



Why Family Promise?

Who We Are

Family Promise of Northern New Castle County is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization that prevents and ends homelessness for families by engaging volunteers, donors and faith-based congregations. We envision a community in which all families have a home, a livelihood and the resources for lasting independence. With the support of over 35 faith-based congregations, Family Promise NNCC provides shelter, hospitality and support to secure employment and housing. We are an affiliate of the national Family Promise® organization, which includes 200 affiliates in 42 states.

The Need

- There are over 6,000 people homeless throughout a year in Delaware.
- There are over 2,600 homeless children in Delaware; 45% of our state’s homeless population.
- 12% of Delaware families live in poverty; 25% of families in Wilmington live in poverty.

For Guest Families Experiencing Homelessness

- We are the *only* shelter program in New Castle County that serves moms, dads and kids of all ages.
- Does not institutionalize shelter as a solution to homelessness.
- Guests cite hospitality as one of the benefits: "I never knew people cared", "I never felt so loved".

For Volunteers & Congregations

- Transformational relationships in addition to transactional relationships.
- Shattering myths and dispelling stereotypes about homelessness.
- The whole family gets involved in the process; way to engage children in volunteerism.
- Wide-range of volunteer activities to fit schedule and desired level of commitment.

For the Community

- Opportunity for *interfaith*, hands-on ministry; volunteers are active contributors.
- By providing meals, transportation and shelter directly in their house of worship, our volunteers’ time and donations are worth over \$400,000 stretching our \$215,000 hospitality network budget. For donors looking to make an impact, this makes for a positive return on investment

Our Success

Family Promise NNCC Metrics	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Jan-September
# of Total Families Served (through network)	8	10	38	56	67 (26)	126 (30)	88 (24)
# of Total Individuals Served (through network)	23	54	135	187	227 (85)	481 (104)	332 (89)
Avg. Length of Network Stay (days) <i>Compare to 45 days & 200 days in DE family shelters & transitional housing respectively</i>	102	117	69	59	59	42	41
% in Own Housing <i>Compare to 23% in DE family shelters; 39% in transitional shelters</i>	38%	60%	87%	91%	86%	93%	83%
Congregations Involved	12	17	29	33	37	38	38



Overview of the Programs

Rotational Hospitality Network:

Family Promise NNCC partners with faith-based congregations to provide the lodging, meals and hospitality on a weekly rotation. We provide the van transportation between the Day Center and hosting congregation in the evening and morning. The Day Center provides guests with: 1) a base for housing and employment searches utilizing staff support and our computer lab; 2) professional case management services; 3) clean bathing and laundry facilities and a full kitchen; 4) mailing address and a home phone number; 5) children's' playroom; 6) safe place for after-school activities; and 7) a place to store personal belongings including a locked cabinet.

Pathway to Housing:

This program helps families who are ready to move out on their own but need a little extra financial support: help with a security deposit, utility deposit, debt (judgment) repair or first month's rent. The actual grant amount is based upon what a family may need and what Family Promise is able to provide. This program has reduced the length of homelessness on average by 20-30 days.

Pathway to a Career:

Education/Training Resource Navigation & Financial Support

Families may have aspirations of careers and have concrete plans to attain their dreams. Family Promise NNCC may be able to support individuals by offsetting the cost of education and training programs and/or providing financial support for housing during the time a family is in an educational program.

Career Mentoring & Tutoring

This program may be available to individuals to help them decide what career they would like to pursue, study for necessary licensure/certificate exams, and help navigating the process of training for a career.

Pathway to Independence:

All graduate families may continue to receive general case management support, access to the Family Promise NNCC facilities and resources to continue their success in their own stable and safe housing. These supports may include furniture donations, bus passes or other transportation assistance, access to workshops and activities, etc.

Pathway to Diversion:

This program is to assist families who are experiencing homelessness avoid entering the shelter system. The resources and case management support looks like our Pathway to Housing program, but does not have to include our Rotational Hospitality Network or any other shelter stay. By providing direct financial assistance for housing and supports to get families connected to employment and other essential resources, we can help families secure housing and not have to utilize the shelter system.