



## A Message from Our CEO

At Family Promise, we're dedicated to supporting families facing homelessness through every stage of their journey. That can mean preventing an eviction to keep a family in their home or sheltering a family together as they work toward independence. Or, as several Family Promise sites in Southern California recently experienced, helping families displaced by rampant wildfires start anew.

In this issue, you'll read how our teams worked tirelessly to help families evacuate, find temporary shelter, and ensure their safety as fires ravaged their communities.

During times of crisis, our commitment to meeting families where they are becomes even more vital. We don't just provide a roof overhead—we offer compassion, stability, and the resources families need to rebuild their lives. The wildfires serve as a reminder of the power of community collaboration, and we are proud to be part of a network that stands strong with families when they need it most.

You are part of that network, too, and for that we are truly thankful.

With gratitude,

Cheryl Schuch  
CEO



## From Ashes to Hope

Families facing homelessness often call Family Promise a beacon of hope. For many in Southern California, it has proven that compassion and resilience can light the way, even in the darkest times.

Amid the chaos of raging wildfires earlier this winter, thousands of families were forced to evacuate, and replacement housing was nearly impossible to find. As fires rapidly escalated, evacuation orders were triggered across the region, leaving many with nowhere to turn.

At Family Promise of Santa Clarita Valley in Newhall, staff drove 17 miles to help four families sheltered at their interim housing facility pack up and leave.

"When you have to evacuate in an emergency, you don't have time to plan," says Program Director Monica Holmes. "Families who've already lost everything often want to hold onto even the smallest possessions. One person saved just a shirt, saying, 'This was my uncle's, I have to save it.'"

The evacuation underscored the emotional toll of homelessness on families. After sheltering at Family Promise's resource center for three days, the families were able to return to the interim housing facility. However, the threat of ongoing fires and the potential for another major loss stirred feelings of uncertainty for those who had already lost their homes.

Family Promise continues to be at the forefront of community response in the areas it serves. One family who lost everything had secured a rental home but had no possessions. Partnering with another Family Promise site and a local retailer, Family Promise of Santa Clarita Valley secured nearly \$13,000 in donations to furnish the home.

"It was a beautiful way to see Family Promise bring the community together," says Holmes.

Family Promise has also been essential in providing shelter for families affected by the fires. In San Gabriel Valley, local agencies and the Red Cross have turned to Family Promise for support as they struggle to meet demand. Family Promise of San Gabriel Valley is providing temporary housing for ten families and working with local motels to house more, even as many of its own team are recovering from loss due to the fires.

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**So many families are in trouble, and we want to help as many as we can.**

—Lanita Tademy, Executive Director, Family Promise of San Gabriel Valley



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Family Promise is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit addressing the crisis of family homelessness.



## Family Promise Giving Day 2025 April 22, 2025

Your support can change a family's future. Make a gift at any time between April 15 and April 22 and give families in need the promise of a home.

Visit [bit.ly/fp-giving-day-2025](https://bit.ly/fp-giving-day-2025) to give the gift of hope!

## Make a Lasting Difference

Family Promise's Loyalty Circle recognizes individuals who have made a gift of \$1,000 or more for three consecutive years. Please consider joining this group of dedicated friends who are transforming the lives of families facing homelessness.



## Celebrate Mother's Day with a gift that changes lives!

Partnering with Mothers' Day Movement, Family Promise is shining a light on moms and families struggling with homelessness. More than half the families who turn to Family Promise are single-mother households. Your support helps them regain stability, security, and a home.

This Mother's Day, join us and honor a mom or special woman in your life with a gift that gives hope to moms and families in need. Make a donation, and we'll send a special Mother's Day e-card to the individual you name.

Use the QR code to make a gift today!



## From Ashes to Hope *(continued from page 1)*

“So many families are in trouble, and we want to help as many as we can,” says Executive Director Lanita Tademy.

Family Promise has also distributed vital items like diapers and toiletries. For families whose homes were spared, Family Promise is assisting with lost wages due to missed work, helping families navigate insurance claims, and supporting their return to normalcy. Thanks to Family Promise, two families who evacuated during the wildfires have successfully transitioned into long-term housing, with one recently signing a lease for their new home.

Family Promise’s efforts in the aftermath of the fires highlight the ongoing commitment to provide a safety net for families in crisis, ensuring they have the resources and support to rebuild their lives.

“We don’t want to leave any family behind,” notes Tademy. “We’re all trying to rebuild, and Family Promise is here to help.”



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## Family Promise Union County Welcomes New Executive Director

Peter Jacob was recently named the new executive director for Family Promise Union County, NJ, Family Promise’s founding location.

A lifelong resident of Union County, Jacob is a licensed clinical social worker with a strong background in housing. With nearly two decades of experience in the nonprofit sector, he most recently served as the director of housing at the Jewish Family Service of Central NJ, where he led initiatives focused on homelessness prevention, diversion, and housing services.

“I’m thrilled to welcome Peter to Family Promise Union County,” says Geleen Donovan, who retired after 20 years with Family Promise Union County and served as interim executive director during the search for her successor. “His extensive background in homelessness services and deep community ties will ensure that Family Promise Union County continues to successfully guide families to sustainable independence.”

Jacob will lead a team that served 1,073 individuals and 319 families last year, providing vital support to those in need.

“Housing is a human right,” Jacob says. “I look forward to serving our community alongside the Family Promise Union County team to ensure all families have a safe and stable place to call home.”

Jacob’s career began at the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, where he worked in advocacy, supported

a transitional housing program, and coordinated a winter shelter initiative in collaboration with local congregations. Before joining the Jewish Family Service of Central NJ in 2019, Jacob was the Democratic Party nominee for New Jersey’s 7th Congressional District in 2016 and ran again as a candidate in 2018.

Jacob holds a B.A. degree in Sociology from Kean University and Master of Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis.



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**I look forward to serving our community alongside the Family Promise Union County team to ensure all families have a safe and stable place to call home.”**

—Peter Jacob



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## News from Family Promise

“  
Working with Family Promise really felt like rising up from the ashes. We had lost everything, but at Family Promise we figured out how to rebuild and move forward.”

—Family Promise mom

