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Pets with a Promise Awards Grant to Family Promise of Southern Chester County
Funding from PetSmart Charities® helps keep families and their pets together

KENNETT SQUARE, PA –Family Promise of Southern Chester County (FPSCC), an Affiliate of Family Promise, the nation’s leading nonprofit helping families experiencing homelessness, is proud to announce the launch of *Pets with a Promise*, which provides direct funding for Family Promise Affiliates nationwide for a variety of services, allowing families to keep their pets while working toward independence in the program.

The program launched with the help of a \$150,000 grant from [PetSmart Charities](http://PetSmartCharities.com), the leading funder of animal welfare in North America, which will be disbursed in \$2,500 increments to participating Family Promise Affiliates, including right here in Southern Chester County. The funds will allow Family Promise of Southern Chester County to offer direct services to families with pets including boarding, vaccinations, veterinary care, pet supplies, and transportation related to boarding or fostering.

This program continues a five-year effort to address the heartbreaking choice that families often face when losing their homes—to seek shelter or to keep their beloved pet. Family Promise President Claas Ehlers said, “Just because children and their families lose their homes, they should not have to lose their pets. PetSmart Charities recognizes that its resources can prevent that additional trauma for families and keep the whole family—including its four-legged members—together. With their support and through the work of our 200+ Family Promise Affiliates, *Pets with a Promise* is an important part of a holistic, community-based approach to addressing family homelessness.”

“We are grateful to *Pets with a Promise* for this unique and thoughtful gift,” said Family Promise executive director Susan Minarchi. “This gift will allow us to keep our families and their pets together, which will make for a smoother transition for our families.”

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Family Promise began working with PetSmart, Inc. in 2012 with the innovative *PetSmart Promise* program. On-site kennel facilities were built at Family Promise Day Centers nationwide to house guests' pets. PetSmart also donated and installed aquariums to help teach the values and responsibilities of pet ownership, provided boarding space at PetsHotels, and created a fostering manual and network to house pets when on-site facilities were not available.

That program has been shifted to PetSmart Charities in 2017, but the mission remains the same—keeping families and their pets together.

“At PetSmart Charities, our mission is to find lifelong, loving homes for all pets by supporting programs and thought leadership that bring people and pets together,” said David Haworth, DVM, Ph.D., president of PetSmart Charities. “By working with organizations like Family Promise to support *Pets with a Promise*, we hope to create more resources for families with pets during difficult transitions and alleviate pet homelessness across the country.”

About Family Promise of Southern Chester County

FPSCC is committed to helping children and their families experiencing homelessness in the Avondale, Kennett Consolidated, Oxford, and Unionville-Chadds Ford school districts. Its goal is to help families achieve lasting self-sufficiency and stability by providing comprehensive case management services, as well as shelter and meals through a network of congregations and volunteers until they find sustainable housing. Family Promise of Southern Chester County is part of a national, nonprofit initiative founded in 1988 with over 203 affiliates across the US changing the lives of families. To volunteer, make a donation, or provide services, please contact Family Promise of Southern Chester County at www.familypromisescc.org or sminarchi@familypromisescc.org.

About PetSmart Charities®

[PetSmart Charities, Inc.](http://www.petSMARTcharities.org) is a nonprofit animal welfare organization with a mission to find lifelong, loving homes for all pets by supporting programs and thought leadership that bring people and pets together. In addition to finding homes for almost 500,000 shelter pets each year through its in-store adoption program in all PetSmart stores across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, PetSmart Charities provides funding to non-profits aligned with its mission through four key areas of grant support: Preventing Pet Homelessness; Helping Shelter Pets Thrive; Supporting the Bond Between People and Pets; and Emergency Relief and Disaster Support. Each year, millions of generous PetSmart shoppers help pets in need by donating to PetSmart Charities using the pin pads at checkout registers inside PetSmart stores. In turn, PetSmart Charities efficiently uses 90 cents of every dollar donated and has become the leading funder of animal welfare in North America, donating about \$300 million to date. PetSmart Charities, a 501(c)(3) organization, has received the Four Star Rating from Charity Navigator, an independent organization that reports on the effectiveness, accountability and transparency of nonprofits, for the past 14 years in a row -- placing it among the top one percent of charities rated by this organization. To learn more visit www.petSMARTcharities.org.

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