

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2024



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear friends,

They say the only constant is change, and here at Family Promise Union County, we know that well. As the founding location of the Family Promise network established more than 30 years ago, we've grown and evolved alongside the families we serve. Over the decades, our programs have adapted to meet the shifting realities of homelessness in Union County.

In 2024, Family Promise Union County served 319 families with comprehensive supportive services, a testament to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and supporters. I'm honored to have recently joined this incredible organization as executive director, following the retirement of Geleen Donovan earlier this year.

Geleen's extraordinary leadership helped make this organization one of the state's most trusted service providers and a leading voice in the conversation around family homelessness in New Jersey. I'm grateful that she continues to support our mission in her new role as Special Projects Coordinator, ensuring that her

deep knowledge and lasting impact remain an integral part of our work.

In my short time here, one thing has already become clear: the need in our community is growing, and so is our resolve to meet it. A shortage of affordable housing, rising rents, and economic uncertainty continue to put families at risk. But shelter alone is not the answer. That's why we're expanding our programs to offer not just emergency support, but long-term solutions. We remain deeply committed to Compassionate Housing Solutions that increase access to safe, affordable, and dignified housing. Every step we take is grounded in compassion, driven by community involvement, and focused on ensuring every family has a place to call home.

As you read through our 2024 Annual Impact Report, I hope you'll see the power of your support reflected in every number, story, and success. Thank you for standing with families when they need it most.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter J".

Peter Jacob
Executive Director



The need in our community is growing, and so is our resolve to meet it.



Family Promise Union County, often referred to as FPUC, is the founding location of the Family Promise national network. Today, we operate in Elizabeth, New Jersey, confronting the crisis of family homelessness in Union County through comprehensive services and compassionate solutions that address homelessness prevention, emergency shelter, stabilization, and affordable housing.

We're a leading service provider in the region. In 2024, we launched our Stabilization Program, providing ongoing case management to families in permanent housing to help ensure long-term stability.

A **stable**
home is the
foundation
for a **brighter**
future.



2024 IMPACT AT A GLANCE



Our core programs of Prevention, Shelter, Housing, and Stabilization offer support and intervention for families experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing housing. Together with community services that provide wraparound support, these programs meet families where they are on their journey to long-term stability.



53

families moved into
permanent housing



1,073

individuals served



500

community volunteers



179

families served with
homelessness prevention
programming



700

children served



129

families supported with
stabilization services



319

families served



9,098

nights of
shelter

PREVENTION

Eviction prevention and shelter diversion are among the most effective ways to address the crisis of family homelessness, which has long-term repercussions for children. By preventing this traumatic experience, families can focus on their immediate needs — housing and stability. Our Prevention Program provides families with the support and resources they need to remain in their homes while overcoming the challenges that threaten their housing security. In addition, shelter diversion services help families who have lost housing quickly regain stability and independence.



I appreciate [Family Promise] making it possible that I'm no longer facing eviction. You can imagine the huge weight that's lifted off my chest. I hope they continue to assist families facing the same circumstances the way they helped me, because they DO make a difference!

—Family Promise Union County mom

179 families served with homelessness prevention programming



STAYING ON TRACK

Elaine and her children — one with special needs — were living in unsafe and unsanitary conditions due to a negligent landlord. She had found a new apartment that accepted her housing voucher, but she couldn't afford the full broker fee required to move in. With support from Family Promise Union County's Prevention Program, Elaine was able to cover the fee and sign the lease. Today, she and her children are thriving in their own home.



SHELTER

For families facing homelessness, safe and secure shelter that keeps them together is essential for achieving long-term stability and minimizing trauma. Since 2020, we have provided temporary emergency shelter through a network of apartments across Union County. Partnering with local landlords, this **innovative shelter model offers families a private, stable environment** that reduces the stigma and emotional toll often associated with homelessness. Children in our program often don't even realize they're in a shelter setting. By keeping families together, our unique approach helps them regain stability and build a foundation for lasting success.

11 families found shelter when they had nowhere to turn

A NEW CHAPTER

Shirley, a devoted mother, was doing everything she could to keep her family afloat. Despite working a steady job, the rising cost of rent kept her trapped in a cycle of financial stress. For years, she pieced together support from various social service agencies just to cover back rent, but each month felt like starting over. It was exhausting and unsustainable.

That changed when she found Family Promise Union County.

Family Promise recognized that Shirley needed to find a practical solution. The temporary assistance she had relied on was only delaying an inevitable eviction. With compassion and honesty, FPUC helped Shirley make the difficult decision to leave the home her family had known for three years and enter Family Promise's Shelter Program.

It wasn't easy, but Shirley was determined to create lasting stability for her children. Through FPUC's Shelter and Stabilization Programs, Shirley received the intensive support she needed: case management, practical guidance, financial assistance, and a clear plan forward. Working together, she found a new home that was safe, affordable, and close to her children's new school. FPUC helped secure support for the security deposit, move-in expenses, and household essentials to give the family a fresh start.

To ensure a smooth transition for the kids, FPUC worked closely with the school district to advocate for appropriate placement and supportive services. FPUC also assisted with school uniforms and after-school care and helped maintain a sense of stability during a period of significant change. Empowered by a strong support network and renewed

confidence, Shirley found a better job closer to their new home, boosting her income and reducing her commute.

Today, Shirley and her children are thriving in a stable home. For the first time in years, she has the peace of mind that comes with knowing she's building a future on solid ground.

Thanks to a generous gift from the **Westfield Foundation**, we furnished our shelter apartments, transforming them into warm, welcoming spaces. This investment gave families a sense of dignity, comfort, and home. When one family arrived and stepped inside for the first time, their 10-year-old son explored each room with wide eyes before exclaiming, "Wow, I can't believe we're going to be living in such a nice apartment!"



HOUSING

One of the toughest challenges families face today is a shortage of affordable housing. A child's future begins at home, yet millions of families find themselves unable to secure a safe, affordable home connected to essential community resources. Family Promise Union County's Housing Program provides stable solutions for families facing homelessness. Through initiatives like rapid rehousing, master leasing, refurbishing vacant properties, and other innovative approaches, Family Promise expands the availability of affordable housing in communities nationwide, ensuring families have a place to call home.

53 families moved into **permanent housing**



250 landlord partners in Union County facilitate housing for families in crisis



[Family Promise] gave me comfort when I needed it most, as well as the resources to get back on my feet.

—Family Promise Union County mom

THE KEY TO HOPE

When Denise became seriously ill while living in a situation of domestic violence, she knew she had to act to protect herself and her children. She took a leave from work and made the difficult decision to relocate. During this critical time, FPUC offered the compassion and support she needed, along with the resources to help her regain stability. Today, Denise and her children are in a safe home, and she is healthy and building a bright future.



STABILIZATION

A family's well-being depends on a comprehensive support system that addresses essential areas such as employment, financial literacy, education, health and wellness, transportation, and food security. Family Promise Union County's Stabilization Program is a support network that connects families to the expertise and resources they need to navigate and overcome unexpected challenges, maintain economic stability, and remain housed, keeping them on track for long-term success.

A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Family Promise Union County initiatives like Healthy Homes and Healthy Kitchens provide families with nutrition education, healthy recipes, and tips for meal preparation. Families then receive basic kitchenware and pantry staples appropriate for their individual nutritional and cultural needs.

Our Bridge to Success initiative provides critical financial assistance to families facing unexpected expenses. Whether it's car repairs, uniforms for school or work, storage fees, driving lessons, essential medications, or other necessities, this support network helps families stay on track toward stability and independence.



We felt such extreme relief knowing we were going to have a place to stay and that our family could be together again.

-Family Promise Union County mom

2,400+ households screened for housing stability*

* including Spanish-speaking screenings



FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE

Government	\$566,669
Foundations	\$227,594
Events & Fundraising	\$180,747
Individuals	\$125,449
In-kind	\$103,642
Civic Groups & Congregations	\$63,094
Corporations	\$35,740
TOTAL	\$1,302,935

EXPENSES

Personnel	\$560,771
Direct Assistance	\$288,826
Programs	\$255,703
Operations	\$197,635
TOTAL	\$1,302,935

OUR 2024 TEAM



FAMILY PROMISE UNION COUNTY OFFICE

Geleen Donovan,
Executive Director

Ashely S. Allen	Rhonda Brown
Brenda Almanzar	Diane Esty
Debbie Almanzar	Risé Grady
Claire Boylan	Robbin Sims

ADVISORY BOARD

In 2024, Family Promise Union County established an advisory board of community leaders committed to promoting housing equity and supporting families facing homelessness.

Heidi Block	Rev. Jane McCready
Dr. Jeanine Bulan	Rev. Gladys Moore
Lisa Callender	Rodney Ross
Samantha Carpio	Rev. Dr. Evans Spagner
Beth Cohen	Dan Tinkoff
Carey Elias	Dana Turk
Regina Feeney	Dr. Judy Washington
Judith McCarthy	



A Legacy of Service and A Vision for Tomorrow

In 2024, Family Promise Union County Executive Director Geleen Donovan announced her pending retirement after more than 20 years with the organization. During her tenure, Geleen pioneered innovative housing and shelter initiatives, including introducing shelter diversion in New Jersey, an approach that quickly rehouses families facing homelessness to avoid a shelter stay. Under her leadership, FPUC was recognized as a leading service provider and a key voice in the statewide conversation around affordable housing. Geleen officially stepped down from her role in January 2025 and continues to support FPUC's work as Special Projects Coordinator.

Peter Jacob, a lifelong Union County resident and licensed clinical social worker, was named the new executive director in March of 2025. With nearly two decades of experience in the nonprofit sector, Peter most recently led homelessness prevention, diversion, and housing services at the Jewish Family Service of Central NJ.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS & VOLUNTEERS

The work of Family Promise Union County is made possible through extensive partnerships and collaborations. This involves businesses, civic groups, congregations, community organizations, volunteers, and other Family Promise locations in New Jersey who offer their time, resources, and support to assist families facing homelessness in Union County.

Our volunteers bring the community together in support of families facing homelessness. Every day, hundreds of volunteers help us deliver innovative solutions for families in crisis.



HOSPITALITY WITH HEART

At Family Promise Union County, we believe a home is more than a roof overhead. It's the foundation for stability, dignity, and hope. Few embodied this belief more fully than Bob Hasbrouck, a devoted champion of FPUC from the very start.

Bob's journey with FPUC began at our first meeting, when our founder, Karen Olson, shared her vision of creating a nonprofit dedicated to supporting families facing homelessness. From that day forward, Bob was committed. He not only gave his time but also brought valuable insight to our work. He understood the critical role transportation plays in a family's ability to thrive and saw what many overlooked: that reliable transportation is key to a family's journey to independence, opening doors to employment, education, and healthcare. He began donating funds for the purchase and maintenance of vehicles for families in need.



In 2020, Bob transformed his belief into lasting impact by establishing a fund that is a vital resource for families transitioning out of shelter, helping them secure or repair vehicles and take the next step toward lasting independence. Since its creation, 16 families have been supported by the fund – 16 families who kept moving forward thanks to Bob's vision and generosity.

Though we were heartbroken to lose Bob in late 2024, his legacy continues in every mile traveled by those he helped. Through the fund he established and the countless lives he touched, Bob remains part of our Family Promise story, a shining example of what it means to serve with heart. The Bob Hasbrouck Transportation Fund honors Bob's memory and carries forward his mission, ensuring his commitment to helping families on the road to independence continues for years to come.



FAMILY PROMISE UNION COUNTY LOOKING AHEAD

For the past 12 years, Family Promise Union County has operated out of First Baptist Church in Elizabeth. In the summer of 2021, we suffered a devastating loss when Hurricane Ida brought severe flooding that destroyed equipment and supplies and rendered our offices unusable. Despite the damage, we quickly set up a makeshift workspace in another area of the building and continued operations without interruption.

As our programs have expanded, so has our dream of finding a space better suited to our needs. In 2022, Family Promise Union County was awarded an \$875,000 Congressional Direct Spending Grant, sponsored by New Jersey Senator Cory Booker, to purchase and renovate a new building. Our new space at 905 Watchung Avenue in Plainfield will house our administrative offices and feature two apartments. We're excited to begin renovations and prepare this space to serve even more families in the years ahead!





Family Promise Union County works to prevent and end family homelessness in Union County, New Jersey. As part of the national Family Promise network, we create impact, reduce community costs, and keep families together.

Learn more and get involved at:

familypromise.org/what-we-do/fp-union-county

OFFICE: 908-289-7300

EMAIL: info@familypromise.org

Please visit us on:

 [FamilyPromiseUnionCounty](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyPromiseUnionCounty)

 [familypromiseuc](https://www.instagram.com/familypromiseuc)

 [Family Promise Union County](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Family Promise Union County)