

# Family Promise

of South Sarasota County



## Family Spotlight In the News

### The Wedig Family

Ashley and Craig reside in South Sarasota County with their son, Troy. Ashley & Craig were residing in an RV park after pouring their life savings into a camper-turned-tiny home that they were rebuilding. The two had an extra lot in the RV park where they stored tools and utility vehicles for work. In 2022, Ashley found out what she thought was impossible- she was pregnant. Ashley and Craig did not plan for the pregnancy; however, were over the moon about the news. What they didn't know were the catastrophes that awaited them in the fall.

In October of 2022, Hurricane Ian ripped through Southwest Florida. Ashley and Craig were sheltering in the RV Park's

## In This Issue

[Family Spotlight In the News](#)

[Mardi Gras Celebration](#)

[From the Director](#)

[Meet Our Team](#)

[By the Numbers](#)

[The Promise](#)

[Mark Your Calendar](#)

[Volunteer Corner](#)

[Housing Heroes](#)

[Wish List](#)

[Thank You!](#)

[Take Action](#)

maintenance building when a tornado ripped off part of the roof. Ashley, being seven months pregnant, was terrified, as water rose up to her knees when the storm surge rushed water through the park. When the winds began to die down, the couple went to find a phone and realized they lost everything. The tiny home, vehicle, tools, all destroyed or stolen after the storm. All they were left with was one vehicle, luckily unscathed. The family walked away with minimal help from FEMA and funds from the sale of the tiny home.

Over the next several months, Ashley and Craig stayed with family as they saved money for new place to call home. Ashley found a place with \$1500 rent, including utilities. The owners agreed to hold it for them. With the money saved, Ashley and Craig were able to pay the deposits and move in. Life slowly returned to normal. The family was starting to get back on their feet. Troy was beginning to hit his young milestones and life felt easy.

In September of 2023, Troy was asleep in his crib. Craig and Ashley heard a loud boom in the wall behind the headboard and smoke began curling into the room. The house was engulfed in flames by the time Ashley handed the baby to Craig. Ashley had to run back inside for the family dog. Once the blaze was finally out, Craig and Ashley realized that once again, they lost everything. The Red Cross paid for a hotel in Venice for a few days, and hotel staff fed the family for free and purchased other necessities for the baby. After a week, Ashley and Craig were paying out of pocket for the hotel. They were scrambling to find housing. Ashley found another place to rent in Englewood. After the fire, she realized they did not have funds left to pay for rent. Family Promise was able to partner with Seasons of Sharing to help with October and November Rent.

This story is very similar to many of our families. One crisis can put a family in jeopardy of losing their housing, let alone multiple crises, as Ashley and Craig faced. We are grateful for our part in helping them achieve housing stability.

# Herald-Tribune

[Read the Article](#)

# Mardi Gras: A Community Celebration



## MARDI GRAS

A Community Celebration

Cajun-inspired buffet, live music, dancing,  
and fun for the whole family!

February 10, 2024  
2 PM - 6 PM

Shuck N' Ale  
648 Tamiami Trail South  
Venice, Florida

## SAVE THE DATE!

February 10, 2024  
2 PM - 6 PM - Event & Drinks  
3:30 PM - Food Served  
5 PM - Parade

Individual Tickets on Sale January 6, 2024



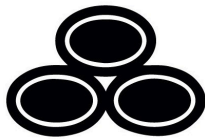
## Mardi Gras Sponsors To Date

### Fleur-de-lis Sponsors



PATRICE WESTON  
INSURANCE  
AGENCY, INC

1946 Kings Highway  
Port Charlotte  
FL 33980



237 Tamiami Trail S  
Nokomis  
FL 34275

941-244-4104

[www.patriceweston.com](http://www.patriceweston.com)

GULF COAST  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

Ed and Barbara Strobel Fund

### Additional Sponsors



Exclusive Food Sponsor



Exclusive Drink Sponsor



Purple "Justice" Sponsor

# From the Director



**Jennifer Fagenbaum**  
**Executive Director**  
**941-497-9881 x106**  
**[jf@familypromisessc.org](mailto:jf@familypromisessc.org)**  
**[www.familypromisessc.org](http://www.familypromisessc.org)**



As the holiday season approaches, our thoughts turn to gifts and time spent with loved ones. At Family Promise, we know the greatest gifts of all are family and a home.

On Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, HUD released its Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) reflecting a surge in homelessness across all populations, and notably, **a 16% increase in family homelessness.**

Family Promise recognizes that:

1. Due to its definition of homelessness, HUD's reporting does not fully capture the true extent of children and families experiencing homelessness, as it does not include families/youth under the McKinney-Vento definition that are doubled-up, or families/youth that are self-paying in motels.
2. With pandemic-era aid, reported numbers of homelessness in previous reports have been artificially low.
3. The housing affordability crisis combined with lack of resources that families are eligible to access are pushing more and more families into housing crises- and action is needed.

Notable points from the AHAR:

- Family homelessness increased by 16% and unaccompanied youth homelessness increased by 15% between 2022 and 2023.
- 34.9% of all persons sheltered were families with children (graphic, page 2)

- Twenty-nine percent of people experiencing homelessness did so as part of a family with at least one adult and one child under 18 years of age, and most people in families were sheltered. (page 4)
- **Of the 653,104 persons reported experiencing homelessness, 111,620 (17.1%) were children under the age of 18. Of the children, 90.6% were sheltered but 9.4% (10,548 children on one night in the US) were not sheltered. (page 5)**
- 57,563 family households were counted in total for one night (page 40)

Sincerely,

Jennifer Fagenbaum, Executive Director

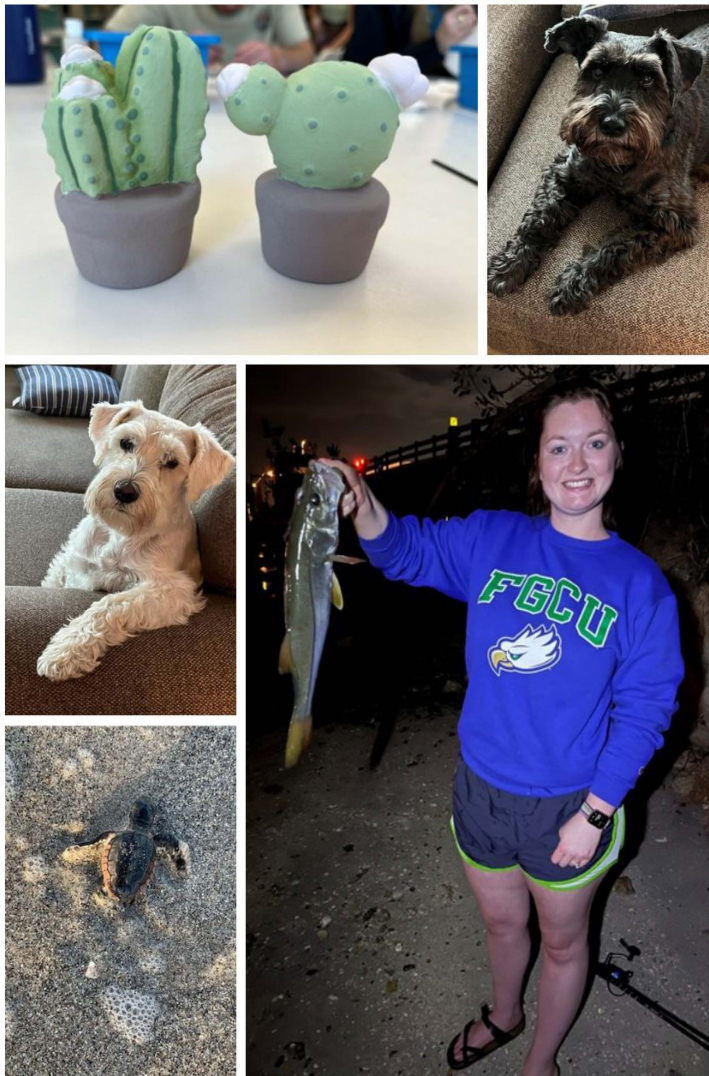
[Visit HUD.gov to read more](#)



We'll be sharing our team members and our Board members with you so you can get to know who is working so hard to protect children from becoming homeless. We work tirelessly to provide the best care, programs, and plans for our families.

## Who is Maddie Sims?

My name is Maddie Sims and I am the Bridge Housing Coordinator for Family Promise! I grew up in Champaign, Illinois and moved to Florida a few years ago. I miss the changing seasons in Illinois; however, I do not want to see snow ever again. One of my all-time favorite things to do is go fishing! I grew up fishing with my grandpa in the little fishing tournaments that were held in our town. I was also a part of my high school and college's bass fishing team. I love spending time with my family, whether it is going to paint pottery or spend time at the beach! I also love spending time with my dogs and spoiling them with all the treats!



## STATISTICS 2015 - PRESENT

BRIDGE HOUSING      110 families  
186 children

138 families      DIVERSION &  
247 children      EARLY INTERVENTION

RENT ASSISTANCE      235 families  
453 children

15 families      PATHWAYS HOME  
26 children

OTHER SERVICES      432 families  
612 children

50 families      HOME GOODS PANTRY  
57 children

CHILDREN SAFE AT HOME      1,581  
FAMILIES STABLY HOUSED      980  
TOTAL PEOPLE SERVED      2,781

# The Promise got a few NEW members this month!

## Thank you!

Become a Monthly Supporter. Join The Promise.



## Mark Your Calendar



1/9/2024 - 3:30 PM - **Volunteer Training**, Held at 720 Shamrock Road, Venice

1/9/2024 - 5:30 PM-6:30 PM - **Coordinator Meeting** - Meeting for Host and Support Coordinators

2/10/2024 - 2 PM - **SAVE THE DATE** - Mardi Gras: A Community Celebration, Held at Shuck N' Ale

## Volunteer Corner



We are currently planning our first Mardi Gras! The event will take place at Shuck N' Ale on Saturday, February 10, 2024 from 2 pm to 6 pm.

I'm recruiting volunteers to help! We are still in the planning stages, so more details are coming. I'll likely need volunteers starting around 12:30 PM and wrapping up by 6:30 PM- all shifts will be between 2-3 hours max. Some of the jobs are:

- Set up and break down
- Admission- tickets, shirts, raffles, etc.
- Servers (food and bar)
- Table attendants (cleaning up and tending to the VIPs in the VIP area)

If you are interested, click the link below to register and we'll follow up as the event gets nearer.

[Volunteer Information & Sign Up](#)







**We are so grateful for our 2023 Housing Hero Annual Sponsors!  
We appreciate your support! Thank you!**

## **\$10,000 Noble Neighbors Sponsor**



## **\$5,000 Community Crusader Sponsor**



**We're securing our 2024 Housing Hero Annual Sponsorships!  
There are great benefits and recognition for your business.  
You can be a Housing Hero too!**

**BECOME A HOUSING HERO!**

**JOIN FOR 2024!**



Family Promise  
of South Sarasota County

**ARE YOU A COMMUNITY PARTNER WHO:**

- Believes in the mission of FPSSC?
- Wants to assist FPSSC to ensure we are able to continue to help the families that need our support ?
- Wants affordable housing and financial stability for their employees?

[Become a Housing Hero](#)



## Thank You for Your Support

Our programs are supported in full or in part by:

**GULF COAST  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**



United Way  
of South Sarasota County



Bank of American Client Foundation, Bank of America, N.A. Trustee  
Harold G. & Jacqueline F. Bladel Foundation  
Boldt Family Charitable Fund  
Boone Law Firm  
Jerome & Mildred Paddock Foundation  
BrewBurgers Pub & Grill  
Venice-Nokomis Rotary  
The Bridge Church, Inc.  
Wells Fargo Foundation

---



The Louis & Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust is not affiliated with any descendants of Mr. & Mrs. Louis Flanzer

**Match your gift!!** Every dollar matters. Right now, your personal donation of \$5-\$500 may be eligible for matching funds through the Louis and Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust, doubling your impact to FPSSC!\* This is a wonderful opportunity to expand our ability to help families that are at risk of becoming homeless. Our affordable housing projects are a critical piece to building stability for families in South Sarasota County. We can do this!

Through the end of this year, click to donate to FPSSC through the [Flanzer Trust for Family Promise of SOUTH Sarasota County](#) to make your donation double. We are grateful for our partners at the Flanzer Philanthropic Trust!

\*Restrictions apply – please review the Trust’s terms and conditions to see if your contribution qualifies!

---



Harold C. & Jacqueline F. Bladel Foundation  
Boldt Family Charitable Fund  
Boone Law Firm  
BrewBurgers Pub & Grill  
The Bridge Church, Inc.  
British Open Pub

Network for Good  
New World Celts - Venice  
Osprey Nokomis Chamber of Commerce  
Jerome & Mildred Paddock Foundation  
Paradise Grill  
Plantation Community Foundation

The Al & Nancy Burnett Charitable Foundation  
Cadence Bank  
Kathleen K. Catlin Foundation  
Christ United Methodist Women - Esther Circle  
Church of the Holy Spirit Osprey, Inc.  
The Church of the Nativity  
Community Foundation of Sarasota  
James M. Doss Foundation  
Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP)  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Evangelical Covenant Church of Venice Isles  
Family Promise National  
First Baptist Church of Venice  
Louis & Gloria Flanzer Trust #5858 Fox Lea  
Farm, Inc.  
Grace Community Bible Church  
Grace United Methodist Church  
Grace United Methodist Women  
Gulf Coast Community Foundation Annette J.  
Hagens Memorial Foundation Hannum Family  
Foundation  
Knights of Columbus  
Roberta Leventhal Sudakoff  
May Family Foundation

PNC Foundation  
Potenza Charitable Foundation  
Publix Super Market Charities, Inc.  
Quinn Charitable Foundation  
Robles Law Firm  
Evalyn Sadlier Jones Foundation  
Sarasota County Government  
Sertoma Club of Venice  
Sisterhood for Good, Inc.  
South Venice Baptist Church  
Thompson Thrift Development, Inc. Unitarian  
Universalist Congregation of Venice United  
Way of South Sarasota County  
Venice Golf & Country Club Foundation  
Venice Nokomis Rotary  
Venice Police Department  
Venice Presbyterian Church  
Venice Print Center  
Venice United Church of Christ  
Venice Yacht Club  
VFW Auxiliary 8118  
The WaWa Foundation  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Adele A. & Harold J. Westbrook Foundation

## Take Action: Year-End Giving



**Home  
for the  
Holidays**

You can help provide homes for the holidays. Help us help families with stably housing in the new year. It's never too late.



### Contact Family Promise of South Sarasota County

850 Cockrill Street | Venice, Florida 34285

9414979881 | [info@familypromisessc.org](mailto:info@familypromisessc.org)

[Unsubscribe](#) or [Manage Your Preferences](#)

## Connect and Share!