

Our Committed Staff



Victoria Osborn
Executive Director of
Programs & Services

Victoria Osborn came to Family Promise in March of 2015 having extensive experience as a Social Worker. She serves as our Executive Director of Programs and Services and has a passion for helping

people and guiding them in the right direction in life. Over the past 6 years, she has helped over 100 families achieve their goal of permanent stable housing. She is the heart and soul of Family Promise and has been instrumental in successfully growing our network. In 2016, she was awarded the Women of Achievement Award for Gloucester County. Well deserved!



Kristy Kazelskis
Director of Operations

Kristy Kazelskis joined the Board of Trustees in 2016 and served as the treasurer from 2017 to 2020. Kristy was hired as Director of Operations in February 2021 to manage the Promise Rides Program and help grow our Pathway Home

Program. Kristy brings years of volunteer experience and event planning to the organization as well. She is looking forward to making significant contributions to growing new programs designed to support the families we serve.



Mackenzi Reilly
Case Manager

Mackenzi Reilly started with Family Promise September of 2020 as an intern from Rutgers University – Camden. She was completing her undergraduate degree in social work. She became an official member of our staff

in June as a part time case manager, while completing her master's degree in social work. Mackenzi is looking forward to graduating and becoming a full-time case manager to continue the mission of Family Promise of helping families experiencing homelessness obtain autonomy.

Thank you to all our Major Donors & Community Partners!

Major Donors

New Jersey Pandemic Relief Fund
Wawa Foundation
Ocean first Foundation
The Presbytery for Southern NJ
Columbia Bank Foundation
PNC Bank Foundation
Impact 100 South Jersey

Community Partners

Tony Parlante Productions
Miles Auto in Turnersville
Rutgers University Intern Program
Rowan University Intern Program
Rowan University Dental Students
Rowan University Pre-Allied Club
Angels Community Outreach
Kingsway High School SURE Club
Heart to Hands
Summer Smiles Project
Fulton Bank
I-800 Charity Cars/Midas
Busy Bees Club
McKinney-Vento Program
211 First Call for Help
West Deptford Women's Club
Catholic Charities
Unforgotten Haven
People for People Foundation
Southwest Council
Lead the Way, Scott Whyte
St. Vincent de Paul Society
Christian Care Center Community Outreach
of Burlington County
GFWC Gloucester County Women's Club
Gloucester County Vixens
Volunteers of America/SERV
ReadyVet Go
Rutgers Southern Regional Child Care
Resource Center
OEO of Camden County
Grace Girls Closet
Hispanic Family Success Center in Woodbury
Pitman Food Pantry
For the Love of Pete's Pantry
Fulton Bank Financial Literacy Program
Premium Auto of Turnersville



November 4, 2021

Dear Friends and Supporters of Family Promise,

Thank you for your continued support for our mission. Family Promise has been assisting hard-working, low-income families with housing insecurities since 2005 through partnerships with local houses of worship, community partners, and the local businesses. We continue to increase the number of families we serve annually due to new outreach programs, the dedication of our volunteers, and the generosity of our financial donors like you.

We have done amazing work, but the need continues to grow. We serve approximately 10% of homeless families in South Jersey. Hundreds of families are still living in motels or are doubled up with friends and relatives. More than 1,500 school-aged children in our area are identified as homeless by the New Jersey Department of Education annually.

Family Promise is the only program of its kind in South Jersey. We focus on supporting hard-working, low-income families who have fallen on hard times due to a job loss, illness, divorce or other unforeseen circumstances. Experience tells us our guests do not qualify for government assistance programs because their income slightly exceeds the eligibility threshold. Experience also tells us our guests have a 95% success rate securing permanent housing with a little help from Family Promise.

Your support is needed now more than ever. We expect an increase in the number of families experiencing homelessness in the coming months as the moratorium on evictions will expire this December 31st. Families are the core of South Jersey. Stronger families make for stronger schools, stronger churches and stronger communities. Our focus will always be providing families with safe shelter, food and intensive case management that help them transition back to permanent housing.

Our goal for 2022 and beyond is to serve more families. We plan to continue helping hard-working families move out of motels and into homes, to keep our parents working, and our kids in school. The need and the path are clear.

To achieve this, we are asking for your continued financial support. Your donation has a direct impact on providing critical services to our families in need. Families are the core of our community and by providing a hand up, not a handout, we are working to create a better South Jersey.

Blessing to you all this upcoming holiday season!

Rosemarie Parker
Chief Executive Officer



Promise Rides

The Transportation Program is back on track. After a pause due to the pandemic, we have resumed transporting students. Studies show that homeless children experience more school mobility, repeat a grade; are more likely to be expelled; have lower academic performance; and are 87% more likely to drop out of high school. When a homeless child can maintain enrollment in their home school district, their chances of having a successful outcome rise dramatically. Since returning to service in April 2021, we have helped transport 15 homeless children to their school district and maintain some sense of continuity during a traumatic time. Thanks to a grant from The Columbia Bank Foundation we were able to add vans to our fleet and hire Kristy Kazelskis as our Director of Operations to oversee the program.

We are excited to grow this program and look forward to helping many more children in the future.

Save the Date!

March 26, 2022

Our Comedy Night returns after a 2 year COVID hiatus. Please come show your support for all of our programs. More details to follow on our website and social media pages.



Adopt a Family for the Holidays

Are you or your business looking for a way to help a family in need this holiday season? We are looking for business and organizations to fulfill the wishes of an entire family. Our goal this year is to help 100 families. If you would like to be a part of this special giving season please email Victoria Osborn: vosborn@familypromiseswnj.org You will be provided with the families wish list and a date and time to drop off the gifts.



Our Programs

Pathway Home is a transitional housing program that provides temporary housing, food, and intensive case management services to families' already experiencing homelessness.

Promising Futures is our shelter prevention/diversion program. The prevention piece aims to keep a family stable in their own housing and avoid becoming homeless while the diversion piece assists families identified as homeless who have their own temporary shelter such as living doubled up with friends/family or staying in a motel.

Forever Home is a stabilization program that provides continued support and wrap-around services to families exiting the shelter. It prioritizes and protects the independence of families. Families enrolled in Forever Home are also included in our Well Wished, Birthday Club, Holiday Smiles initiatives.

Promise Rides provides busing services for school aged homeless children to their sending school districts until they are placed in permanent housing.

IMPACT100

SOUTH JERSEY

A Women's Collective Giving Circle

Network Update from CEO

Family Promise of Southwest New Jersey has yet had another eventful year. In June, we were awarded a grant from Impact 100 South Jersey to expand our Promising Futures Program through June 2023. The grant allowed us to hire Mackenzi Reilly as a part time case manager to assist our Program Director Victoria Osborn and will provide families with financial assistance to prevent them from becoming homeless or assist with securing new housing. So far this year, we have assisted over 50 families through our Pathway Home and Promising Futures Programs. We will continue to support all families through our Forever Home Stabilization Program, Well Wishes, Holiday Smiles and the Birthday Club.

We continue to build new partnerships with agencies within the community to further support our families as they return to permanent housing. We work alongside an amazing, supportive, and dedicated board of trustees, partner congregations and volunteers. Our vision for 2022 and beyond is to grow our Pathway Home Transitional Housing Program to provide families with an environment of independent living while working with our partners to secure their forever home.

"Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much"
– Helen Keller.

Family Success Story – Homeless to Homeowner

A single mom with two small kids had nowhere to turn this past June as she was being forced to leave an apartment she was staying at with her grandmother. The complex threatened to evict them all since the young mother was not on the lease. She was working full time but had not been able to save enough for a security deposit and first months' rent for her own place. Family Promise was her only hope to avoid staying in a motel or living in her car.

She entered the program and began working with the Director Victoria to establish short- and long-term goals to return to permanent housing, something she had not had for over 2 years. During her stay, she began saving her money and started the long arduous task of finding an apartment. We quickly learned that her rental applications were being rejected due to a low credit rating because of a \$632 outstanding electric bill. Thanks to funding received to support our Promising Futures Program, we were able to pay off the utility bill and help her begin to restore her credit.

On June 28th we received a call from a local mobile home park wanting to help a local homeless family with housing. Not just a rental, but an actual purchase of a mobile home!! We referred several of our families for this amazing opportunity, but it was this single mom with her 2 small children whose application was accepted. The managers of the complex could see how hard she was working to restore her credit and save money to get ahead. We assisted mom with additional funding towards her down payment and partnered with Catholic Charities for the balance. The family was in our program for 3 months when the big day came for them to settle on their new home. Truly their own home. This is the first family to come through our network and graduate as a homeowner. It was not an easy journey, but Family Promise was with her every step of the way. Our gracious volunteers provided her with dinner every night at the center and gift cards, furniture and other household items to welcome her new home.

"Before I was welcomed to Family Promise, I was frustrated and angry with my situation. Once I arrived, I realized that this was my blessing. From the staff to the volunteers, I couldn't have asked for better support. They provided everything I needed to succeed. I'm grateful every day for what they've done for me."