



2011 ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2010 - JUNE 30, 2011

25-20

2011 Marks our Silver Anniversary - 25 Years!

*March 2011 marked the Platinum Anniversary of the
Walk-In-Dinner Program.
In 20 years our volunteers have served 730,000 meals!*

**FAMILY PROMISE OF BERGEN COUNTY IS A 501 (C) (3) NEW JERSEY CORPORATION FOUNDED IN 1986 AS
THE INTERRELIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP FOR THE HOMELESS OF BERGEN COUNTY**

What We Believe

The **mission** of Family Promise of Bergen County (FPB) is to provide hospitality to the homeless and to keep families together in times of crisis, shepherding them through temporary periods of homelessness by helping them create an achievable vision and develop a strong foundation for self-sufficiency.

Our **objectives** are:

- to provide the highest quality of service;
- to involve and share this mission with as many congregations, individuals and municipalities as possible;
- to translate the hands-on service to the action of providing affordable housing for every citizen of the county



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The 2000s saw a new population of those experiencing homelessness:
families with children.

While an emerging problem at the beginning of the decade,
the problem continued to persist through 2010.

At the close of the decade the trend continued unabated,
with the number of individuals in homeless families increasing
from 431,541 in 2007 to 535,447 in 2009.

Wikipedia

The Year in Review

First, the Good News

After a year in transition, trying to locate space which could accommodate both our offices and a day center, and then waiting for renovations to be completed, on January 2, 2011 our first homeless family arrived at West Side Presbyterian Church in Ridgewood and Bergen County's first Family Promise Network (albeit patch-work) was launched on an emergency basis. We were planning to open once we moved into our new Day Center in Ridgewood after the renovations were completed. But a spike in the number of homeless families seeking shelter coupled with some unusually frigid winter weather convinced us that we had to open immediately.

Christ Episcopal Church in Teaneck, where our offices were located for many years, agreed to let us use some space for a temporary Day Center. The Hackensack YMCA provided shower facilities. Our bus drivers began transporting families to and from the host congregation. It was not perfect but our families were warm, safe and TOGETHER.

With the support of some very committed host congregations, namely West Side Presbyterian, Ridgewood, Archer United Methodist Church, Allendale, Demarest United Methodist Church and Temple Emeth in Teaneck, we survived the first months. We learned a lot about hospitality and flexibility from these fabulous volunteers. They welcomed our families with smiling faces, home-cooked meals and open hearts.

Then, in June we moved to our new offices at the Ridgewood United Methodist Church as our space was finally ready to receive us. A group of volunteers, but mainly Bonim Builders, a project of the Synagogue Leadership Initiative of the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey, put up walls, installed electrical outlets, painted and installed bathrooms so we could move in.



Then, thanks to our friends from a faithful, long-time support congregation in River Edge, the moving trucks came and moved us to Ridgewood.

At year end, we are in our new digs but some of the plumbing needs to be topped off. Please give us a call so we can invite you to come visit. At the end of June, the bunks were full as the Bergen Family Promise Network hosted fourteen people from four families.

Our Walk-in-Dinner Program celebrated its 20th anniversary in March. We estimate that our volunteers have served 730,000 meals!

Second, the Bad News – The Crisis

Homelessness is an ever-growing social problem, particularly given the fact that the stock of affordable housing for low-income families is declining. The inventory of such housing in Bergen County is woefully inadequate; indeed, it could be said that it is virtually non-existent. The National Low Income Housing Coalition states that in Bergen County:

- one-third of all households rent their primary residence;
- the Area Median Income (AMI) is \$93,300;
- 30% of AMI (Federal standard for extremely low income households) is \$27,990;
- the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment is \$1,494 (72% higher in 2011 than in 2000);
- the annual income needed to rent a two-bedroom apartment is \$59,760;
- monthly rent affordable at 30% of AMI is \$700;
- 55% of these households are unable to afford the rent.

Section 8 Vouchers have virtually disappeared over the past several years. Section 8, or the Housing Choice Voucher Program, is a Federal housing program which provides housing assistance to low-income renters and homeowners. This assistance comes in the form of rental subsidies, limiting the monthly rent payment of the assistance recipient. To qualify for Section 8 one must be a low-income person (below 50% of the Area Median Income).

The crisis in low income housing and assistance was the topic of all discussion at the July 2011 meeting of the Housing and Emergency Assistance Committee, an informal coalition of local social service agencies.

- Monarch Housing believes there is a possibility that the recent HUD funding cuts could be doubled and extended for ten years. They also say that Homeless Prevention/Rapid Rehousing is "ramping down". Individual agency contracts will not be renewed and the program will be officially ended in September 2012.
- The Housing Authority of Bergen County reports they are not taking any new clients. In addition, they will be reorganizing and downsizing mid-September of this year.
- The Community Action Partnership said they are getting funding through November from Department of Community Affairs for security deposits but are not taking any new applicants for state vouchers.

What that means is families who normally must leave transitional housing programs (24 months maximum for organizations who receive HUD funding) will likely be discharged into homelessness. As we do not receive HUD funding for our New Leaf Program, we have the flexibility to extend our transitional stay limits as needed.

Very few of our families can afford housing. With the cost of living skyrocketing and salaries staying level, there is a heavy sense of hopelessness in the community. Our families need vouchers and they're not coming. As a result, we do not see much hope for families with extremely limited resources - financial and personal. Right now there is nowhere to turn for help. Although an additional two apartments does not seem like a lot in the face of the demand, remembering the Starfish story, it will make a difference to two families.

The largest percentage increase in homelessness
was in the number of family households,
which increased by over 3,200 households (4 percent increase).
Also, the number of persons in families increased
by more than 6,000 people (3 percent increase).

*State of Homelessness in America 2011:
National Alliance to End Homelessness, Jan. 2011*



Feature Program

Walk-In-Dinner – 20 Years and Counting



We have hosted the walk-in dinner program at different venues since 1991. Today, 8 to 10 volunteers prepare dinner and then serve it to as many as 180 individuals, every day of the year, in Hackensack at the Bergen County Housing, Health and Human Services Center. We could not accomplish this without the cooperation of an army of over 4,000 volunteers from congregations,

service organizations and local companies. Our volunteers provided nearly 41,000 meals during this fiscal year. This program started the same way as most of our programs—out of a need. Twenty years ago this past March, the Interreligious Fellowship for the Homeless of Bergen County was having a Board meeting. Babette Hayes, a case manager from the Community Action Partnership (CAP) came to our meeting with a request. People were passing her window, and knocking on it, making gestures to indicate that they were hungry and asking for food. Since she had nothing to give them, she came to us, knowing that we had access to all those wonderful giving members of churches and temples. Peter Jacobsohn, founder of Peter's Place, a member of the Ethical Culture Society and never one to let formalities get in his way, volunteered that he and his wife Lily would make a meal for fifty people the following day and challenged the other Board members present to do the same. Bob Armbruster responded immediately as did several other members of the Board. And so the program was born. For the first few weeks it was mostly Board members doing the cooking, with Bob coordinating, but the word spread rapidly and the numbers grew as did the number of diners. The site of



the dinner has moved several times. We actually started at Babette's desk. There was no empty room in the Cap offices so the meals were started right among the desks and copying machines, but as the numbers increased it became a problem to fit everybody. The other issue was that the Hackensack merchants were very unhappy with the lines of shabbily dressed people lining up around the CAP building waiting for their meal, and put pressure on the CAP directors to move the people away from their customers! After a year or so we moved to the

county shelter at the corner of River and Kansas Streets which became the second home for the program, but that was almost as unsatisfactory, because it was too small - it sat only 38 people at a time, the furniture broke regularly and the waiting guests had to stand outside in all weather with no cover; regardless, the food was still good, the coffee was warm and the volunteers were as welcoming as ever. After many battles with the neighborhood people, CAP was able to lease a building on Orchard Street in north Hackensack. Finally, there was enough room for everybody to come in out of the rain or snow and eat and there was a tiny kitchen that was ours that served the purpose. We moved in February 2003 to a site that was dark and could have used some decorating, but it worked. We stayed there until the lease ran out- and then we were homeless again. Our good friends at Christ Episcopal Church, the CCCDC offered us temporary space knowing that the county shelter was almost ready to open, so we spent most of the summer in their airy bright community hall, that seemed to draw people; as a matter of fact, there were rumors that the neighbors came to eat because it all smelled and looked so good!



On October 1st, 2009 the Program finally opened in what we hope will be our permanent home. The staff at the Housing, Health and Human Services Center at 120 South River Street in Hackensack could not be more helpful and pleasant. Everybody knows Jimmy, Camille and Brian and the rest of the staff who are always there ready to help and encourage. The place is spotless and big enough to accommodate whatever numbers show up each day. The variety of foods is incredible, the enthusiasm of the volunteers is amazing. The biggest problem is not having enough days to accommodate all the groups who want to come and serve, not to mention there is a bit of competition among groups who claim their food is the favorite of the guests - and it is! The numbers are probably our biggest issue - how do we respond to “How many people should we cook for” when we don’t know if 100 or 150 people will show up? But they Are all welcome!

In spite of all the little problems, the moves, the questions, this program has provided wonderful meals for 20 years, 365 days a year. As our second coordinator, Peg Gartland dubbed it, ***it is the miracle that happens every day!***

* *40% of homeless are families with children—the fastest growing segment.*
[Wikipedia](#)

Other Programs

The Bergen Family Promise Network

During most of the last quarter century, our homeless working families were housed in the former St. Cecilia's High School in Englewood. That facility is now closed and, in early 2010, we changed our name to Family Promise of Bergen County to become the 162nd affiliate of a national organization known as Family Promise® and to adopt their network sheltering concept while retaining our "New Leaf" Transitional Housing, Youth Council and Walk-In Dinner programs. We made this change because our former Emergency Family Shelter was no longer available but the need to shelter our neighbors was unchanged. We remain the only Bergen County based organization that shelters working poor families.

The Bergen Family Promise Network (BFPN) is a sheltering program for working poor families with dependent children accommodating 14 people at any given time. Congregations and community groups rotate weekly to provide meals and sleeping quarters for overnight stay. Families have access to a day center in our offices from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to pursue employment, child care, showers, laundry etc. Historically, families remain in this program for an average of two months, moving to another host congregation every Sunday. As such, over a period of a year, we hope to serve more people than in the past. Case management to prepare the families for re-entry into the community is a key element of this program.

Currently, we have 21 host congregations and 70 support congregations throughout Bergen County that receive families in this program. The hosts are:

Allendale Coalition, Allendale	St. Andrew's Episcopal Church,
Christ Episcopal Church, Hackensack	Harrington Park
Church of St. Anastasia, Teaneck	St. Catherine Roman Catholic Church,
Harvest Church, Closter	Glen Rock
First Presbyterian Church, Englewood	St. Peter the Apostle Roman Catholic Church,
First Presbyterian Church, Ramsey	River Edge
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Glen Rock	Temple Beth El, Closter
Our Lady Mother of the Church, Woodcliff Lake	Temple Beth Or, Washington Township
Our Lady of Mercy, Park Ridge	Temple Emeth, Teaneck
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Church, Ridgewood	Temple Sinai, Tenafly
Ridgewood United Methodist Church	United Methodist Church, Demarest
	United Presbyterian Church, Lyndhurst
	West Side Presbyterian Church, Ridgewood

New Leaf Transitional Housing:

The New Leaf program is a transitional living program with a twist for working poor families. It provides more than an affordable place to live - it is also about changing thought patterns and habits and about changing the way homeless families look at themselves and their position in society. The program is designed to help families recover from the trauma of homelessness while at the same time assist them in obtaining educational or job related training, become financially literate and build a savings account, get out of debt and set and achieve personal interim goals with their return to independent living as the ultimate goal.



With apartments in Bergenfield (photo-duplex), Bogota, Carlstadt, Maywood and Teaneck, we currently serve six families in this program, most of whom would have no other place to call home without this temporary, emergency housing. Through this program, homeless families move into apartments incorporated into local communities. Clients are required to pay a minimal program fee and put aside a portion of their income as savings to help them secure housing on their own within 12-18 months. Our volunteer mentors and financial planners work closely with our professional family case managers to support these vulnerable families.



We are proud of the success rate of our New Leaf Program. Between 2006 and 2010, 16 families entered and left the program. Of those 16, 13 families graduated (3 were discharged before completing the program). Of the 13 families that graduated the program, all were able to maintain their apartment for a full year and 12 of them have continued to remain self-sufficient.

Youth Council:

Students from area high schools have joined together to provide child care, tutoring and crafts in the day center and to act as counselors for Camp Lots-Of-Fun.

- a) **After-School Program** – FPB offers an after-school program, housed in the day center. The benefits of this program are twofold: mothers/parents have greater peace of mind knowing that their children are well cared for in an academic/activities enrichment program on-site at the shelter. The children benefit from the structure of a program that provides them with set homework time, tutoring support and enrichment activities.



- b) **Infant & Child Day Care Support Program** – provides much needed day care subsidies for the children of families participating in our various sheltering programs. This program enables adults to secure full-time employment, adding stability and dignity to their lives and freeing them from worry about their children’s well-being while they are at work.
- c) **Camp Lots-Of-Fun** – a 2-week end-of-summer day camp for 30 children of families residing in the network, our New Leaf apartments and Shelter Our Sisters. This is a welcome respite at the end of the summer for our children, who constantly feel the stress of their less than ideal living situations.

Events

Bike Bergen April 3, 2011

Family Promise of Bergen County held its 18th Annual Bike Bergen event on Sunday, April 3, 2011 at the Duck Pond in Demarest. Supporters rode or walked to help raise money for homeless children and families. The event offered a wide choice of routes including a new three-mile walk or ride for families and children, a 15 and 25 mile route for the more experienced riders. This year’s major sponsors included BD, Holy Name Medical Center, C.O.R.E. The Center of Fitness, RealSource Association of Realtors, Kohl’s, NJ Children’s Museum, Cyclesport of Park Ridge and the Borough of Demarest.

Golf & Tennis Outing May 23, 2011

“It was a dark and stormy night ...” and then the rain stopped and our 12th Annual Golf and Tennis Outing at the Knickerbocker Country Club was a great success. Much of the credit goes to the club staff themselves and our committee under the guidance of John Masterson. We made enough to cover the cost of housing a family in our New Leaf Transitional Housing Program for one year.

50/50 Raffle

Every year we sell tickets for our Super 50/50 Raffle.

Grand Prize – 25% of the proceeds;

Second Prize – 5% of the proceeds;

20 third place prizes of 1% each of the proceeds.

A maximum of 1,000 tickets are sold at \$100 each. The winner need not be present to win but this year’s winner WAS present and promptly donated half his winnings back to us!

Financial Review

Major Supporters 2010- \$5,000 and above	
OritaniBank Charitable Foundation	50,000
Becton Dickinson (BD)	15,000
St. Anastasia Roman Catholic Church, Teaneck	15,000
Bergen County Community Development	14,200
West Side Presbyterian Church, Ridgewood	7,594
Bogota Savings Bank	5,000
CME Group Community Found. (formerly NYMEX)	5,000
The Church in Radburn	5,000
Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation	5,000
Robert & Joan Dircks Foundation	5,000
PGA Barclays	5,000
St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church, Ridgewood	5,000
Schamberger, Luke J.	5,000
Lillian P. Schenk Fund	5,000
United Water Co.	5,000
Subtotal	151,794

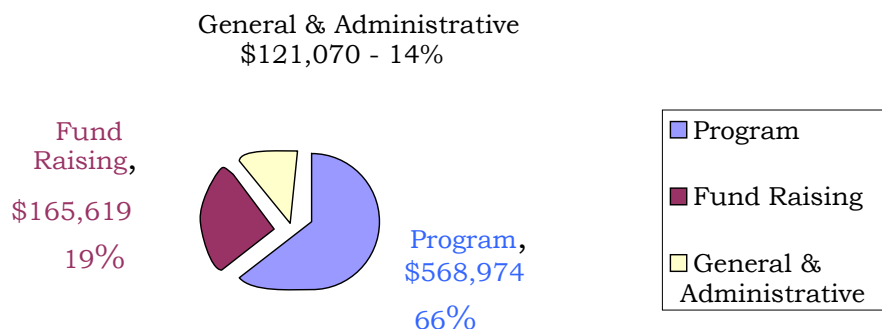
One anonymous private supporter created a donor advised fund in our favor in the amount of \$350,000. The funds, which are renewable, are restricted to activities and programs related to children.



Record of Support 2010-2011

	Fiscal Year 2010		Fiscal Year 2011	
Companies & Corporations	84,316.64	13.84%	84,262	8.24%
Congregations	84,628.69	13.89%	56,178	5.49%
Foundations, Trusts & Estates	35,525.00	5.83%	59,040	5.77%
Fundraising Events & Campaigns	249,760.08	40.99%	216,472	21.16%
Government	22,700.00	3.73%	33,600	3.28%
Individuals	103,264.80	16.95%	563,736	55.09%
Investment Income	108.33	0.02%	1,194	.12%
Organizations & Schools	12,130.75	1.99%	3,488	.34%
Program & Misc. Income	16,860.16	2.77%	5,245	.51%
Total Income	609,294.45	100%	1,023,215	100.00%

Fiscal 2011 Schedule of Functional Expenses



As of June 30	2010	2011
Total Assets:	\$229,853	\$628,406
Total Liabilities	\$68,404	\$58,571
Total Unrestricted Income and Support	\$895,784	\$963,793
Total Expenses	\$920,420	\$855,663
Increase/Decrease in net assets	(\$25,839)	\$408,386

Audited (unqualified) by:
Flackman, Goodman & Potter, P.A.
Ridgewood, NJ

A complete copy of the 2011 audited financial statement and IRS Form 990 are available on our web site www.bergenfamilypromise.org or from Family Promise of Bergen County, 100 Dayton Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT JUNE 30, 2011

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Ms. Nancy Woods

VICE PRESIDENT

**BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE –
CHAIR**

Daniel R. Boyer
Senior Consultant
Marts and Lundy

TREASURER

FINANCE COMMITTEE – CHAIR

Paul R. Shackford, CPA
CFO Episcopal Diocese of Newark

MEMBERS – AT – LARGE

Carmine Alampi, Esq.
Alampi & DeMarrais, LLC

Alphonse L. Barbieri
President, Carlton Communications

Linda Cushman, PhD
Associate Clinical Professor of
Population & Family Health
Columbia University

Jerrold Fleischer
Research Associates

Thomas V. Flood
Marketing/Management Consultant

Ed Gormley
Retired

Rabbi Debra Hachen
Temple Beth El of Northern Valley

Rev. Peggy Hayes
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Rev. Anthony Iovine
St. Mathew's Evangelical Lutheran
Church

Charles Matar, B.S.
Vice President, Synfuels International

Mohammed Ali Manaker


Joanne Reisser
Vice President of Development
& Operations,
Charity Navigator

Vince Tobin
Buck Consultants (retired)


Jack Welby
JPMorgan Chase (Retired)

Executive Director: Kate Duggan

Annual Report at June 30, 2011
Family Promise of Bergen County

 **IRS** Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
P.O. Box 2508, Room 4010
Cincinnati OH 45201

In reply refer to: 4077552845
Aug. 09, 2011 LTR 4168C 0
22-2853599 000000 00
00020054
BODC: TE

 FAMILY PROMISE OF BERGEN COUNTY
A NEW JERSEY NONPROFIT CORPORATION
100 DAYTON ST
RIDGWOOD NJ 07450

615981

Employer Identification Number: 22-2853599
Person to Contact: Mrs. Jones
Toll Free Telephone Number: 1-877-829-5500

Dear Taxpayer:

This is in response to your July 19, 2011, request for information regarding your tax-exempt status.

Our records indicate that you were recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code in a determination letter issued in October 1988.

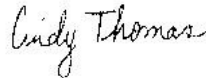
Our records also indicate that you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because you are described in section(s) 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

Please refer to our website www.irs.gov/eo for information regarding filing requirements. Specifically, section 6033(j) of the Code provides that failure to file an annual information return for three consecutive years results in revocation of tax-exempt status as of the filing due date of the third return for organizations required to file. We will publish a list of organizations whose tax-exempt status was revoked under section 6033(j) of the Code on our website beginning in early 2011.

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely yours,



Cindy Thomas
Manager, EO Determinations

Annual Report at June 30, 2011
Family Promise of Bergen County



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