

2023
ANNUAL
REPORT



HOME
OF SOMERSET COUNTY, INC.



Empowering

at-risk families to achieve and maintain independence through strength-based case management services.

90%

of families are maintaining independence after 5 years.

From the Executive Director



The HOME network is positioned for empowerment! The opportunity for human connection among our volunteers, staff and the families that we serve propels our learning and deepens the understanding of our community. It is only through these interactions can we meaningfully improve quality of life by meeting basic needs.

Somerset County saw the third largest increase in homelessness in the state in 2023. Our emergency shelter housed seven families and we provided over 10,300 meals! The need is rising, and so is the generosity of our network. I continue to be inspired by all who take action for the love of our community. New and expanding programs are a testament to HOME's ability to adapt to the unique needs of those who seek our help. And we couldn't do it without all of you!

I want to extend my sincerest THANK YOU to each and every person who chooses to be part of our work, and I look forward to making an even greater impact together in 2024.

With much gratitude,
Alyssa Martini
Executive Director



Message from the Board of Trustees

Gratitude & Hope were our recurring themes in 2023.

Gratitude for friends and colleagues, our supporters who time and time again, lifted us up with their generosity of spirit and purse. Gratitude to our staff who not only excel at their calling, but literally carry the moving boxes of our families who have found independent housing. Gratitude to our volunteers who work tirelessly to keep our Emergency Shelter program operating and a driving force of hope for our clients. And gratitude for our families who teach us time and time again about perseverance in the face of challenge.

2023 was also the year of hope, planning our future and our own new HOME.

We've embarked on a capital campaign, Project HOMEBase, to chart the next decades of HOME. A larger facility to welcome our clients, staff and volunteers. Hope that our efforts will be successful and empowering. A new HOMEBase for the next generation of families.

I want to share a brief story with you:

A young boy. I'll name David, met HOME when his family entered our Emergency Shelter program. Fast forward several years, when the preteen joins a football team, makes friends and is happy to be part of something. When a teammate gets injured and needs help, David starts a GO FUND ME campaign. "My family and I were helped and now it's time for me to help others," he explained.

Oh, David's wisdom and kindness teaches us all so much.

Thank you for all you do for HOME and our families.

Dottie Driscoll
President, Board of Trustees



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Our Volunteer Impact

In 2023, you responded to the needs of 54 families in our emergency shelter and continuum of care programs.

Shelter

- 14 Host congregations
- 23 Support congregations

Resources

- 1,348 Nights of shelter
- 10,300+ Meals

Time

- 2,500+ Volunteer hours
- Over 1,000 volunteers

Community Outreach

- Food security assistance
- Basic needs support
- Housing supplies
- Clothing & furniture
- Transportation assistance
- Tutoring services
- Back-to-school supplies
- Holiday support



Our Continuum of Care Empowers



Safe Shelter

Our Emergency Shelter provides housing, meals and basic needs through interfaith congregational hosting and support. Case management, financial counseling, mental health evaluation and community resource referrals are offered to families to increase life skills and access to resources.

- 7 families served
- 7 adults, 10 children
- 1,622 hours of case management



Transitional Housing

Sunrise House, located in Bridgewater, accommodates families who were previously in our Emergency Shelter and have prepared themselves for independence but find themselves stalled by the search for permanent, affordable housing. Individualized case plans are created, and basic needs are subsidized as families work on educational and employment goals.

- 3 families served
- 3 adults, 5 children
- 2 families transitioned into permanent housing
- 693 hours of case management





Supportive Services

Phase 2 offers 18 months of continuing case management and support to clients who have transitioned to independent housing. This fills an identified gap in services to support newly housed families and prevent relapse back into homelessness.

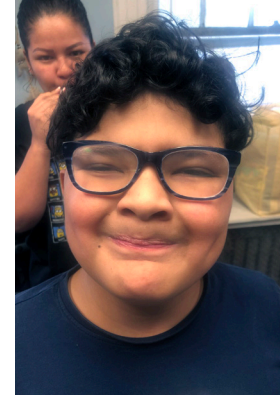
- 15 families served
- 23 adults, 27 children
- 16 adults employed
- 777 hours of case management



Rapid Rehousing serves clients who have achieved independent housing but are considered at high risk of relapse back into homelessness. Clients receive individualized case management, financial counseling, basic needs support and mental health services.

- 2 families served
- All adults employed
- 39 hours of case management

Sound Minds provides all clients, children and adults, with a psychiatric evaluation, mental health counseling and crisis intervention. Our counselor provides direct services to clients at our host congregations, as well as in-home counseling. All adults and children have access to mental health services and participate in consistent counseling. Eight families participated in family therapy.



Neighbors In Need provides families living independently with case management and financial counseling resources that are aimed at housing and family stability. Mental health services, basic needs and food security supplementation help these families remain independent.

- 20 families served
- 28 adults, 21 children
- High focus on food security and affordable housing applications
- 566 hours of case management

Bound Brook Families For Success

provides bilingual case management to the immigrant population of Bound Brook. Collaboration between Bound Brook Presbyterian Church, Middle Earth and HOME connects families with services and resources to help eliminate barriers in the community that lead to sustainable independence.

- 10 families served
- 10 adults, 12 children
- High focus on basic needs and employment connection



Clients Who Inspire

Shareef and his son, Shareef Jr. entered the HOME Emergency Shelter in May 2023 after having to leave a shared residence. His priority was to obtain employment and stable housing for his family and he did just that. As a single father in the shelter, he became employed and received employment transportation through the RideWise's Bike Connect program. While working on his case management goals, Shareef valued staff guidance and always maintained an optimistic outlook. He successfully secured an affordable housing opportunity and was able to reunite with his significant other and two younger children. With the generosity of HOME volunteers, Shareef's house became a home through household donations. Shareef remains in our Phase 2 program and continues to build upon the foundational support that he received from being a client of HOME.





HOME had a fun time in the countryside after being selected as one of the beneficiaries of the 2023 Hunterdon Polo Classic fundraising opportunity.

A Community That Cares

Our partnerships throughout our community continued to benefit our at-risk families in 2023.



Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center in Bridgewater generously offered five of our HOME children summer camp scholarships to provide enrichment and recreation during the summer months.

Our Calendar Raffle fundraiser helped support programming while giving winners the opportunity to win prizes each week.

The Somerset County Youth Council helped provide food security for our Neighbors In Need families using the kitchen at a host congregation, First United Methodist Church.





Our annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Service celebrated unity and highlighted a momentous story of a family's journey HOME.



Community votes helped HOME be the recipient of The Redstone American Grill Woodfired Fund to raise money for.

Gateway Gives Back! and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church ensured that all HOME kids were well-equipped for the school year.

Bound Brook Presbyterian Church and Share My Meals supported our food security initiative through gift cards and donated corporate meals.

The Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El ensured that our low-income families had Thanksgiving meals.

Several groups and individuals exceeded expectations of holiday giving to our entire network.



2023 Funding Sources

Our Financial Contributors

- Government
- Individuals
- Religious Orgs
- Foundations
- Event Fundraising
- Client Contributed

