

June 2024 Newsletter



Our Graduate Makes Her Voice Heard

DAY OF ADVOCACY



Blessing O., a graduate of Family Promise of the Main Line, joined more than 100 people gathered at the state Capitol for a Day of Advocacy on May 7, organized by the Collaborative Advocacy Network (CAN) as part of the [Bucks-Mont Collaborative](#). The focus was on raising awareness about two crucial community issues: affordable housing and behavioral health access policies. Throughout the day, Blessing joined participants in voicing policy goals and budgetary needs to improve housing affordability and strengthen the behavioral health system, both of which significantly impact Pennsylvanians' well-being.

As she stood on the Capital steps in the Rotunda, to join the exclamation that "housing is a human right," she reflected upon her own experience with being unhoused and how I was able to rise from that situation with the resources and community provided to me by Family Promise. Blessing shared "it was a privilege to meet people from many different organizations who are doing great work when it comes to advocating for affordable housing in the County. Invited by the Bucks-Mont Collaborative and they invited me to attend the Day of Advocacy. It was my first advocacy day in Harrisburg, so I wasn't quite sure what to expect, but I was amazed by all the organizations that were represented, the legislative meetings, and the rally. It was great to see bipartisan support for affordable housing from Senators Art Haywood and Frank Farry. But the work continues."

The amplified voices of Blessing and others created a collective presence in Harrisburg to ensure that these critical issues received attention. To stay informed about community and policy updates impacting Bucks and Montgomery Counties, visit the [CAN website](#) and look for ongoing stories in our monthly newsletter.

Blessing currently works full-time as an Organizer for Montgomery County at POWER Interfaith, a faith-based social justice organization. Her daily mantra, inspired by Aesop, is that "no act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." Blessing's educational journey includes graduating from Lower Merion High School, Montgomery County Community College, and a recently earning a bachelor's degree in music and African American/African Diaspora Studies from Columbia University.

MANY HANDS AND HEARTS PROVIDE SUPPORT



In times of need, our host and support congregations come together to provide unwavering support for families experiencing homelessness and our staff at Family Promise of the Main Line. Recently, Chari Richardson joined our Family Promise team as the Network Planning Coordinator. In this role, she collaborates with congregation coordinators to ensure daily meals and safe overnight accommodations for caregivers and children. Chari, working with members of [St. David's Episcopal Church](#) pictured above, shared "I am grateful for the opportunity to learn from their expertise and work toward our shared goals." We deeply appreciate our partner congregations for helping our families find and maintain stable homes.

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Family Promise of the Main Line relies on in-kind donations to support the families in our programs. We welcome donations of bedding, household needs, cleaning supplies, car seats, personal care items and gif cards for families in our housing programs.



Donate as an individual, or gather a group of friends, classmates, or coworkers to benefit the families in our programs! This is a great, fun way to get your group involved. Thank you!

CLAYTON GRANT PROVIDES DIRECT SUPPORT

During a time when families are experiencing housing crises at an unprecedented rate and finding limited financial resources to avoid or prevent homelessness, the Clayton Diversion grant has been life changing.



Family Promise of the Main Line received a \$15,000 grant from [Clayton](#) and [Family Promise National](#), that will ensure families in their program receive the necessary support to remain safely housed. Clayton is a leading national builder of single-family attainable housing. The funding has allowed Family Promise of the Main Line to serve families with rental and utility assistance as an aid toward stable housing. After receiving financial support, families have successfully transitioned into new stable and affordable housing and, while another family was able to catch up on past due rent and utilities.

The grant is part of the \$1.3 million that Clayton and Family Promise National are distributing to the Family Promise network nationwide. This funding stems from a recently extended partnership between Family Promise and Clayton. Their collaborative program, [A Future Begins at Home](#), focuses on preventing family homelessness by helping families stay in their homes and regain stability. Since its inception in 2019, *A Future Begins at Home* has facilitated millions in additional funding, benefiting over 25,000 families. Our thanks to the Clayton and Family Promise National.

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The official registration and financial information of Family Promise of the Main Line may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free with Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. No goods or services were received in exchange for this contribution. Family Promise of the Main Line is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization – contributions to which are tax-deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law.

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