

IMPACT REPORT



2023

Dear Friends,

It was only a short while ago when the world as we knew it changed forever. The global pandemic exposed fundamental and systematic shortfalls in our communities, the country, and the world. But when we needed it most, we came together! Our community leaders and policymakers passed legislation, released funding, and provided badly needed resources at lightning speed.

While last year was a challenging one, we persevered and are ready to face what lies ahead. Many of the gaps that were exposed and needs that grew remain, and we stand with everyone in our community struggling to find affordable housing as housing prices continue to rise. Despite these setbacks, I'm filled with immense hope and gratitude as we continue to navigate this new landscape together!

As we look towards a new horizon, one thing has never changed and never will: **our unwavering commitment to ending homelessness and housing instability**, guiding our neighbors on a path of sustainable independence.

A new year always brings new optimism and opportunities to find creative ways to make an immense impact on our community. Our focus is expanding to include an innovative new model for our Enhanced Shelter Program and the launch of a Housing is Healthcare initiative. By harnessing powerful community partnerships and continuing to provide affordable housing, shelter, and resources, we will break the cycle that so many are trapped in.

As you read through the promises we have kept and what we've all accomplished together in 2023, please accept our gratitude for all you have done to help our community. None of it is possible without you.

The ripple effect of this impact reaches far beyond the immediate needs of our neighbors and is propelling us toward a better tomorrow!



Joann Björnson, LSW, CEO



OUR PROMISING IMPACT

The Need in 2023

- ★ The average monthly rent for a two-bedroom home for a family in New Jersey reached **\$2,600**,¹ more than half of the average monthly income²
- ★ **36% more households**³ requested shelter or housing support in Morris County compared to the previous year while **45% of New Jersey full-time workers don't earn enough for household survival**



The Impact We Made Together

- ★ Our transformative programs brought in more than **2,600 lifesaving enrollments**
- ★ **188 people** maintained or moved into permanent housing
- ★ **1,000 volunteers** and supporters engaged in our mission
- ★ Over **12,000 referrals** were made to help our community connect with critical services



100% Success

- ★ **100%** of our shelter guests moved into **safe, accessible housing**
- ★ **100%** of people in our Housing Programs **maintained housing**
- ★ **100%** of Diversion Program participants **avoided shelter**



Sources

¹<https://www.renthop.com/average-rent-in/new-jersey>

²<https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Salaries/-in-New-Jersey#:~:text=New%20Jersey%20ranks%20number%2016,week%20or%20%24%2C893%20a%20month>

³<https://www.unitedforalice.org/comparison-tool/ALICE-EVD>

OUR PROGRAMS:

Outreach and Engagement



The Promise to be the Bridge to Personalized Support

- ★ Over **8,700 face-to-face contacts** were made in our community
- ★ **298 outreach trips/events** were launched in the community, offering resources for food security, housing, financial assistance, and eviction prevention

Our Promise

Located in the First Baptist Church in Morristown, our Drop-in Resource & Wellness Center gives people a safe place to go during the day, providing refuge from weather and access to critical essentials, such as:



A mailing address to establish residency



Telephone and computer access



Hygiene and toiletry items



Clean restrooms



Presentations, workshops, and trainings



Crisis intervention

Navigating Hope Mobile Outreach Van

In partnership with the Morris County Department of Human Services, this mobile outreach van goes directly to the people who need it across all of Morris County— bringing food, housing support, financial assistance and help in preventing eviction. This essential service gives those in hard to reach rural communities or those without transportation access to the vital services they need.

Coordinated Entry

As a single point of entry for individuals and families experiencing, or at imminent risk of, homelessness, we work together with providers in Morris County to move people from homelessness into permanent housing, with one-on-one support.

Finding a Place to Call Home

At 68 years old and with a personality barely contained in her petite stature, Delores* was running out of hope that anyone could help her find a long-term, safe place to live. Carrying only a tote bag full of crumpled papers, Delores came to the Our Promise Drop-in Center on a cold October night after spending the previous few nights sleeping in a local police station. We stepped into action, providing her a private shelter room with all the necessities, as well as a few fun luxuries, like a robe and slippers in her favorite color, pink. Together with Delores, we began the months-long search to find her permanent housing. Despite facing many obstacles, such as her age, income, and mobility challenges, our team not only found her a wonderful place to call home, but also added some special decorating touches, in pink of course!

“ I couldn't have done this without you... Family Promise. I am so happy. ”

-Delores*

*Name changed to protect privacy.

OUR PROGRAMS: *Shelter*



The Promise of Shelter from Uncertainty

- ★ **100% success rate** moving guests into permanent housing over the last five years

Enhanced Shelter Program

Our Enhanced Shelter Program is an evolution of the traditional shelter model, providing private rooms at extended stay hotels, keeping families together, and giving individuals the dignity and respect they deserve.

The program offers:

- ★ **RAPID INTERVENTION** and support for people facing crisis
- ★ **SAFER ENVIRONMENTS** that improve outcomes, health, and overall wellbeing
- ★ **STABILITY** needed to focus on long-term housing
- ★ **INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY** for those with disabilities and medical conditions
- ★ **PERSONALIZED SUPPORT** from our case managers to overcome barriers to housing stability
- ★ **SUPPLIES** of nutritious meals, groceries, and other household essentials by our volunteers and congregations
- ★ **SUPPORT** from our other programs to secure safe, permanent housing

An Accident Changes Everything

After an accident that left him needing surgery, Isaiah* went from being a healthy, athletic man to being bedridden in an intensive care unit, fighting for his life with multiple organ failures—all in a matter of a few short days. Unable to return to work, he lost his job and had nowhere to go upon release from the hospital.

Many of the shelters he contacted lacked the resources to support his medical condition and mobility challenges—until he found Family Promise. Our team secured him a place to stay and walked beside him as he battled not only the physical health challenges, but also the anxiety, depression, and insomnia stemming from his medical condition and housing insecurity.

Isaiah persevered and eventually moved into a permanent home, eternally grateful for Family Promise's unwavering support.

“Family Promise was there for me. There were times I was struggling at home, with food and basic necessities. Family Promise would just come through. They never gave up on me, even when I was giving up on me.”

-Isaiah*

*Name changed to protect privacy.

OUR PROGRAMS:

Housing and Stabilization



The Promise of a Place to Call Home

- ★ **100% success rate** in helping people remain in housing

Our Housing and Stabilization Programs prevent homelessness, help people find affordable permanent housing, and maintain long-term housing stability by:

Securing temporary housing for unsheltered families or those at risk of homelessness

- ★ **MEDIATING AND ADVOCATING** for our guests when navigating public programs
- ★ **PREVENTING EVICTIONS** through one-time financial assistance and landlord mediation
- ★ **RAPIDLY MOVING** people at risk of homelessness
- ★ **ENSURING OUR GUESTS HAVE SUPPORT** while combatting the root causes of homelessness and housing insecurity

Finding affordable permanent housing

- ★ **SECURING** long-term financial rent assistance
- ★ **WORKING WITH OUR NETWORK** of landlords to help people secure housing
- ★ **PARTNERING** with Public Housing Authorities and Habitat for Humanity
- ★ Offering housing search and move-in **SUPPORT**

Maintaining long-term housing stability

- ★ **OFFERING HANDS-ON SUPPORT** for those transitioning from a shelter to safe, permanent housing
- ★ Crafting personalized plans for **LONG-TERM HOUSING SUSTAINABILITY**
- ★ **PROVIDING 24/7 CRISIS INTERVENTION** and in-home case management
- ★ **MANAGING PERMANENT HOUSING SUBSIDIES** through local, regional, and federal partnerships



Overcoming the Unexpected

Sarah,* a single mother of three, felt the weight of **potential homelessness** looming over her. We helped her find permanent housing, but with limited resources, she faced the daunting and expensive challenge of moving her family to a new home. We extended a helping hand, providing moving assistance and the essential items her family so desperately needed.

With a new home and the help of our compassionate case managers, Sarah began to build a sustainable life for her family. But a new crisis soon emerged. During what should have been a joyful holiday season, Sarah faced utility shut-offs. While she had done everything she could to avoid this situation, including enrolling in assistance programs, Sarah found herself on the brink of darkness once more.

Determined not to allow her progress to unravel, **Family Promise stood by her side**, providing vital support that kept the warmth and light in her home. The generosity of our holiday gift program brought joy and smiles to her children's faces. These acts of kindness were more than mere gestures; they were **pivotal moments in breaking the relentless cycle of homelessness**, offering not just temporary relief but the promise of a brighter future for Sarah and her family.

“I'm truly trying, but sometimes I just can't bear it all on my own. I can't thank you enough for all you have done for my children and myself.”

-Sarah*

OUR FINANCIAL PROMISE

We pride ourselves on being nimble and making the most of every dollar that is entrusted to us. In fact, 82% of every dollar donated to Family Promise in 2023 directly supported families and individuals experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

But that only tells part of the story. It takes big dreams and bold actions to tackle challenges and make systematic change. It also takes a delicate balance between planning for the needs we have now and investing in the potential of our organization and the talents of our team as we find innovative solutions to overcome the obstacles that lie ahead.

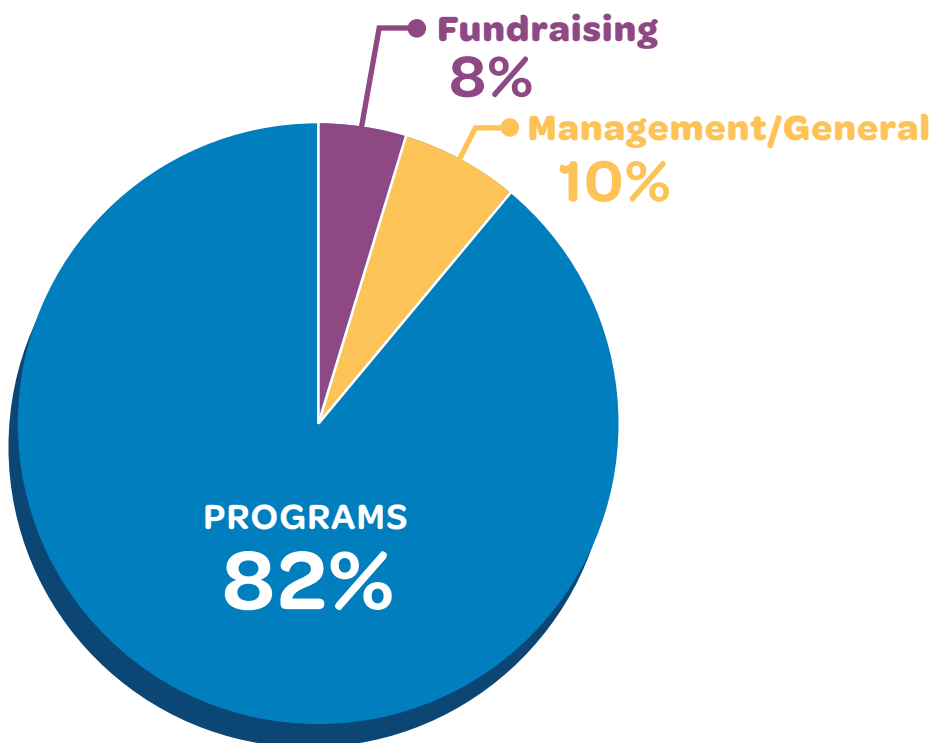
We believe that impact should be measured in decades – not mere days.

We don't just provide a quick-fix for the challenges of those we serve; we dig in to find the root of their problems and give them the building blocks to help construct long-term stability and a prosperous, fulfilling life. The most impactful way to maximize the reach of our funding is to invest in the foundation of the people we help.

But systematic change requires an even deeper level of investment. By advocating, improving infrastructure, increasing our impact, and building a team of talented, passionate people, we can achieve genuine transformation within our community.

Thank you for all your support.

We will continue to affirm the faith you have in us. That is our promise to you.



“

There aren't too many listeners in the world anymore, and I just have to give so much thanks to the Family Promise team for just listening to me. I wouldn't be here without it.

-Mohammed*
a Family Promise guest

*Name changed to protect privacy.



HOW YOU CAN HELP US

Keep the Promise



Volunteer

We offer individual, group, corporate, and family volunteering opportunities. These may be long-term, short-term, and one-off activities, and can even include child- and pet-friendly efforts. Some examples are:

- ★ Preparing and decorating a new home
- ★ Serving a meal or helping with a movie night or birthday party
- ★ Teaching financial literacy or offering resume-writing or interview prep assistance
- ★ Hosting a donation drive of Wish List items
- ★ Securing opportunities assisting our Enhanced Shelter Program
- ★ Participating in a "Done-in-a-Day" service project, like gardening or organizing donations



Donate

- ★ Make a financial contribution through our website or by mailing a check
- ★ Donate from our Amazon Wish List
- ★ Gift your vehicle or part of your stock portfolio
- ★ Remember Family Promise in your estate planning
- ★ Share your professional or personal expertise to help families and individuals in need



Engage

- ★ Attend or host a fundraising event
- ★ Join our Board of Trustees or a board committee
- ★ Visit for a tour



Matching Gifts

- ★ Select Family Promise as the recipient of your employer's matching gift program or ask your employer to add us to their list of approved organizations



Stay Connected

- ★ Join our email list
- ★ Like and follow us on social media and share our content



THANK YOU!

Partner Congregations



Partner congregations work with us to ensure our guests' basic needs are met – helping to provide shelter, a nutritious meal, and fellowship.

Family Promise of Morris County would like to offer our partner congregations our deepest gratitude for their support and generosity.

You can see a full list on our website, just scan the QR code on the left.

Event Sponsors

Through their generosity, our sponsors help us give the promise of hope to people struggling with housing instability and empower their sustainable independence.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

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You Can Make a Difference, Too

Are you inspired to use your passion, skills, and expertise in the fight against homelessness? As we continue to grow, we are actively seeking candidates to serve on our Board of Trustees.

Our Board Members are:

- ★ **PASSIONATE** about making change in their community
- ★ **STRONG ADVOCATES** and the voice for the voiceless
- ★ **EMPATHETIC** in understanding the impact of homelessness
- ★ **DIVERSE** with unique perspectives and life experiences

You will help us:

- ✔ **IMPACT LIVES**
- ✔ **EXPAND OUR NETWORK**
- ✔ **ENGAGE IN EVENTS**
- ✔ **SHAPE THE FUTURE**
- ✔ **SUPPORT OUR MEANINGFUL MISSION**

Inspired?

Join us to collaborate with a diverse group of passionate business and community leaders, all working toward a brighter future.

If interested, please contact
Joann Björnson, LSW, CEO at
j.bjornson@familypromisemorris.org.

MISSION

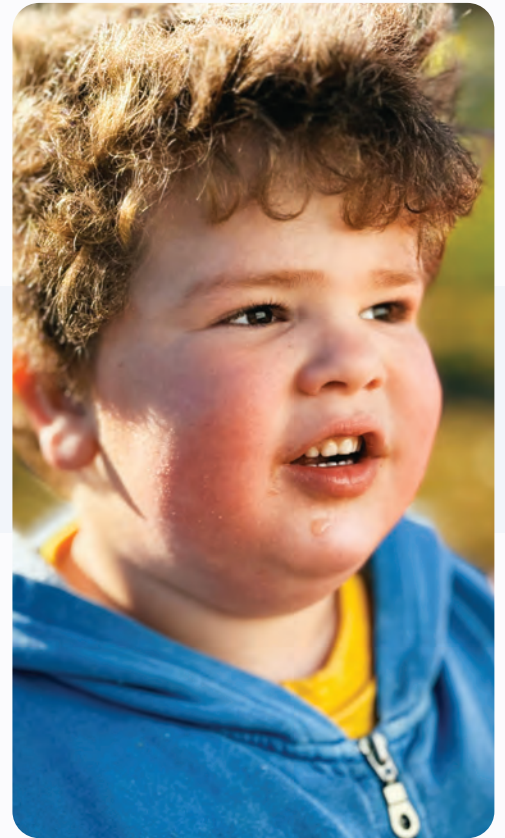
Family Promise of Morris County mobilizes community resources and people to end the crisis of homelessness and housing insecurity faced by Morris County families and individuals – providing a continuum of services leading to independence.

VISION FOR THE COMMUNITY

To strengthen our community by transforming lives impacted by homelessness through hope, dignity, and compassion.

AGENCY VALUES

In every step we take and decision we make, Family Promise of Morris County will adhere to the following values: the right to self-determination for the people we serve; a non-judgmental attitude; family first, regardless of family status; empowerment rather than enabling; and mutual respect and integrity.



WHO WE ARE

In 1988, Family Promise of Morris County was founded in response to a growing number of families experiencing homelessness in Morris County, NJ. Today, we provide a continuum of services to both families and single individuals through our Shelter, Housing, and Outreach Programs. Program components include a drop-in resource center, a mobile outreach van, and 24/7 on-call support to those we serve and our landlords.

DEIA COMMITMENT

We believe that housing is a human right – that every person deserves a safe space to call home. Our commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility guides our day-to-day service as a community-based organization. Cultivating an inclusive and accessible space, wherein all voices and identities are valued, is essential to empowering those we serve toward independence.

BACKGROUND

Family Promise of Morris County is a nonsectarian, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization modeled after Family Promise National. The model has been replicated nationwide through 200+ partners, involving 200,000 volunteers, and serving over one million families since its founding.