Community Partnership Program offers area businesses a unique opportunity to combine all their annual/event giving into one significant gift that includes event tickets and sponsorships to all of our signature events. With an annual donation participants will receive great recognition benefits that support their business goals and help to ensure that struggling area families receive the support they so desperately need. For more information on our **Community Partnership Program** for 2024 please contact me at Devdirector@fplehighvalley.org

Thank you,

Susan Logomasini, Development Director



WISH LIST

- Women's deodorant
- Tampons and pads
- Air mattresses
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Juice boxes
- Handsoap
- Detergent
- Sponges
- Snacks



SAVE THE DATE

- Boscov's Friends and Family - October 18**
- Designer Purse Bingo - January 20, 2024**
- Homecoming 2024- March 23, 2024**
- Highmark Walk 2024 - Date TBA for June**



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



[@fplehighvalley.org](https://www.facebook.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. INCREASE YOUR DONATION REACH BY CHECKING IF YOUR COMPANY HAS MATCHING FUNDS OR SELECT US AS YOUR UNITED WAY CHOICE.