

Evening of Promise

Our hearts are full as we reflect on another incredible Evening of Promise. To everyone who attended, sponsored, volunteered, donated, bid in the auction, or helped behind the scenes—**thank you**. Your generosity, enthusiasm, and belief in our mission made this special evening a tremendous success.

Because of your support, families in Southern Chester County will continue to find hope, stability, and a path toward lasting independence. Every conversation, every contribution, and every act of kindness helps create brighter futures for parents and children experiencing homelessness.

Thank you for celebrating with us and for believing that every child deserves a home. **Together, we are building stronger families, stronger communities, and a future filled with promise.**



Evening of Promise



Message from the Executive Director

Hot Fun in the Summertime was the anthem of my teenage years growing up on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. I remember long summer evenings filled with laughter, glasses of ice-cold lemonade, chasing fireflies, and dreaming that those carefree days would never end.

As I reflect on those memories today, I can't help but think about what summer looks like for the families we serve. Instead of fireflies and front porches, many are sleeping in their cars or using the last of their savings to pay for a single night in an overcrowded motel room, simply hoping to escape the heat. Those images quickly replace the slow drawl and sweet memories of Southern summer nights.

At Family Promise of Southern Chester County, we are committed to giving families more than just a roof over their heads. We provide a safe place where parents can breathe, children can simply be children, and dreams that may have once felt impossible can begin to take shape—and, with hard work and support, become reality.

It's hard to believe we are already halfway through the year. There is still so much work to do, and so many families who need a place to call home.

This issue celebrates the promise made possible through your support. Inside, you'll find highlights from our Evening of Promise, updates on new grant investments that are strengthening our mission, inspiring success stories from Family Promise families, and a look at our commitment to responsible financial stewardship. Together, these stories reflect the impact we're making, one family, one partnership, and one act of generosity at a time.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for your continued generosity. Because of your support, we are able to walk alongside families as they move from crisis to stability, from uncertainty to hope. Together, we can ensure that every child has a safe place to call home.

Here's to making this a summer of hope, fresh beginnings, and promises kept. May every child have a safe place to dream, grow, and simply be a child.

Peace, Love, and a Home!



Grants Powering Hope

We are excited to share that Family Promise of Southern Chester County has been awarded several generous grants during the first half of this year that will strengthen our work to prevent and end family homelessness in our community. These vital funds will primarily support our Promise House program, but will also go towards shelter diversion and stabilization, ensuring that families in crisis receive the tools and support they need to achieve lasting stability.

We are deeply grateful to our funding partners for believing in our mission and investing in the future of families throughout southern Chester County. Together, we are building a community where every child has a safe place to call home.



Applestone Foundation



Volunteer Spotlight

We'd like to take a moment to celebrate one of our incredible volunteers - **Maria Bolten** - for sharing her time, compassion, and talents with Family Promise of Southern Chester County. Whether assisting with the Promise of Clean Laundry, organizing donation drives, helping out at our Promises Houses, or lending a helping hand at our community events, Maria's dedication helps create hope and stability for families experiencing homelessness. Her willingness to serve wherever she's needed truly makes a difference. We are so grateful to have her as a part of the Family Promise family!



Maria (L) and Jess, Volunteer Coordinator (R)

Journey to Home

L.K., a single mother, and her 3-year-old daughter, were staying with friends but since the friends were not allowed to have extra people or risk being evicted, L.K. had to move out. With no family willing to help, she and her daughter ended up living in her car. The below is her story of having been a Promise House participant.

“Three weeks ago, I moved into my own place through a shelter program dedicated to keeping families together. Since then, my life has transformed in ways I couldn’t have imaged. I now live in a fully furnished apartment located in a beautiful, peaceful community with my daughter by my side. This program has provided us with more than just housing: it has given us stability, safety, and a sense of belonging. For the first time in a long time, I feel at peace. The calmness of our new environment has allowed me to focus on my goals and well-being in just a few short weeks. I’ve made significant progress: I enrolled my daughter in childcare, secured full-time employment, and have made space for self-care by going to the gym and spending time in nature. It’s truly been a breath of fresh air. Most importantly, my daughter is thriving. She finally gets to see her mom calm, centered, and happy after months of hardship. This opportunity has allowed me to begin healing, growing, and building a better future for both of us. I am deeply grateful for the support this program provides. It has changed our lives.”



When R.Y. entered the program, she was facing an unexpected housing crisis. After the end of her relationship with her daughter's father, she and her four-year-old daughter were left without stable housing and relied on the generosity of a friend while she continued working as a school bus driver. Despite the uncertainty, R.Y. remained determined to create a better future for her family.

Working closely with her case manager, R.Y. developed a comprehensive plan focused on housing stability, financial wellness, and career advancement. She met regularly with staff to establish goals, build savings, apply for public benefits, address credit challenges, and strengthen her long-term financial health.

R.Y. steadily built her savings, paid off her auto loan, reduced her credit card debt, opened a certificate of deposit (CD) to continue growing her savings, and secured additional support through community partners.

Today, R.Y. and her daughter are successfully settled into their new home. She furnished the apartment, continues making progress on her financial goals, has applied for SNAP benefits and a work permit, and remains committed to reducing debt while planning for the future. With stable housing now in place, R.Y. has begun looking ahead to an even bigger goal—becoming a first-time homeowner.



Financial Stewardship

by George Lock, Board Vice President



Financial stewardship is the quiet engine that keeps a nonprofit's mission moving. When an organization relies on grants, donations, and community trust, the way it manages its money becomes just as important as the programs it delivers. Budgeting and forecasting aren't just administrative tasks—they're strategic disciplines that protect the mission, strengthen credibility, and ensure long-term impact.

Why Financial Stewardship Matters

Nonprofits operate in an environment where every dollar must be justified. Strong stewardship signals responsibility to donors, board members, and the communities served. It builds confidence that resources are being used wisely, that the organization is stable, and that its mission is sustainable. Without it, even the most inspiring cause can falter.



Budgeting: The Blueprint for Mission Success

A thoughtful budget translates vision into action. It helps leaders:

- **Allocate resources intentionally, ensuring programs have what they need to succeed.**
- **Identify constraints early, preventing financial surprises that can derail operations.**
- **Align spending with strategic priorities, keeping the organization focused on what matters most.**

For nonprofits, a budget isn't static—it's a living document that guides decisions throughout the year.

Forecasting: Preparing for an Uncertain Future

Nonprofits often face unpredictable revenue streams. Forecasting helps them anticipate change and adapt with confidence. Effective forecasting allows organizations to:

- **Model different financial scenarios, from optimistic to conservative.**
- **Plan for fluctuations in donations or grant cycles.**
- **Make informed decisions about hiring, program expansion, or capital investments.**

Forecasting transforms uncertainty into preparedness.



The Strategic Payoff

When stewardship, budgeting, and forecasting work together, nonprofits gain clarity and resilience. They can demonstrate accountability, attract funding, and navigate challenges without compromising their mission. Ultimately, strong financial management empowers nonprofits to do what they were created to do—serve their communities with integrity and impact.



SUMMER 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

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