

### BE OUR GUEST: New Promise House Model

The original rotational shelter motel consisted of local churches hosting families. This closed as a result of COVID-19, and Family Promise has not returned to this model. In the Promise House program, Family Promise (FPSCC) rents apartments from landlords to be used as emergency housing. The Promise House allows families to stay in housing for up to ninety days. During this time, a FPSCC case manager works with families to establish and address goals, including gaining or improving employment, household budgeting/financial literacy, securing permanent housing, and connecting to entitlements (i. e. childcare, housing subsidies, food stamps, health care). Families also receive life skills training, such as how to utilize public transportation, improve their credit and financial situation, and build social networks, helping them to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness.



Three of FPSCC's current apartments have been rented from the Square Roots Collective, a collection of social enterprises focused on opportunities to advance the Kennett Square community toward an ecosystem in which everyone can thrive. Family Promise recently signed the lease on a fourth property and anticipate acquiring a fifth in the very near future. These homes have been instrumental in lifting up our families in need.

**New Year, New Board President**

We would like to introduce our new Board President, Karen E. Eichman, Esq. Karen is an attorney and managing member/owner of Eichman Law, PLLC. Before launching her private practice in January 2012, Karen spent nearly 28 years in Kennett Square as the Business Manager, and then General Counsel, of one of the largest mushroom farming organizations in the United States. Being part of the Southern Chester County community has always been at the heart of who Karen really is. Karen is involved with many local non-profits working to make a difference in her community, for her neighbors. She has been an amazing member of our Board since 2017 and is a past President of the Rotary Club of Kennett Square where she still serves.



**New Staff, New Faces, Laser Focused on the Same Mission**

Happy Spring! Hello Friends and Supports of Family Promise, I am thrilled to finally and formally introduce you to myself as the New (not so new) Executive Director of Family Promises of Southern Chester County.

I am Carol M. Lowe, and I have been appointed Executive Director as of September of 2022. I bring a track record of success in the nonprofit sector. My expertise and leadership skills will be instrumental in guiding Family Promise toward continued growth and success in the years to come.

I come with over 20 years of experience in non-profit management. I have spent most of my career as a social worker, working with organizations that support families and children and identify those facing social and economic hardships. My most recent role was as Executive of a local nonprofit focused on providing social services and life skills to low-income families facing various struggles, including locating affordable housing. I have also served on the Board of Directors of Family Promise since 2016. I am a lifelong resident of Kennett Square and love all things “Kennett” and believe everyone should be entitled to the “love and support of a hometown” like ours.





## SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

I am passionate about making a difference in the lives of those in need. I am committed to advancing our mission of helping families achieve sustainable independence through community-based partnerships. I am confident that with the continued support of our outstanding Board of Directors and my incredible staff, we will be the driving force behind the expansion and continued success of Family Promise.

The support of a strong team coupled with an engaged, involved, and active group of passionate volunteers from our faith-based partners and the community at large positions us to combat the problem of homelessness and realize our mission that Every Child Deserves a Home. I work daily to ensure that we remain committed to serving the children, families, and the community that rely on service.

During my brief time in this role, Family Promise has transitioned from our rotational model (and as a result of COVID) to our New Promise House apartment-style shelter model with an intensive budgeting and case management component. We have made some fantastic progress with the support of our loyal supporters, funders, faith partners, and Square Roots Collective to change the face of shelters and temporary living.

Our team and Board are more committed to positively impacting the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for your continuing support. Please feel free to stop by the Resource Center for a chat, a Coke or a coffee. I love good company, and I love any opportunity to talk about Kennett and Family Promise.

See ya'll real soon,

Carol



### New Staff, New Faces - Part 2

**Carol M. Lowe, MSW, LSW** - Executive Director

**Lisa Petrone, MSW, LSW** - Executive Administrative Assistant

**Shirlene Webster, MSW** - Case Manager

**Maria Arroyo-Garcia** - Administrative Assistant

**Guillermo Rivera** - Housing Specialist

**Beatrice Heider** - Development Manager

Not pictured: **Liz Crews** - Tulane University Intern



of Southern Chester County

**SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER**

**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 850 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:**

Karen E. Eichman, Esq.

**Vice President:**

George Lock

**Secretary:**

Tom Sausen

**Treasurer:**

Kari Jarmuz

**Directors:**

Tamara Acuna

Jorge Chamorro

Joan Deming-Murphy

Shelly Dutton

Angela Emrich

Robert F. Johnson

Burton F. Rothenberger

Cynthia Schofield

Michael Skay

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

**FAMILY PROMISE OF SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY**

**610-444-0400**

**WWW.FAMILYPROMISESCC.ORG**

FAMILY PROMISE IS NOT A GOVERNMENT AGENCY

## SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

### What Are We Reading?

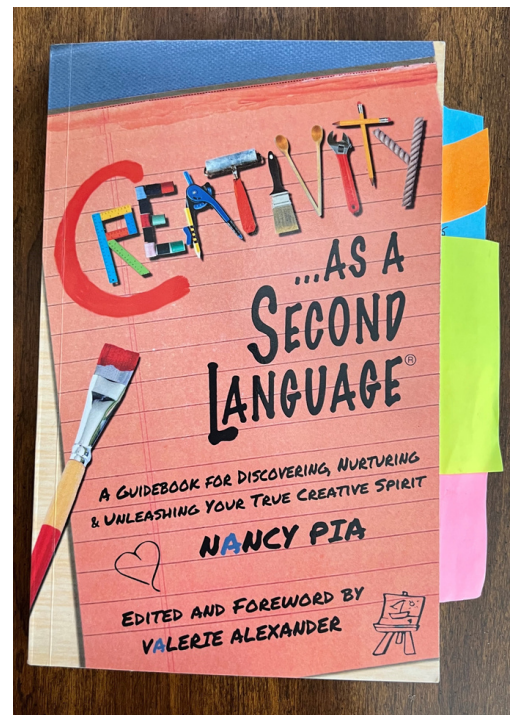
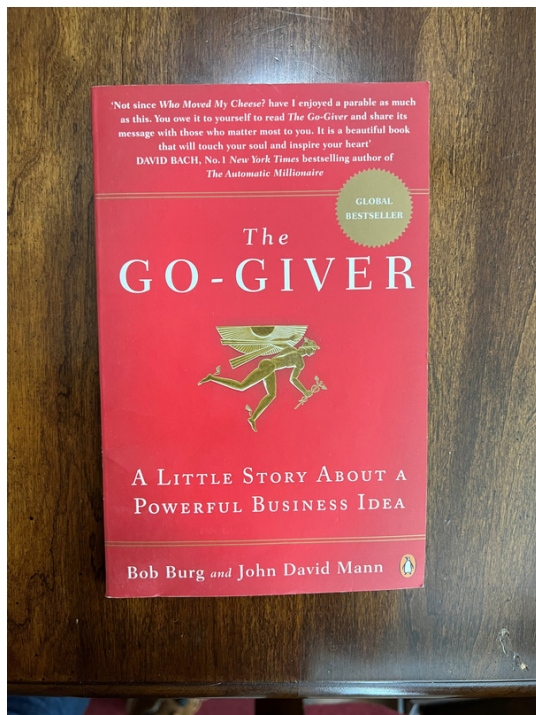
Burt Rothenburger, FPSCC Board member, enthusiastically this with us:

"Our daughter is very busy. She has a full-time job as a property manager, sells real estate on the side, her partner, her five 'boys' ages 18-22, three dogs, and one cat. So when she has time to read a book, we're amazed. Then when she says 'Dad, you HAVE to read this book' I take note. Well I read it. It's an easy read – short, only 127 pages. It's called "The Go-Giver". And now I say to all of you 'You HAVE to read this book.'"

Burt graciously gave us 12 copies and we are reading through it. We encourage you to read it as well!

Carol had the opportunity to meet with mother, businesswoman, artist, and generous donor, Nancy Pia. She read Nancy's book, "Creativity as a Second Language" and was blown away by its straight forward, common sense, life lessons approach to all things creativity, as well as getting in touch with your bigger purpose.

We are reading this, too, and suggest you do the same. only is this a good read, it's a great workbook for goal setting at any stage of your journey.





## Save the Date

### 8th Anniversary

## An Evening of Promise

### May 11th, 2023

Please "Save the Date" to join Family Promise of Southern Chester County at our 8th Annual fundraiser to help alleviate the problem of family homelessness in our community because ...

#### Every Child Deserves a Home

wine tasting   appetizers   desserts   silent auction

Creamery at Kennett Square

For more information, please visit [www.familypromisescc.org](http://www.familypromisescc.org)

### Ways You Can Help

Many of our families need help with gas money and/or groceries. This is especially important when families are transitioning into their own home to get back on their feet. Gift cards are always appreciated and a great way to offer that support. Here are some suggestions:

- Amazon gift cards
- GIANT gift cards
- Walmart gift cards
- Wawa gift cards

Monetary donations are always appreciated. Please visit [www.familypromisescc.org](http://www.familypromisescc.org) for more information.