

## FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

We want to say **THANK YOU** to everyone who made the **Day of Promise** Golf Tournament a success! Whether you played, sponsored, volunteered, donated, or partnered with us, your support means the world. Together, we're making a difference in the lives of families in our community, and for that, we are incredibly grateful. Thank you for believing in our mission - every child deserves a home. More pictures are available on the Events page of our website.

A huge thank you to the great team at **Willow House Advisors** for being our loyal presenting sponsor!

### DAY OF PROMISE



## Message from Our Executive Director

Hey Ya'll—my dear Friends and Supporters of Family Promise,

As the crisp fall air settles in and the familiar scent of pumpkin spice begins to fill our surroundings, we find ourselves embracing the beauty of this changing season. However, for many of the families we serve, the climate remains challenging and unchanged. Homelessness continues to be a harsh reality for too many in our community.

But thanks to the unwavering commitment of our incredible staff—Salma, Lisa, Andra, Sandy, Bea, Daniel, and Jake the Handyman, Board members, faith-based partners, volunteers, and generous donors, we remain dedicated to helping our families look toward a brighter future. Together, we are working to create the change our families so desperately need, offering them the hope and support to break the cycle of homelessness.

In this fall issue, we are excited to celebrate some wonderful moments and initiatives. We look back on the success of our Day of Promise Golf Outing, a fantastic day of fundraising and fun, and Promise Fest—a family day filled with joy, games, and community spirit.

And, of course, we are kicking off our Annual Appeal, where we ask for your continued support as we enter the season of giving.

Thank you for being part of our Family Promise community.

Together, we are making a difference—one family at a time.

Warmly,



Carol M. Lowe, MSW, LSW  
Executive Director  
Family Promise of Southern Chester County

Wishing you Peace  , Love  , and a Place to call Home. 



## **Thank You Link Logistics!**

With the assistance of dedicated volunteer Jean O'Neil and her son, Mike O'Neil, Senior Vice President of Shared Services at Link Logistics, Family Promise was awarded a \$125,000 grant from Link Logistics to purchase a box truck and renovate the basement of one of the Promise Houses.



The box truck will enable us to collect and transport large donations of furniture, household items, and other essentials for families in need. This will enhance our capacity to provide comprehensive support to those facing challenging circumstances. Many of our clients lack the means to transport their belongings when moving into new homes. The box truck will facilitate the smooth transition of our clients by ensuring a safe and efficient moving process, allowing them to focus on rebuilding their lives. Our goals are (1) significantly increasing our capacity to transport large donations, allowing us to help more families in need, (2) ensuring clients move into new homes with a smoother transition, reducing the stress associated with the moving process and promoting a sense of stability, and (3) extending our organization's reach and collaboration with additional partners due to the expanded capability for transporting donations, thereby amplifying the positive impact on the community.

The renovation project involves the conversion of an unfinished basement into a multifunctional space designed to serve as both a recreation area and a study space for the families we serve. With an increasing number of families facing homelessness in our community, it is crucial to create a safe and supportive environment that fosters education, personal development, and community engagement. Our goals are to (1) create a welcoming and safe space where families can find respite from the challenges of homelessness, (2) establish an area equipped with essential resources, including computers, books, and educational materials, to facilitate learning and skill development for children and adults alike, and (3) develop a recreation space with age-appropriate activities and games to encourage positive social interactions among family members and promote a sense of community.

## The Families We Serve...

**D.T.** is a single father to an 18 month old son who contacted Family Promise in need of rental assistance. Between losing his car and health issues, he fell behind on rent. D.T. was being taken to court but his landlord was willing to accept partial payments. With the help from our Promises Made program, a partial rental payment was made on his behalf. He plans on keeping a consistent place for his son to live when he has him. D.T. stated: "Things are starting to look up and with this help it will keep me afloat."



**W.T.** and **K.R.** came to Family Promise with a 1 year old daughter and a baby on the way. They became homeless when her family told her to leave their home after her daughter was born. They started in our Promises Made program but were able to move into an apartment. However they were still in need of support so Family Promise provided the family with sheets, towels, pillows, toiletries, and diapers. After a few months, W.T. gave birth and K.R. lost his job, leaving them without the finances necessary to pay their rent. Family Promise provided them with rental assistance to ensure they do not lose their housing until they can both return to working full time. They are currently receiving case management services in our Promises Kept (Stabilization program).

**L.B.** is a single father in with 2 children ages 13 and 10. They have never been in traditional school as they were homeschooled by their mother who has significant mental health issues. L.B. was recently awarded temporary custody and Family Promise is partnering with Square Roots Collective to support this family through our Promises Made Program with life skills, supportive counseling, and referrals to other local non-profits. The family was also one the first to benefit from our Promise of Food, powered by Landhope Farms.



## Promise Fest

Family Promise hosted our 2nd annual Promise Fest - a wonderful chance for our families to unwind and enjoy some family-friendly fun. These families have been working incredibly hard to gain stability, and we're so grateful we could create moments of joy and relaxation for them.



## Board of Directors



### Shelly Dutton

Shelly is a freelance writer specializing in technology topics. She brings a personal perspective on the challenges of homelessness and the support required not only to overcome it but also to thrive. In her free time, Shelly enjoys spending every moment she can with her husband and three children.



### Robert Johnston

Robert Johnston has served as a Board Member for Family Promise of Southern Chester County (FPSCC) since 2018, completing two terms. His involvement began as a volunteer through St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Kennett Square, where he greeted families at local shelters, prepared meals, entertained children, and supported families in need of temporary housing. A Villanova University graduate and former CEO of Beacon Hill Financial, Robert spent 37 years in private equity investing and fundraising. Upon retirement, he pursued his passions for equestrian activities, farming, and managing private investments. His commitment to community service extends beyond FPSCC, with involvement in the Knights of Columbus, Stroud Fresh Water Research Center, Boy Scouts, The Brandywine Conservancy and other organizations.

2019 Kennett Square  
Mushroom Festival parade -  
Wizard of Oz. Bob Johnston  
volunteered as the " Tin Man."



### Burt Rothenberger Board Emeritus

Burt Rothenberger retired from Sunoco, Inc. in 1999 after 32 years in various technical positions. Burt is an advocate for affordable housing and has had a long association with Habitat for Humanity. He is part of an effort by Westminster Presbyterian Church to work for affordable housing and end homelessness in Chester County. He also serves on the Governance Board of the Chester County Partnership to End Homelessness and the Chester County Planning Commission's affordable housing committee, Housing Choices.

Burt is an avid gardener and promoter of the use of native plants. He is a garden volunteer at the Brandywine River Museum, Longwood Gardens, and Winterthur. He is also a National Wildlife Federation Habitat Steward and recently completed three native plant habitat projects.

Burt and his wife, Gail, have lived in Kennett Township since 1999 and currently reside in one of the Kendal-Crosslands Communities independent living campuses.



### Bill Carl Board Emeritus

William (Bill) Carl had a 40 year career in human services, where he worked as Executive Director of two different non-profit organizations, led a county level department overseeing addiction prevention and treatment programs, as well as had a successful consulting business.

After retirement in 2012, he helped to establish Family Promise of Southern Chester County, when a group of local concerned residents determined there was a need in this area to serve homeless families. He also volunteers at local food cupboards (KACS & West Grove) and enjoys gardening and traveling with his wife, Ruthie, and especially enjoys visiting his son, Adam, in California.

**FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER**

**DID YOU KNOW ABOUT USING YOUR IRA TO MAKE A “TAX-Free” GIFT TO FPSCC.....**

**Donors 70½ and older can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution, making a gift to FPSCC directly from your IRA and avoid tax on the transferred amount. Contact your IRA Administrator to arrange. FPSCC Tax ID #35-2518819**

**Network of Congregations**

Family Promise was built on a unique model, utilizing the resources of congregational partners in our community to provide meals and overnight accommodations for families until they find permanent housing. Our volunteers are the heart of the organization. Here in Southern Chester County, we are proud to have over 900 dedicated volunteers and 26 caring congregations in our network.

**THANK YOU!!!!!!**

Apostolic Church of Oxford  
Assumption of the BVM  
Avon Grove Church of the Nazarene  
Avondale United Methodist Church  
Bethany Presbyterian Church Mendenhall  
Christ Church at the Grove  
Christian Life Center  
Cornerstone Presbyterian Church  
Doe Run Presbyterian Church  
Episcopal Church of the Advent  
New London United Methodist Church  
Kennett Friends Meeting  
Oxford Presbyterian Church

Oxford United Methodist Church  
Presbyterian Church of Kennett Square  
St. Christopher's Episcopal Church of Oxford  
St. Cornelius Catholic Church  
St. Michael Lutheran Church  
St. Patrick Catholic Church  
The Barn Vineyard Church  
Toughkenamon Presbyterian Church  
Unionville Presbyterian Church  
United Methodist Church of the Open Door  
West Grove United Methodist Church  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Willowdale Chapel

**Board of Directors**

**President:**

Tom Sausen

**Vice President:**

George Lock

**Secretary:**

Cynthia Schofield

**Treasurer:**

Michael Bell

**Directors:**

Tamara Acuna

Luis Almanza

Jorge Chamorro

Shelly Dutton

Kari Jarmuz

Robert F. Johnston

Michael Skay

Leon Spencer

Kimberly Zuleba

**Board Emeritus:**

Burton F. Rothenberger

Bill Carl

As always, thank you so much for your unwavering support and dedication to Family Promise and the families that we are called to serve.

# All of these warm hearts do better in a place to call home

The holidays are right around the corner, and as we enter this season of gratitude, we invite you to make a difference. Your support of our *Annual Appeal* ensures that families in need have a safe place to rest, warm meals to share, and the hope of a brighter tomorrow.

Together, we can lift up those who need it most. Please consider giving - because for our families, every day is a chance to rebuild.

