

## A Dream Fulfilled: Alicia's Path to a Forever Home

A proud graduate of Open Hearth's Family Savings Partner Program (FSP), Alicia Buchanan successfully saved \$2,000 and completed financial education requirements to become eligible for a \$4,000 match toward the purchase of her first home. With support from FSP and the Homeownership Program with Chester County Habitat for Humanity, Alicia achieved her lifelong dream of becoming a homeowner for herself and her two children.

*"For us, owning a home is more than acquiring a property; it's about creating a sanctuary where my kids feel safe, secure, and cherished," Alicia shared. "It means giving them a stable environment where they can grow, learn, and build lifelong memories. This home represents stability and the fulfillment of a dream I've carried in my heart for so long."*

Open Hearth's FSP empowers low - to moderate-income individuals to set aside savings for critical assets such as a first home, reliable transportation, or higher education. Participants work closely with a program coordinator to create and follow a budget, attend free financial literacy workshops, and develop habits that lead to long-term financial stability. Once they meet their savings goal, for those with the goal of homeownership, Open Hearth, with funding from the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey, matches their savings two-to-one, turning \$2,000 into a \$6,000 down payment.



Alicia and her two children are building memories in their new home.

*Though Alicia credits FSP for helping her achieve her homebuying goal, it was her discipline, dedication, and commitment to learning that made the difference.*

Now, she is proud to own an asset that will provide her family with both financial security and a true place to call home.



Open Hearth has joined forces with other local nonprofits to launch the OHPACS Community Garden—a vibrant, collaborative space on our property that embodies sustainability and collective impact. More than a garden, it’s a testament to what can be achieved when expertise and volunteer spirit come together. With Open Hearth’s support, Trellis for Tomorrow’s expert guidance, and distribution of food by Phoenixville Area Community Services, the garden is flourishing—yielding fresh, nutritious produce that nourishes families throughout the Phoenixville region.

**2,569** SO FAR, THE GARDEN HAS YIELDED OVER POUNDS OF VEGETABLES

Every harvest helps address food insecurity while strengthening the bonds between organizations committed to uplifting the community. This initiative proves that when we work together, we don’t just plant seeds—we plant hope.



Our friends at the Upper Main Line Rotary (including OH Board member, Ryan Warwick) volunteered in the OHPACS Garden at the end of September and harvested 271 lbs. of produce.

## PECO Customer Relief Fund

Open Hearth is proud to be one of just eight regional nonprofits selected by PECO to connect families with vital financial assistance—and the only organization chosen to represent Chester County.

With more than 1,400 applications from Chester County alone, our committed team has reviewed each one to provide thoughtful, individualized support.

Through this impactful initiative, PECO is applying \$500 in credits to eligible customer accounts within one to two billing cycles, offering meaningful relief to those who need it most.

To see if you qualify, scan this QR code



### Open Hearth FY 2024 Major Funders



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