

RYAN A. BIZZARRO, CHAIRMAN

414 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
P.O. BOX 202003
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2003
(717) 772-2297
FAX: (717) 780-4767



HOUSE DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH *of* PENNSYLVANIA

House Democratic Policy Committee Hearing

Supporting Our Families

Wednesday, May 10 | 10:00 a.m.

Representative Melissa Cerrato
Representative Ben Sanchez

10:00 a.m.

FIRST STOP

[Family Promise](#)

Marsha Eichelberger, Executive Director,
31 S. Spring Garden St., Ambler, PA 19002

SECOND STOP

Salem Baptist Church, Food Pantry
2801 Woodland Road, Roslyn PA 19001

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH *of* PENNSYLVANIA



2023 Board of Directors

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Community Volunteer

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Principal, LAM Consulting Services, LLC

Mark Whaley, Board Treasurer
Community Volunteer

Priya Bell, Board Secretary
Site Acquisition Associate, Network Building & Consulting

John Armstrong
Owner, Armstrong Supply Company

Deidre Patterson
President, R.O.S.E. Foundation

Shelia Carter
Associate Director of Learning & Development,
Merck

Rev. Charles W. Quann
Pastor, Bethlehem Baptist
Church

Kewin Gales
Senior VP and Chief Human Resources Officer,
Prometric

Karen Sanchez
Attorney, Obermayer Law Firm; Controller,
Montgomery County

Madison Gindea
Community Volunteer, Student

Sherry Shoemaker
Community Volunteer

Dr. Wanda Lewis-Campbell
(Ret.) Director of Student Life, Temple University

Tom Wynn
Community Volunteer

LaDon Marsh
Chair, Department of Finance, Salem Baptist
Church

David Zimmerman
(Ret.) Global Banking Executive, IBM

Bill Martin
Controller, Gateway Search Associates



2023 Staff

Marsha Eichelberger

Executive Director

Debbie Badger

Director of Technology and Administration

Rich Cirko

Special Projects Coordinator

Marilyn Frazier

IHN Planning Coordinator

Robin Hinton

Administrative Assistant

Tiffany Jones

Director of Program Services

Devon Lassiter

Case Manager

Meaghan McBride

IHN Operations Coordinator

Catherine Simon

Development Coordinator

Kyla Turbett

Technology and Engagement Coordinator

Anne Whitney

Finance and Human Resources Manager


LaToya Williams

Food Pantry Manager

Sue Zomberg

Community Engagement Manager

*Building
community,
strengthening
lives*

2022 IMPACT REPORT
 Family Promise
Montco PA
An Interfaith Response to Homelessness and Hunger

A message from our director and president

Dear Family Promise Community,

What an exciting year it has been! After two years of focusing on our response to pandemic-related needs, Family Promise Montco is moving forward to develop a resilient community ready to ensure that all of our neighbors have access to enough nutritious food and safe, stable housing—regardless of the circumstances.

It's an ambitious vision, and one that we work toward every day in partnership with local congregations, businesses, government, and individuals. Each of us makes a contribution toward this vision in a small way and collectively our efforts are creating real change in our community.

We made several small changes in the past year, although they feel big to us! The Family Promise Food Pantry (formerly the Interfaith Food Cupboard) found a new home at Salem Baptist Church in Roslyn. This larger facility will help us to meet our community's increasing food needs as wages fail to keep up with inflation. We also expanded our hours to make the food pantry more accessible to working families.

Did you know that we were the fourth Family Promise affiliate in the United States when we started 40 years ago? We changed our name from Inter-Faith Housing Alliance to Family Promise Montco PA this year to reflect our alignment with this national movement of people like us working hard to resolve homelessness.

We also expanded our supportive housing program with a new building in Lansdale. Hope on Fifth will provide a long-term affordable housing solution for two additional families. Since more than 62% of renters in Montgomery County with income below the area median (\$105,375 for a family of four) pay more than 30% of their income toward housing expenses, Hope on Fifth and other affordable housing solutions are very much needed in our community.

Our Day Center has a new look. There is now private space for each of the families staying with us through the Interfaith Hospitality Network. This ensures that families have a secure place to look for work and study during the day while also preventing the transmission of COVID-19.

Your time, gifts, and involvement helped to make all of this possible. Thank you for working alongside us this past year to build community and strengthen lives.

Sincerely,



Marsha Eichelberger
Executive Director, Family Promise Montco PA

CHECKLIST FOR 2021-22

- ✓ Renovate our Day Center to create a private area for each family in emergency shelter
- ✓ Enhance programming for families and youth in our housing programs
- ✓ Expand our supportive housing program with a new property—Hope on Fifth in Lansdale
- ✓ Move and enlarge the Family Promise Food Pantry
- ✓ Change our name to reflect our 33-year affiliation with Family Promise



Wayne Carpenter
President, Board of Directors

Mission

Family Promise Montco PA partners with the community to address homelessness and hunger—one family at a time.

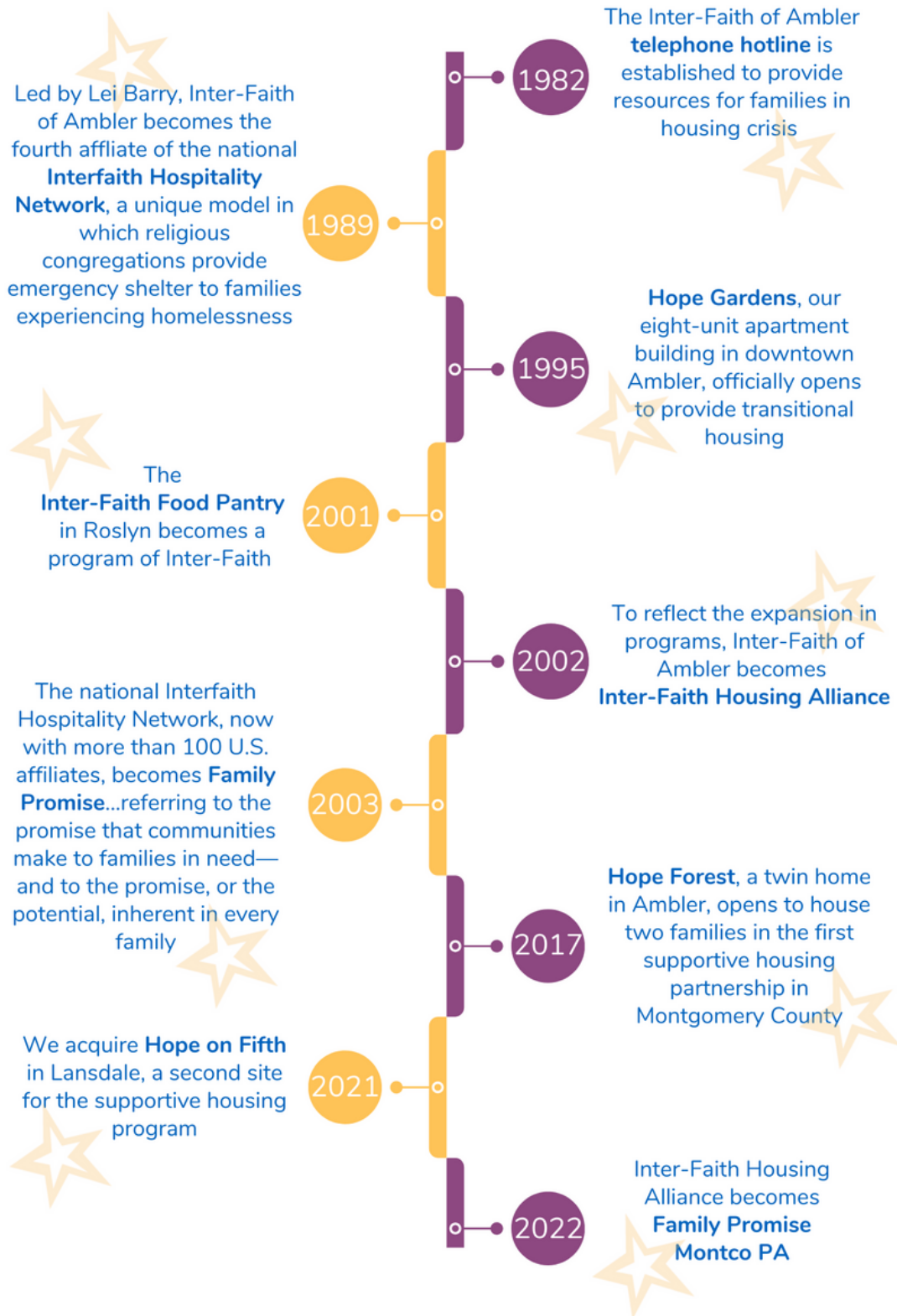


A world where safe, stable, affordable housing is accessible to all families; homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring; all people have access to enough nutritious food; food insecurity is quickly and fully addressed; and organizations are collaborative and resilient to effectively deliver innovative solutions to homelessness and hunger.

Vision

Celebrating

40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO MONTGOMERY COUNTY





Fighting

TO RESOLVE HOMELESSNESS... ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

Family Promise's housing programs were needed more than ever in 2022, with rising rents and evictions stressing Montgomery County's housing resources. We're glad to report we were able to enhance our offerings this year, allowing us to serve more families with expanded programs.

We welcomed a new case manager, Devon Lassiter. Devon works with our families to connect them with resources, create a housing plan, and help them with job readiness, budgeting, and more. She's been working to create a sense of community among our residents, too, with events celebrating clients' achievements, healing, and growth. She's also supporting the youth in our programs with workshops aimed to help them navigate their tween and teen years.

We renovated our Day Center, where families in emergency shelter can spend time when they are not working or in school. Each family can rest, access a computer, and store items in their own unit. The spaces have flexible configuration options for larger or smaller families and plenty of sunlight and fresh air all around! We're grateful to the W.W. Smith Charitable Trust and Montgomery County for funding this renovation.

Finally, Hope on Fifth in Lansdale became our newest property, joining Hope Forest as another space to house our Supportive Housing Program. Hope on Fifth will be home for two families who need just light support as they take the final steps on their journey from homelessness to independence.

FAMILY PROMISE HOUSING PROGRAMS

Emergency Shelter
in partnership with the
Interfaith Hospitality Network

Transitional Housing
at Hope Gardens

Supportive Housing
at Hope Forest and
Hope on Fifth

Aftercare

Providing

FOOD FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED



The Family Promise Food Pantry has found its "forever home"! This year the pantry moved to a new location on the campus of Salem Baptist Church, and it's bigger and better than ever. We're now offering a great variety of perishable and nonperishable foods along with personal care and household items. The nourishment our clients receive isn't just physical: they form nourishing relationships with our dedicated volunteers, too.

Thank you to everyone at Salem Baptist Church, who opened their campus to us, and to Philabundance and Montgomery County, whose funds made the renovation possible.



Partnering WITH THE COMMUNITY TO CHANGE LIVES

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK CONGREGATIONS

Ambler Church of the Brethren
Ambler Mennonite Church
Bethlehem Baptist Church
Citylight Church
Congregation Beth Or
First Baptist Church, Lansdale
First Presbyterian Church of Ambler
Grace Baptist Church of Blue Bell
Gwynedd Friends Meeting
Jarrettown United Methodist Church
Keystone Fellowship Church
Or Hadash
Sanctuary United Methodist Church
St. Anthony of Padua
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
St. Rose of Lima
St. Thomas' Church, Whitemarsh
Supplee Presbyterian Church
Trinity Episcopal Church
Trinity Lutheran Church
Upper Dublin Lutheran Church
Zion Baptist Church

"We can't do what we do without you!" We say it over and over...because at Family Promise, it's quite literally true. Our emergency shelter would not exist without our partner congregations in the Interfaith Hospitality Network, who open their congregations to families who need a safe place to call home. Our food pantry is staffed almost entirely by volunteers. Volunteers assist with office work, maintain and refurbish our apartments, landscape our properties, plan and put on events, sort and package food, and so much more. And of course, financial support from the community is what allows us to keep the doors open.

In 2022 we hosted volunteer groups from AMWINS, Pennsylvania Lumbermens Mutual Insurance, Ambler Savings Bank, Evonik, Toll Brothers, and Keller Williams Horsham. These groups somehow did the work of weeks in only hours; they had fun working on their projects—and it was contagious! Congregations provided teams to help, too, and Sanctuary UMC, Citylight Church, Glenside Bible Youth, First Presbyterian Church of Ambler, Beth Or, Grace Baptist Church, and missionary teams from the LDS church all put their faith into action to benefit our families and programs.



One family's story

A little over two years ago I was giving birth to my daughter at Phoenixville Hospital in handcuffs. When I finally got my phone, I checked my bank account and Ayla's father had stolen over \$4,600. With nowhere to live with my new daughter and 9-year-old son, somehow I landed [at Family Promise's emergency shelter]—exactly where my family needed to be.

I borrowed a bike from a neighbor to get a job at Giant four days after Ayla was born. [The congregation where we were staying] without hesitation gave me and my kids a key to the church and let us live there with all our belongings for about a month until our apartment [at Hope Gardens] was ready for us.

[The staff at Family Promise] became my lifeline in this world. They have been here to support and point me in the right direction. These women made me feel stable and strong enough to fight and work and save and do without a bit—but for the most part I never had to see my children do without, and any mother knows that is what matters.



They met with me sometimes two or three times a week to make sure I was achieving everything I possibly could in my two years here. I have kept two or three jobs the entire time. I have saved a decent amount of money, I completed training with Grow with Google, I have stayed clean and sober for four years now, and I purchased a very affordable vehicle from Family Promise.

[Case Manager] Devon will have a special place in my heart for the rest of my life. She has encouraged me on days when I was so exhausted I truly believed I couldn't keep going—I wasn't strong enough or good enough—and she was there to tell me to shut my trap, suck it up, God has a plan and is with me every step of the way.

Everyone [at Family Promise] has had a critical role to our success—from giving me advice about my taxes, to printing out a million things for me and helping me with my computer skills, to making me smile when I can share new pictures of the kids, to helping me organize my closet and kitchen and leaving me and the kids little Easter bags on the door. They were always willing to listen and help solve any problems I came across.... If I can keep a little piece of each one of them and what they have taught me, the kids and I will be sturdy and strong in this world. We are so excited to move into our new house...but we are not happy to leave [Family Promise].

Impact



63

people participated in our housing programs



1,892

people accessed food at our pantry



12,238

bed nights of shelter provided



80%

of graduating families exited to affordable housing



191,000

pounds of food distributed



848

volunteers



9,010

volunteer hours



\$269,849

value of volunteer time

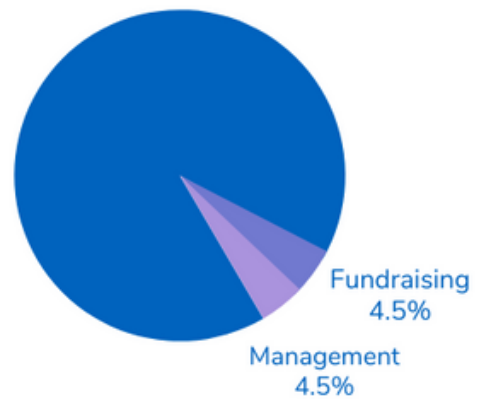


Financials

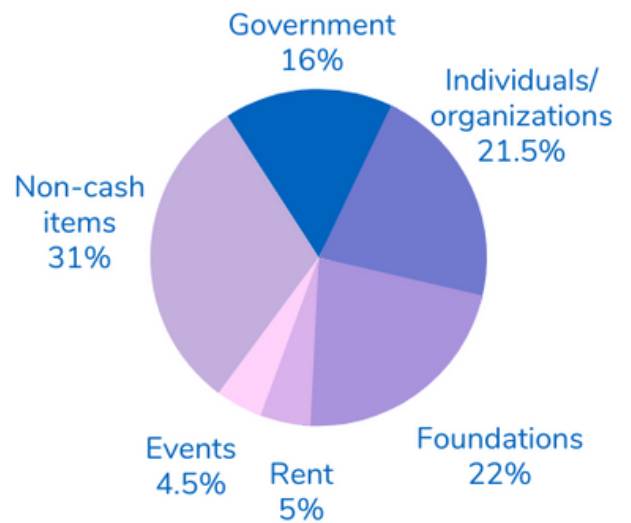
EXPENSES

Program 91%

Emergency Shelter, Hope Gardens, Hope Forest, Hope on Fifth, Food Pantry, Aftercare



INCOME



Family Promise Board of Directors

Wayne Carpenter, Board President
Community Volunteer

Kris Chandler, Board Vice President
Community Volunteer

Mark Whaley, Board Treasurer
Community Volunteer

Priya Bell, Board Secretary
Site Acquisition Associate,
Network Building & Consulting

John Armstrong
Owner, Armstrong Supply Company

Shelia Carter
Associate Director, Learning &
Development, Merck

Kewin Gales
Senior VP and Chief Human
Resources Officer, Prometric

Dr. Wanda Lewis-Campbell
(Ret.) Director of Student Life,
Temple University

LaDon Marsh
Volunteer, Salem Baptist Church

Deidre Patterson
President, R.O.S.E. Foundation

Rev. Charles Quann
Pastor, Bethlehem Baptist Church

Ben Sanchez
Real Estate Attorney,
PA State Representative

Sherry Shoemaker
Community Volunteer

Malika Thomas
Community Volunteer

Sally West Williams
Community Volunteer

Tom Wynn
Community Volunteer

David Zimmerman
Community Volunteer

Staff

Marsha Eichelberger
Executive Director

Devon Lassiter
Case Manager

LaToya Williams
Food Pantry Manager

Tiffany Jones
Education Coordinator

Sue Zomberg
Community Resource Manager

Kyla Turbett
Community Resource Coordinator

Anne Whitney
Finance Manager

Debbie Badger
Office and Systems Administrator

Catherine Simon
Development Coordinator

Meaghan McBride
Intern and Food Pantry Coordinator





Learn more



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social media*



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 **FamilyPromise**
Montco PA

An Interfaith Response to Homelessness and Hunger

31 S. Spring Garden Street · Ambler, PA 19002 · (215) 628-2334 · fpmontco.org



formerly Inter-Faith Housing Alliance

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE

Housing news

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numbers

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Food pantry news

Volunteer spotlight

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Housing news

It might seem hard to believe, but family homelessness does exist in Montgomery County.

And if we've learned one thing at Family Promise, it's that homelessness can happen to *anyone*. Lots of families experience homelessness due to circumstances beyond their control, like a sudden job loss, unexpected medical bills, or domestic violence. But there's still a real stigma around homelessness, which can lead to discrimination, harassment, and exclusion from essential services.

At Family Promise we're working to break down these stereotypes and provide support — and compassion — to families experiencing homelessness. We recognize that our families are facing complex challenges, and they need access to resources like affordable housing, job training, childcare services, and supportive case management.

We know how important support from the community is in addressing family homelessness. By coming together, we can create safe and stable environments for families in need — and reduce the stigma surrounding homelessness.

We're so grateful for your continued support and commitment to improving these families' lives. When we stand together, we create a community where everyone has access to the resources and support they need to thrive.



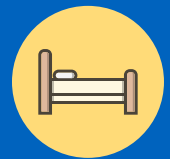
Tia's story

Tia, a mother of two, was stricken with a debilitating disease — she was unable to even look for employment. But she was determined to get back on her feet. She worked with our case manager, Devon, to complete a resume workshop, making her more marketable. When her health improved, Tia connected with a temp agency, where she found a long-term temporary position. This opportunity evolved into a full-time permanent job with benefits. With Devon's assistance, Tia applied for and received an Emergency Housing Voucher. Now, Tia and her family are stably and independently housed in a two-bedroom apartment.

2022 by the numbers



137 people participated in housing programs or received aftercare



11,765 bed-nights of shelter were provided



2,098 people accessed food at our pantry



828 people volunteered



Food Pantry news

We're celebrating a year in our new home at Salem Baptist Church.

We think a lot about abundance versus scarcity at the Food Pantry. Scarcity means you hold on to what you have, focus attention on costs, and think small. Abundance, on the other hand, is a way of looking at the world that zooms out and considers the full range of possibilities. And thanks to you, our community, we are able to operate from a place of abundance at our expanded pantry.

Our new space is large, bright, clean, and welcoming. Our volunteers are cheerful and compassionate. We support our clients with food, personal care items, and household supplies. We honor their dietary needs and preferences with vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, and other options.

We're proud to be taking part in the PA Healthy Pantry Initiative to increase the healthy food options available at the pantry. To support the Initiative, we're looking to increase donations of fruits (like apples, oranges, grapes), vegetables (lettuce, spinach, salad items), whole grains, healthy protein like chicken and canned or dried beans, and vegan and vegetarian options. To learn more about how you can help, contact our Food Pantry Manager, LaToya Williams, at food@fpmontco.org or 267-468-5894.

Volunteer spotlight



SUE DIEHL

The National Tax-Deferred Savings Association (NTSA) recently honored Sue Diehl with their Richard Ford Volunteer Service Award. Sue's been an active NTSA volunteer, but she still finds plenty of time to give to Family Promise. As the host coordinator for her congregation, Jarrettown United Methodist Church, Sue manages the hundred-plus JUMC volunteers who bring food, fellowship, transportation, and overnight shelter to our families.

"Sue knows how to get things done and works tirelessly for her community, our families, and our organization. She is the light at the end of a long day for many of our families, and she shows compassion, grace, and love to those who are often forgotten and dismissed by society," says Executive Director Marsha Eichelberger.

"I've always believed that I was put on this earth to help people. With Family Promise, I found something that truly inspired me. Every year when we take in the families for 30 days, I find a new extended family," says Sue.

Board of Directors

John Armstrong
Priya Bell
Wayne Carpenter
Shelia Carter
Kewin Gales
Wanda Lewis-Campbell
LaDon Marsh
William Martin
Lisa Miller
Deidre Patterson
Rev. Charles Quann
Karen Sanchez
Sherry Shoemaker
Mark Whaley
Tom Wynn
David Zimmerman

Staff

Debbie Badger
Rich Cirko
Marsha Eichelberger
Robin Hinton
Tiffany Jones
Devon Lassiter
Meaghan McBride
Catherine Simon
Kyla Turbett
Anne Whitney
LaToya Williams
Sue Zomberg

Get involved

Support from the community is vital to the success of our programs. Here's how you can help.

- Volunteer! We're always looking for help in the office, cleaning, painting, sorting donations of food and noncash items, transporting food, and more.
- Hold a drive! Collect food for the pantry or household items for the families in our housing programs. Call 215-628-2334 to learn more.
- Donate! You can make a gift online using the QR code to the right. And a list of noncash items we are requesting is available at our website.
- Get your congregation involved in our emergency shelter network! Support a host congregation by helping to provide meals and transportation to our families. Call the office to learn more.
- Stay informed! Follow us on social media @fpmontco.org.

Make a donation



Become a volunteer



31 S. Spring Garden St.
Ambler, PA 19002

Nonprofit Org.
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Permit No. 58

or current occupant

