



Family Promise

of South Sarasota County

[info@familypromisessc.org](mailto:info@familypromisessc.org)

[www.familypromisessc.org](http://www.familypromisessc.org)

# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

# 2021



## Humbled and Hopeful

Last fall, Cierra Harris's marriage began to unravel. In early November, She resolved to get her children out of the situation. "I left with the kids and \$20 in my pocket," she said.

At first, they moved between homes of friends and relatives, taking turns on different people's couches. Some nights they stayed at a hotel and multiple \$112 nightly charges took up a large part of her paycheck. They ultimately ended up sleeping in her SUV. There was no way she could save for an apartment. Cierra found rents for two-bedroom apartments going for \$2,000 or more a month. With her pay and expenses, there was no way she could afford that. She also did not have the thousands of dollars needed for a deposit plus first and last months' rents in order to move in.

Harris had heard of Family Promise of South Sarasota County, but never thought she would need their help. The agency had an opening in its Bridge Housing Shelter Program. It would provide a safe and stable environment for her family and Harris could save money for an apartment. Not long after entering shelter, Family Promise got a phone call from one of the income-based apartment complexes it deals with stating that a three-bedroom apartment was coming available in mid-December for \$918 a month rent.

Harris couldn't believe it. However, the complex required first and last months' rents before a tenant could move in. Family Promise SSC covered one month for Cierra and applied for SOS funding for the other. Harris, while working full time, committed to completing all the program's financial counseling and case management requirements in 45 days. She was ready to move in by late December.

"I remember thinking, 'God is good,'" she said. Looking ahead, she hopes to save money, buy a house, and finish her bachelor's degree. "Seven weeks ago I didn't even know where I was going to sleep the next night," she said. "Now I have a place to come home to."

*Taken from a story by Sandra Amrhein run in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune USA TODAY NETWORK*



### OUR STAFF

**Jennifer Fagenbaum**  
Executive Director

**Gail Syrstad**  
Operations Manager

**Shannon Nordquist**  
Development Associate

**Kimberly Ulrich and Marie Mead**  
Family Service Coordinators

**Adrienne Kozlowski**  
Administrative Assistant

**Danielle Stefanski & Vicki Decker**  
Weekend Day Center Assistants

**Margaret Castellana**  
P/T Grant Writer

### OUR BOARD

**Beth Piel, member since 2018**  
President, Personnel Committee Chair

**Colleen Roca, member since 2019**  
1st Vice President, Personnel Committee

**Matthew Britton, member since 2019**  
2nd Vice President, Governance Committee Chair

**Michael Cornell, member since 2020**  
Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair

**Susan Hyland, member since 2021**  
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**Len Carney, member since 2020**  
Finance Committee

**Paula Knott, member since 2021**  
Finance Committee

**Bob Hite, member since 2021**  
Development Committee

**Jeremy Myers, member since 2022**  
Development Committee

**Michael Bacon, member since 2022**  
Development Committee

**Rachel Frank, member since 2022**  
Governance Committee

**Catherine Carcaterra, member since 2022**  
Development Committee





## Donor Highlights

**“We are proud to be part of an organization that helps children and their families who are experiencing homelessness to move beyond that trauma and hopelessness. The transformation that occurs, especially for the children, is staggering and incredibly inspirational.”**

**Sue & Jim**

**“I am honored to be a part of Family Promise of South Sarasota County and support their mission to provide families safe housing and pathways out of homelessness. I have been so impressed with the long-term results FPSSC creates for families in our community to truly have a brighter future.”**

**Megan**



## Family Success

**Family Promise**  
of South Sarasota County  
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www.familypromisessc.org

**“Victoria and I entered the Family Promise family in 2018. The day I met with them, I would have never thought I would ever consider them family.**

I suffered a nervous breakdown and lost everything. When I found Family Promise, I was reluctant to have an open mind, but I am glad I did. This became a safe haven for Victoria and me to rebuild our hearts and souls and faith in humanity. Along the way, we met amazing people who truly cared for us and wanted the best for us. Some we will never forget, we always had a safe place to go. As a mother, I felt like I failed, but with Family Promise’s help, I was able to give my daughter hope, strength, and a safe place to sleep with no worries. During our stay, I was able to get on the right medication for my mental health, go back to work full time and save to start our life again.

In early 2019, Victoria and I got the keys to our new home. As happy as we were, some sadness was with us as we were leaving Family Promise, the place we grew to love. Only being gone a couple of months, we have found out that we are still a part of this family. And today, I’m proud to say I had this experience, I regained faith in so much and couldn’t be happier. Family Promise made our lives better.”  
Tonia

## In-Kind Support

Including volunteer hours, meals, goods, shelter, transportation, etc.:

**\$427,448**



**283**  
Families Served



**95%**  
Families We Served  
that are stably housed



**8,000+**  
Meals Provided



**1200+**  
Volunteers

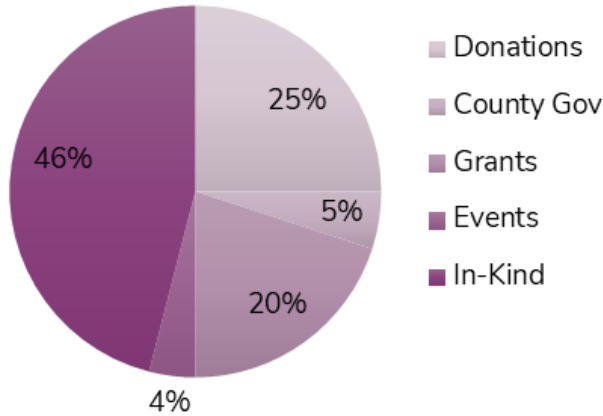


**64 Days Shelter**  
Average Length of Stay

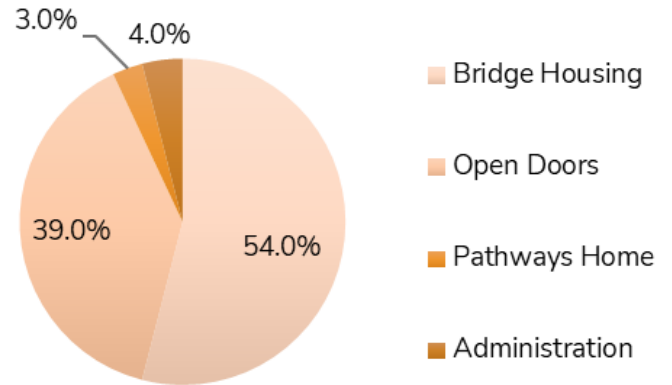
**STATS ON SERVICES TO STABILIZE FAMILIES**  
**283 Families; 788 People; 432 of those Children**

# 2021 Financial Overview

## Revenue



## Expenses



## Programs

### OPEN DOORS (OD)

Over 40% of Americans are just one unexpected expense from financial distress. Preventing families from spiraling into homelessness is an essential part of the Family Promise mission. We offer a variety of strategies to ensure the people we serve do not fall into the cycle of housing instability that can devastate families and alter the course of children's lives. These include administering formal diversion programs, providing rental assistance and landlord mediation, and community-based approaches that keep families housed.

### BRIDGE HOUSING (BH)

Hospitality is a powerful word, and it is at the heart of the Family Promise shelter program. Across this country, communities offer hospitality to families through Family Promise Affiliates. This innovative model -- using existing space like congregations and volunteers motivated by compassion--has helped hundreds of thousands of children and adults in our 200+ Affiliates nationwide. Working with community resources, Family Promise Affiliates provide comprehensive and targeted services, including extensive case management, at one-third the cost of traditional shelter. Furthermore, affiliates are able to serve families of all compositions, often providing their only shelter option in a community.

### PATHWAYS HOME (PH)

Homelessness has many causes and housing stability involves many solutions. Our goal is not simply getting families into housing; it is keeping them in housing. The result is families no longer at risk of homelessness. We help families by creating the basis for that security. Our new Pathways Home program provides an affordable place to live while clients work toward improved life and financial skills and income. This stability separates families from poverty and allows them and their children to aspire to the future every family and child deserves. Through Pathways Home, FPSSC leases and owns property for which the client family pays a small program fee to live in while working with case managers on overcoming roadblocks to greater income and prosperity. To learn more about this program or to help FPSSC provide this low-cost housing to families in need, please visit our website at [www.familypromisessc.org](http://www.familypromisessc.org).

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS THE ANSWER

Of Sarasota County households with children, 37% or 10,393 households (including over 60,000 people), are struggling to meet basic living expenses, which is defined by the United Way's ALICE report as requiring \$56,520 in annual income for a family of four. Single parents are hit especially hard, with over 60% not meeting this basic survival budget threshold.

Envisioning a nation where every family has a home, a livelihood, and the chance to build a better future.

We help families experiencing homelessness and low-income families achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response.

**There is no greater joy nor greater reward than to make a fundamental difference in someone's life. – Mary Rose McGeady**

Help families unlock the door to safe, permanent housing, which is the gateway to a brighter and better future for all the children we serve. By giving of your time, talents and treasure to Family Promise of South Sarasota County, you are ensuring that homelessness for children is rare, brief and non-recurring.

## FOR OUR CHILDREN - Monthly Giving Program



Family homelessness knows no season. Please consider joining other For Our Children monthly donors with a recurring monthly gift to give children in need the promise of home all year long. Simply go to our website, [www.familypromisessc.org](http://www.familypromisessc.org), click on DONATE and choose to make it a recurring gift. Making this commitment allows Family Promise of South Sarasota County to properly plan for future growth to better meet the needs of homeless and at-risk children and families. Members will be recognized in our annual report, newsletter, website and event programs.

## Thank you FOR OUR CHILDREN Monthly Donors 2021

**Matthew Britton - Michael Cornell - Jennifer Fagenbaum - Sally Friberg  
Barbara Hucksam - Andrew Leisenring - Judith Malton - William Oakley  
Peter Patrick - Rev. Judith Roberts - David & Jacqueline Shippis  
Steven Vedro - Madalyn Wilson - Edna Zinzi**

## Legacy/Planned Giving & Endowment Giving



Make a difference, change lives forever! With a Lifetime Charitable Gift, After-Life Gift and/or Endowment Gift, you can help fund the work of FPSSC because you know just how much good is possible!

## Funding for Property & Property Donations



Affordable housing is the answer to the homeless families issue. By donating a home or funding to purchase a home, you will be helping us to create affordable housing for our local working families.

**To Donate: Go to [www.familypromisessc.org](http://www.familypromisessc.org),  
Call 941-497-9881 or Email [info@familypromisessc.org](mailto:info@familypromisessc.org)**

# 2021



## Family Promise of South Sarasota County

### SPECIAL THANK TO CONGREGATION HOSTS & SUPPORTS

Christ United Methodist  
Emmanuel Lutheran  
Englewood UMC  
Grace Community Bible  
Grace United Methodist  
Knights of Columbus

South Venice Baptist  
Trinity Presbyterian  
Unitarian Universalist  
Unity of Venice  
Venice Church of the Nazarene  
Venice Presbyterian

Christ Lutheran  
Epiphany Cathedral  
Episcopal Church of Holy Spirit  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Venice United Church of Christ

### Special Thanks for funding support in 2021:

100 Women Who Care Sarasota  
A. Keith Brodtkin Foundation  
Action Air of Sarasota  
Adelle A. & Harold J. Westbrook Foundation, Inc.  
Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
Belk  
Benson Trust  
Boca Cares Fund  
British Open Pub  
Caithness Construction, LLC  
Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation  
Christ United Methodist Church  
Church Women United - Venice Area  
Clayton Homes  
Community Foundation of Sarasota County  
Doris M. Carter Family Foundation  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Englewood United Methodist Church  
Epiphany Cathedral CCW  
Evalyn Sadlier Jones Foundation  
First Baptist Church of Venice  
First Christian Church of Venice  
Fisherman's Net Community Church & Revival Center

Franklin G. Berlin Foundation  
Generous Property Real Estate  
Grace United Methodist Church  
Gulf Coast Community Foundation  
Hannum Family Foundation  
Harold C. & Jacqueline F. Bladel Foundation  
Heron Creek Community Foundation  
Jerome & Mildred Paddock Foundation  
Jones Family Charitable Foundation  
Junior League of Sarasota  
Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary  
Louis & Gloria Flanzler Trust  
My Blessing Circle  
North Port Area Chamber of Commerce  
Osprey Nokomis Chamber of Commerce  
Pelican Pointe Golf & Country Club  
Pinkerton Payroll & Insurance  
Plantation Community Foundation  
Potenza Family Charitable Contribution Fund  
Publix Super Market Charities, Inc.  
Quinn Charitable Foundation  
Royal Venice Inc.  
Sarasota County Government

Southeast Roofing consultants, Inc  
St. David's Jubilee Center  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church of Venice  
Sertoma Club of Venice  
Suncoast Cathedral Metropolitan Church  
The Patterson Foundation  
The Rose Family Foundation  
The Stewart Foundation  
The Wichert Foundation  
Truist Charitable Fund  
Unity Church of Venice  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice  
United Way of South Sarasota County  
Venice Golf & Country Club Community  
Foundation  
Venice Lions Club  
Venice Presbyterian Church  
Venice Presbyterian Women  
Venice Yacht Club Charitable Foundation  
Venice-Nokomis Rotary Club  
Venice-Nokomis United Methodist  
The Wawa Foundation  
Wells Fargo Foundation

## 2021 Dream Walk Sponsors

### TITLE SPONSORS

## FourThought Private Wealth

#### DIAMOND SPONSOR

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

#### GOLD SPONSORS

Boone Law Firm  
Steve & Jennifer Boone  
Rachel & Atticus Frank  
The Rev. Chris & Paula Gray  
Robert & Beth Piel

#### SILVER SPONSORS

Joyner Family Insurance  
Paradise Grill