



This year in America, more than 2.5 million children & their parents will experience homelessness.

Background

One out of every seven people in the United States lives in poverty. If you consider only children, that figure jumps to nearly one in four.

Families living in poverty face daunting obstacles. Their jobs don't pay a living wage. Their housing is often unsafe, dangerous, or both. Quality childcare, health care, and education are often out of reach. They live from one paycheck to the next—even if both parents work. Every day, they have to make choices as agonizing as whether to put food on the table or pay the rent. An illness or a car repair can upset a budget's delicate balance and drive a family into homelessness. In fact, families with children are the fastest-growing segment of the nation's homeless.

Communities can make a difference. Family Promise helps by building bridges between people in need and people who want to help.

Family Promise is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence. We are based in Summit, New Jersey, where we began our work in 1988, founded on the belief that Americans are compassionate people who want to make a difference. Today we have 202 Affiliates in 42 states, with more in development. Family Promise is a leader in promoting volunteerism and has served as a model of American volunteerism in the U. S. and abroad. Our programs involve more than 180,000 volunteers. They provide assistance to more than 50,000 family members annually. Family Promise was chosen to receive one of 21 Points of Light awards out of a field of more than 4,500 nominees.



We are a local response to a national crisis, helping homeless families build new lives.

The Work We Do

As our name suggests, we focus our efforts on assisting homeless and low-income families and on addressing the factors that perpetuate poverty. In response to the needs of families, we have expanded our commitment to five programs.

Family Promise Program

This is the flagship program for each Affiliate, comprising a network of volunteers providing shelter, meals, and support services to homeless families. Each Affiliate is a partnership mobilizing community resources: houses of worship for lodging, congregations for volunteers, social service agencies for assessment and referrals, and existing facilities for day programs.

Because they rely on existing facilities, Affiliates are extremely cost-effective. With the exception of the paid Director and case manager, volunteers donate all the time, labor, and supplies needed to run the Affiliate.

Volunteers are the heart of the Family Promise Program. They are essential to our philosophy of offering dignified and compassionate assistance. They furnish meals, overnight lodging . . . and hope. They help families find jobs, help them find and furnish housing, and assist them financially with security deposits.

Each Affiliate includes 10 to 13 houses of worship and 800 to 1,000 volunteers. Host congregations provide overnight shelter, meals, and support services to three to five families for one week every two to three months on a rotating schedule. Each Affiliate can serve approximately 175 homeless family members annually.



Family Mentoring

Our initiative to prevent homelessness trains volunteers to advise and advocate for at-risk families, helping them achieve and maintain self-sufficiency. The mentoring program seeks to help families maintain independence and attain greater economic stability, to nurture and support their children, to strengthen the self-esteem of parents and children, and to help families secure employment and job training opportunities.

Low-income families face enormous stresses—and the pressure can severely disrupt family life. Mentors provide vital support as friends, advocates, and bridges to the community. They help family members connect with community resources and secure needed services. They teach life-skills that help the head of household set and meet individual and family goals. They help low-income families surmount the barriers they encounter as they work toward financial stability and independence.

Just Neighbors

Our interactive educational curriculum raises awareness of poverty and homelessness and their root causes as the first step in engaging communities in helping low-income people. Just Neighbors has three goals:

- to educate participants about poverty in the United States
- to inspire them to greater service to people in poverty
- to empower them as advocates for people in need

Just Neighbors points the way to greater understanding—of problems and solutions. Most importantly, it inspires people to undertake initiatives to benefit low-income people.

The program ToolKit includes everything needed for a successful program—original videos, hands-on activities, role-playing exercises, and thought-provoking discussions. Its comprehensive facilitator's guide provides all the information that is needed to lead each of the one-hour sessions.

Community Initiatives

From the common basic beginning of providing shelter, meals, and support services to homeless families, many affiliates go on to do much more. Personal concern for the circumstances affecting people they have come to know inspires affiliates to create new programs and partnerships to solve problems that meet local needs.

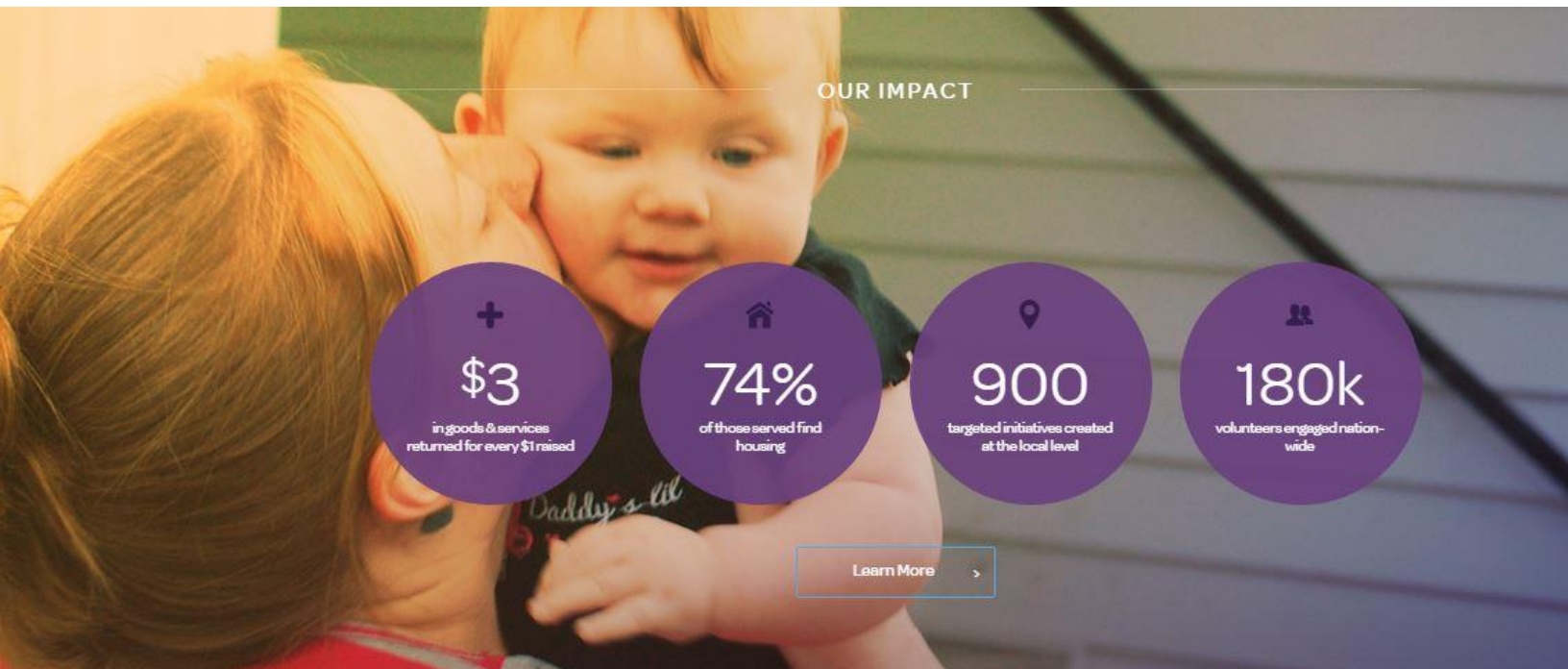
These initiatives have included the creation of permanent supportive housing, financial literacy and parenting classes, child care and children's enrichment programs, and job training and health care services.



Voices Uniting

The Family Promise Program has been replicated in 42 states and is highly successful in helping low-income families secure housing and employment—however, for families to rise above cyclical poverty, further action is required to overcome systemic issues like lack of affordable housing and jobs that don't pay a living wage. Family Promise is committed to addressing programs and policies that impact low-income families daily.

Voices Uniting mobilizes and supports clergy, volunteers, and former guests as advocates for public policies that alleviate poverty and promote economic stability of low-income families. This program provides a way for voices to be heard not often present in the policy process.



Facts and Figures

- Family Promise was founded in Summit, NJ in 1988 by Karen Olson, who currently serves as President Emeritus.
- More than 6,000 congregations and organizations are involved in Family Promise programs.
- 202 Affiliates in 42 states: AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, DE, FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IN, IL, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA,



SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI and WY.

- More than 180,000 volunteers are involved in Family Promise Affiliates.
- More than 700,000 men, women and children have been helped through Family Promise programs.
- On average, 74% of guest families secure permanent or transitional housing in less than nine weeks.
- In a typical Affiliate, 60% of the guests are children, most of whom are under six years old.
- Through the mobilization of existing community resources and thousands of volunteers, Family Promise provides comprehensive services to families at a fraction of the cost of government programs.
- As an outgrowth of the Family Promise Program, over 900 direct service and housing programs have been developed.
- In 2016, for the fourth consecutive year, Family Promise has been rated a Four Star Charity by Charity Navigator with a score of 99.97 out of 100.
- In 1992, Family Promise received the President's Annual Points of Light Award for being one of the top twenty volunteer agencies in the country.
- Family Promise has been selected to represent American Volunteerism for three consecutive years in a special project, jointly sponsored by the United States Information Agency and The Points of Light Foundation, involving visitors from ten foreign countries.
- Through its thousands of volunteers, Family Promise has proven that people do care about the homeless. Family Promise gives people who want to help, a way to help



Family Promise®

Building communities, strengthening lives.



Family Promise® Affiliates

200 Affiliates Operating Nationwide
39 Developing Affiliates



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