

## 2018 Fundraisers



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Comedy Night

This past March we held our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Comedy Night at St. Margaret's hall in Woodbury Heights. Due to a snow storm and power outage at our original location, we had to quickly find a new location to hold the event. St. Margaret's was there to help save the day. We appreciate their help! The night was filled with a buffet, refreshments, a basket auction, and lots of laughter from our four hilarious comedy performances. Thank you to our comedians Tony Parlante, Al Smith, Vince Valentine and Chris Rich for putting on an amazing show! Thank you Kristy Kazelskis and Tina Felizzi for serving up all the delicious food. Thank you Carlie Sobolewski for creating and putting together the beautiful auction baskets. We hope to see everyone again next year!

We will be hosting our next Comedy Night on March 30, 2019 at the Church of the Incarnation in Mantua. Tickets will be on sale starting mid-January.

Check our website for all events

[www.familypromisegc.org](http://www.familypromisegc.org)



### 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Dancing with the Gloucester County Stars

Our CEO, Rosemarie Parker participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Dancing with the Gloucester County Stars event hosted by the Greater Woodbury Chamber of Commerce. She was paired with professional dancer Rene Ostarek out of the Stardust Ballroom in Bellmawr and learned the Fox Trot, Cha Cha, Viennese Waltz and the East Coast Swing. The event was taped at Auletto's in Deptford NJ and ran on local cable from September 7<sup>th</sup> to October 8<sup>th</sup>. Dancing with the Gloucester County Stars gives charities an opportunity to raise money and awareness of their cause. Rosemarie competed against 5 other dancers and raised over \$33,000 for Family Promise of Gloucester County!



## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual "A Taste of South Jersey"

Our 11<sup>th</sup> annual Taste of South Jersey celebration was held at Adelpia's Restaurant in Deptford on November 19, and once again it was a major success. The keynote speaker this year was our Regional Director from Family Promise National, Angelica Johnson. The success of the event was due in large part to the very generous contributions of our many sponsors. Of course, what drives the event and makes it special are our chefs. This year, we were served by some of the region's finest: Adelpia Restaurant, Duffield's Market, Bonnie's Irish Crème, Carolina Blue, Plaza Azteca, Cacia's Bakery, Kitchen 519, Center Square Tavern, Classic Cakes, Applebees, Wedgwood Country Club, Big Daddy's Seafood and Salad Society & Burgers.

We are grateful to all of you who supported this festival by attending the event, contributing generously, and celebrating our 11 years of service and success.



We hope that you will join us next year for the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Taste of South Jersey in November, 2019.

## Houses for Change

Our "Houses for Change" summer campaign event was a huge success. This campaign was a great way to show kids how to give back to those in need, showing how not every child is as fortunate as they might be. All they needed to do was pick up a box, decorate it, fill it with coins throughout the whole summer and drop it off at our center. These children helped forever "change" the lives of our families in need.



Houses for Change boxes are available at our Day Center in Glassboro if you would like to help forever "change" the lives of our homeless families.



## Congratulations!

We want to say big congratulations to Katherine Golden, coordinator for the Community of the Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Mullica Hill. She is the recipient of the 2018 Disciples of Mercy Award at the Justice for All dinner hosted by Catholic Charities through the Diocese of Camden. Katherine very much deserved this award! She has served the ministry of Family Promise of Gloucester County for 12 years and has been instrumental in providing much needed services to the homeless families of our community with grace and dignity. We thank her for her continued hard work and are so proud!

## Thank you to all our community partners!

*Solvay  
Summer Smiles Project  
Fulton Bank  
1-800 Charity Cars/Midas  
Busy Bees Club  
McKinney-Vento  
First Call for Help  
West Deptford Women's Club  
Catholic Charities  
Unforgotten Haven  
People for People Foundation  
Southwest Council  
Angels of God in Pitman  
Miles Auto in Turnersville  
Rowan University Dental Students  
Rowan University Pre-Allied Club*

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**facebook**

## Success Story continued from front page

them a chance and keep their family together. They said that they would rather pay the high amount in a hotel then separate their family, and they did for the past four years until Family Promise came along. The family entered our program and moved into St. Peter's Haven Transitional House in August 2018. We contacted 1-800 Charity Cars/Midas who surprised the family with a donated minivan. We connected them with Catholic Charities who helped subsidize their security deposit and first months' rent. We posted a need for furniture on Facebook and received an overwhelming response for donations. After only 2 ½ months with Family Promise they were able to move into a four bedroom home in Paulsboro, fully furnished. The family is beyond grateful. All they needed was a little time to save up and get ahead. Thank you to all who helped make their dreams a reality.

## Contributions from Our Interns

Family Promise would like to thank Rutgers University for sending over two hard working interns to us once again for the year 2018/2019. Please welcome Ebony Morris and Brianna Murphy, since starting as interns at Family Promise they have been involved in case management, fundraising events, marketing and agency meetings.



# Family Promise of Gloucester County

*Helping homeless families help themselves*

**Newsletter December 2018**

## Thank you for your support!

*Rosemarie Parker, CEO*

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank all of our congregations, coordinators, volunteers and sponsors for your continued support. Without you we could not continue to provide the much needed services to the homeless families of our community. This has been an amazing year full of fundraisers, growing partnerships and most importantly successful graduations of our families into permanent housing. I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter. To stay up to date with all of our news and events, please like us on Facebook. *Wishing you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a safe, happy and healthy New Year!*

## Network News

*Victoria Peters, Executive Director of Programs and Services*

Family Promise of Gloucester County has had yet another successful year! We have built new partnerships with congregations and agencies in the community while working alongside our current supportive and dedicated volunteers. Thanks to our large network, 17 families (26 parents and 33 children) will have graduated from our program by the end of the year. Four of our families were successful thanks to the generosity of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Clarksboro and their gift of St. Peter's Haven Transitional House. Our families are very appreciative and would like to say "thank you" to all who showed them love and kindness when they were at their lowest point. Merry Christmas & Happy Hanukkah! We look forward to helping even more families on 2019.

## Success Story

Through our partnership with the McKinney-Vento Program, we have learned of a growing population of working homeless families living in area motels. These families are earning enough wages to pay for a single motel room for an average cost \$1,400-\$2,000 a month but not enough to save for first months' security deposit and rent for an apartment. Their income leaves them ineligible for government assistance such as welfare and housing subsidies. We received a call from one such family of 6 (2 adults and 4 children) who had been living in a hotel for the past **four years**. They had lost their home to foreclosure when mom took ill and could no longer work. Dad works full-time and earned enough to pay \$1,400 a month for a single hotel room plus food and other daily living expenses. They did not have a car due to the high cost to maintain and make repairs so dad rode a bike to work every day. They were excited to learn about our program and told us that we are the only organization to give **continued on back page**

## Partnering with Rowan

Thank you professor Asadeh Nia-Schoenstein, M.S., APR and students from Rowan Universities College of Communication & Creative Arts for developing a marketing plan for Family Promise earlier this year. Practicum students Lauren Bradley, Francesca Fodero and Dan Ledden worked with CEO Rosemarie Parker in the fall on implementing the strategies outlined in the plan.