

## **A Season of Giving**

As autumn gave way to winter, our community once again showed the power of compassion in action. Through our fall and holiday donation drives, supporters across Southern Chester County stepped up in remarkable ways to stand alongside families experiencing housing instability. Because of your generosity, families received essential household items, winter coats to keep them warm, and gifts that brought joy and excitement to children during the holidays. More than meeting immediate needs, these contributions sent a powerful message: our neighbors are not alone, and this community truly cares. Together, you helped create moments of comfort, dignity, and celebration during a difficult season. Thank you for helping make the holidays brighter and for continuing to be part of the promise of stability and hope for families we serve.



## WINTER 2026 NEWSLETTER

### Merry and Bright

Holiday magic filled the room as families supported by Family Promise of Southern Chester County came together to celebrate the season. For many parents and children, the evening offered something especially meaningful—a chance to pause, laugh, and simply enjoy being together. Children's faces lit up during visits with Santa as they eagerly shared their holiday wishes, while nearby tables buzzed with creativity at the craft and cookie-decorating stations. From carefully frosted cookies to handmade keepsakes, every activity invited families to slow down and savor the moment. Each child also received a special gift to take home, making the celebration even more memorable. Beyond the festivities, the evening created space for connection and joy—something every family deserves, especially during the holidays. We are deeply grateful to the volunteers and partners who helped make this celebration possible, with special thanks to St. Patrick's and Church of the Advent for their generosity and support.





### Message from Our Executive Director

The beginning of a new year often comes in softly. But here at Family Promise of Southern Chester County, there has been nothing small or quiet about what this community made possible in 2025. This is a season for pausing just long enough to look back with gratitude—and then rolling up our sleeves and leaning forward together.

Last year brought meaningful milestones. We continued to grow and strengthen our apartment-style Promise House shelter, keeping families together under one roof while giving them time to rest, regroup, and refocus. We expanded our eviction-prevention work, helping families stay housed before a hard moment turned into a crisis. We deepened partnerships with landlords, school districts, churches, volunteers, and donors—each one a steady hand helping families find their footing. We watched parents regain confidence. We watched children return to school with a sense of stability. We watched families move from uncertainty to keys in hand.

That kind of progress doesn't happen by chance. It happens when a community shows up with compassion, consistency, and a shared belief that families are worth investing in. When people feel supported, they rise—and we saw that again and again in 2025.

And still, we know there is more work to do.

Too many families are living one emergency away from homelessness. Our waiting lists remain full. Affordable housing is limited, and the need for prevention and stabilization continues to grow. So while we are proud of how far we've come, we are just as clear-eyed about what lies ahead.

As we look toward the year ahead, our focus remains steady:

- ▶ Strengthening eviction prevention and landlord partnerships
- ▶ Expanding mentoring and life-skills support for parents
- ▶ Supporting housing stability for families with school-aged children
- ▶ Building systems that allow us to respond with urgency, care, and dignity

At its heart, Family Promise is about people—about walking alongside families during hard seasons and reminding them they don't have to do it alone. We will keep doing this work until every child has a safe, stable place to call home.

Thank you for standing with us, believing in this mission, and helping turn compassion into action. I'm grateful for you—and hopeful for what we will continue to build together.

With Gratitude,



Wishing you peace,



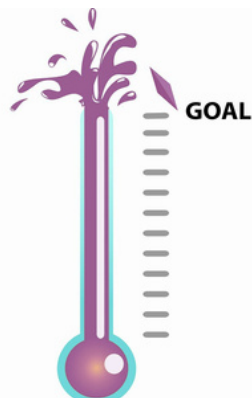
love,



and a place to call home.



### Annual Appeal



When a family walks through the doors of Family Promise, they are often carrying more than a suitcase. They bring uncertainty, exhaustion, and the hope that things can change. Thanks to the incredible response to this year's Annual Appeal, we are able to say "yes" to more families at that moment when it matters most. Our community came together to raise more than \$122,000—funds that are already helping families move from crisis to stability. These dollars support safe stays in our Promise House shelters, one-on-one case management that helps parents set and reach goals, and life-skills education that builds confidence and independence for the future. Because of you, parents are creating plans instead of facing impossible choices, and children are sleeping in safe spaces where they can focus on being kids. As the need continues to grow across southern Chester County, your generosity ensures that Family Promise can keep showing up with compassion, resources, and hope.

This is what community looks like in action—and we are deeply grateful to be building it together.

## **More Than An Address**

“I grew up moving.

My father served in the Army for 20 years, which meant our family followed his orders wherever they took us. Before I even entered middle school, I had lived in six different homes, in three different states and one country. And that number doesn’t include the temporary housing that filled the gaps between permanent moves. The longest I ever lived in one place was four years. For me, it was manageable. I was outgoing, curious, and fairly adaptable. I could walk into a classroom not knowing a soul and walk out with a few new friends by the end of the week.



My brother was different. He was introverted, thoughtful, and deeply rooted in familiarity. Every move was harder on him. Watching him struggle made me aware, even as a child, that while moving may look like an adventure from the outside, it can quietly disrupt a child’s sense of stability and belonging.

After my father retired, my parents wanted to move back to Pennsylvania, where they were from. But my brother and I had a different wish. We wanted to return to Virginia—the place we had lived the longest, the place where we still had friends, connections, and a sense of community. It wasn’t about geography. It was about familiarity. It was about wanting something, anything, that felt steady.

Today, through my work with Family Promise of Southern Chester County, I see the other side of frequent moves—the side where families don’t have the resources, choice, or safety net my family did. I see children who change schools midyear. Children who struggle to make friends because they don’t know how long they’ll stay. Children who carry the weight of instability into classrooms, playgrounds, and bedtime routines.

Even when shelter is safe and temporary housing is provided, the interruptions are real. Routines are broken. Confidence is shaken. Childhood becomes about adjusting instead of just being a kid.

Family Promise exists to minimize those disruptions. We work to keep families together, help children stay connected to their schools and communities, and move families as quickly as possible into stable, sustainable housing. Because stability changes everything. It allows children to focus on learning, growing, and dreaming instead of surviving.

My childhood taught me that resilience can grow in many conditions but it also taught me that stability matters. Every child deserves more than just a place to sleep. Every child deserves a place to belong. That’s what Family Promise is building, every day.”

**-Lisa Petrone, Executive Administrative Assistant**

## OUR END OF 2025 RECAP



200+  
INQUIRIES

97



FAMILIES SERVED IN  
CORE PROGRAMS



\$20,000  
IN RENTAL ASSISTANCE

2,164



NIGHTS OF SHELTER



100%  
OF PROMISE HOUSE  
FAMILIES MOVED INTO  
STABLE HOUSING

221

CHILDREN  
SERVED  
IN CORE PROGRAMS

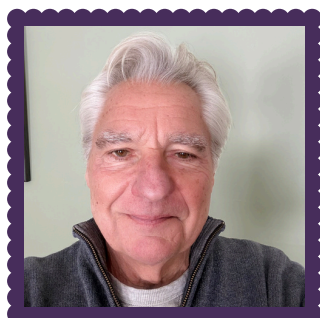


## Welcoming New Partnerships....



### Rosa Quintana

Rosa holds an MSS and MLSP in Social Work and a Doctorate in Public Administration. Early in her career, Rosa served as a Case Manager with Family Promise during the organization's early years, supporting families experiencing homelessness and contributing to foundational program development. Her background combines direct service experience with a strong understanding of public administration and nonprofit leadership.



### Frederick G. Wissemann

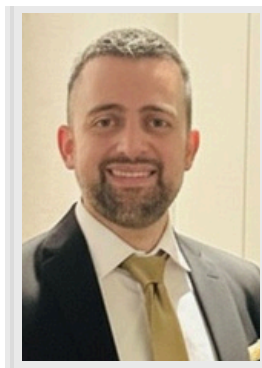
Fred was born and raised in New York City, where he attended college. He had a 38 year career with DuPont in the Automotive Coatings Business, holding various positions in R&D, Marketing, and Sales. Fred and his wife Karen have lived in the Kennett Square area for 37 years. Fred enjoys gardening, travel, and staying active. He's a former Board President of the Kennett Area Senior Center, and currently volunteers with Meals on Wheels of Chester County and RSVP in the Digital Literacy program.

## ... and Honoring Outgoing Board Members

### Tamara Acuna



Tamara faithfully served on our Board of Directors for the past three years, bringing both her professional experience and a deep commitment to giving back to the community. She was an active and engaged board member, participating in our Day of Promise Golf Outing and proudly representing women golfers. Tamara also offered thoughtful guidance and support to our staff around grant funding and development efforts.



### Jorge Chamorro

For six years, Jorge brought thoughtful insight, cultural humility, and a genuine passion for serving families experiencing homelessness in our community. His steady voice of encouragement, willingness to explore new approaches, and his desire to strengthen church and volunteer engagement have been invaluable to the growth of this affiliate. His kindness and quiet generosity strengthened both our mission and our community.

## WINTER 2026 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 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

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George Lock

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**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.