

Family Promises

FAMILY PROMISE OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY NEWSLETTER

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

4TH QUARTER, 2022

Homeless and Hunger Awareness Month

We attended a presentation by Matthew Desmond who spoke on his book *Evicted*. Did you know one eviction notice will follow you for a lifetime and it is very difficult to remove the record even after it has been rectified? Some owners of the worst apartments are charging the highest rents to people who are desperate.



We also co-hosted the game of Rent. This was similar to the game of Life but based on real facts in the Lehigh Valley. This was a very enlightening experience. But what may have made the biggest impact was Night Without a Bed. We thank everyone who participated.

We thank everyone who participated especially Greenawalds who hosted an overnight sleep out. Families slept in tents, cardboard boxes, and cars. Pastor Janet wanted her congregation to experience what it is like to experience homelessness. She hoped the participants would take away some empathy for what the families are going through as well as resources that are available. She stressed how many families are just one crisis away from homelessness. Peyton, age



10, slept in a cardboard box. She was very interested to see how cold it would get. St. Joseph the Worker also participated in Night Without a Bed, raising over \$3,000 for

Family Promise of Lehigh Valley. Our director, Roslyn, slept in her car. She was shocked at how cold it actually got. "It became a big refrigerator", she said. Her toes were freezing even with two pairs of socks and boots. Not to mention the church doors were open so bathroom use was not an issue. The idea that these families have no bathrooms would make the situation so much worse. In addition, at 7 a.m. everyone went into the church to warm up and have some light breakfast. There is no relief for these families in the morning which is something that really stuck with Roslyn.





Why We Give Charles and Alenda

*From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded;
and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will
be asked. (Luke 12:48)*

Charles and Alenda

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. (Luke 12:48) Charles and Alenda Gardner were quick to respond when asked why they give to Family Promise of Lehigh Valley. "Family Promise provides hope to those in need. We see firsthand the benefits of our support and know the dollars we donate will directly help families in need". Charles and Alenda also have a personal connection to Family Promise. Serving as volunteers for the past 3 years, with Jordan UCC, they help to prepare and serve meals, stay overnight and spend time with the families in our program. They are very optimistic about the future of the families they serve. Family Promise of Lehigh Valley reports that over 80% of the families enrolled in our program graduate to stable housing. Our aftercare program helps families remain financially independent for a year after graduation. Although the success of the program is impressive, the need remains great. According to the latest HUD Point in Time report, family homelessness has increased by 51% in the Lehigh Valley since 2020. Charles and Alenda's daughter Meredith, who is a local realtor, believes this is due to rising rent prices and knows firsthand how hard it is for families to find affordable housing. Area residents for over 30 years, the Gardners, who are also active in other Church missions including Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and the Food Pantry at Jordan, see the number of people in need has been steadily growing. They feel for those in need and want to help. "We are blessed and feel we should help those in need."



EVENT SPONSORS

Dr. Laurence & Susan Karper

EVENT PARTNERS

- American FiberOps Corp
- Backyard Bar Company
- Stone Farm Cellars and Vineyard
- Hop Hill Brewing
- Uninvest Financial
- First Presbyterian Allentown
- Century 21 Keim Realtors
- Kathy & John Kling
- Tim Harakal Music
- Blueprint Creations Co.
- Christman Photography
- Working Dog Press
- Fidelity
- Renaissance Wealth Management

Sips Dips and Mingle

Thank you everyone who came out to support our Sip, Dip and Mingle. It was a huge success, raising just under \$17,000. We made lot of new friends and were able to share our mission. Special thanks to our sponsors who helped make the night extra special.



We would like to thank and recognize David Queen, case manager. Many know Dave came out of his retirement to serve Family Promise for over two years. Dave will be greatly missed by our families, staff, and volunteers. If you know of anyone looking for a case manager position, part-time up to 25 hours per week please contact Roslyn, at director@fplehighvalley.org.



Drivers Needed

Our bus is up and running but we need YOU to volunteer to drive it. It is a 15 passenger and there is no special license required. You can sign up for as many shifts as you would like. We transport from the congregations to the day center at 6 a.m. and from the Day Center to the Congregations around 6 pm.

Contact
director@fplehighvalley.org
for more information



We are Hiring. Part-time Case Manager.
Flexible schedule—25 hours per week.

We can't help everyone,
but we can help someone.

Contact Roslyn
director@fplehighvalley.org
for full job description

Family Promise



Sometimes our families want to give back. Look at the paint job a recent family did to spruce up our outside. Great job Alex!

Roslyn recently attended Family Promise's symposium. Check out all the amazing words used to describe Family Promise.



SAVE THE DATE
Homecoming
April 1, 2023

It is time to get your tickets for our Purse Bingo, which will take place on January 21st from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Twenty games for \$25! Special Boards for \$1 each. There will be a tricky tray/basket raffle, good food, and our amazing caller, Gina Beltrami will be back. Don't miss out, our last Family Promise event sold out!

JOIN US FOR THE 2ND ANNUAL
Designer Purse
B I N G O

January 21, 2023 | 11am-2pm

SCAN ME

Tickets Include 20 Games!
Purchase in Advance: \$25
Purchase at Door: \$30
Add 5 Special Game: \$5

JORDAN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1837 CHURCH RD, ALLENTOWN PA

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE PROGRAMS & SERVICES HELPING FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN THAT ARE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS OR ABOUT TO BE.

Family Promise is so grateful to receive donations from

Home Depot

The Bethlehem store held their annual drive for Family Promise of Lehigh Valley.

Joyful Giving

The non profit Joyful Giving spread their joy to all of our families

Greater Lehigh Valley Automotive Dealers Association

Brought Thanksgiving bags to our families and also donated \$5,000, which will go towards our Prevention program.



Thank You

As the holiday season draws near, we are reminded of our many blessings – family, a warm home, friends, food aplenty and a feeling of well being and security. Thank you for taking pause this holiday season, to remember those less fortunate. With your continued support Family Promise of Lehigh Valley provides meals, shelter, companionship and guidance 365 days a year to those families with children experiencing homelessness. We provide hope for the future as our families move to self-sufficiency. A heartfelt thank you to those of you who have answered our call and supported our programs with a year end donation. If you missed the opportunity to give, please visit our website or click on the QR below to make your tax-deductible donation before year end. Special thanks to our new Community Partners who have bundled their corporate giving into a comprehensive gift that includes event support, volunteering and ongoing recognition.

*Wishing you a joyous holiday season.
Thank you for all you do.*

Susan Logomasini
Development Director



Last month we had an amazing response to our donation request. Thank you all.

This month we could use:

Gas gift cards • Self inflating twin air mattresses • Individually wrapped snacks
Juice boxes • Toilet paper • Body wash • Bed pillows



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.