

 **Family Promise**
of Cowlitz County
PO Box 1152 • Kelso, WA 98626

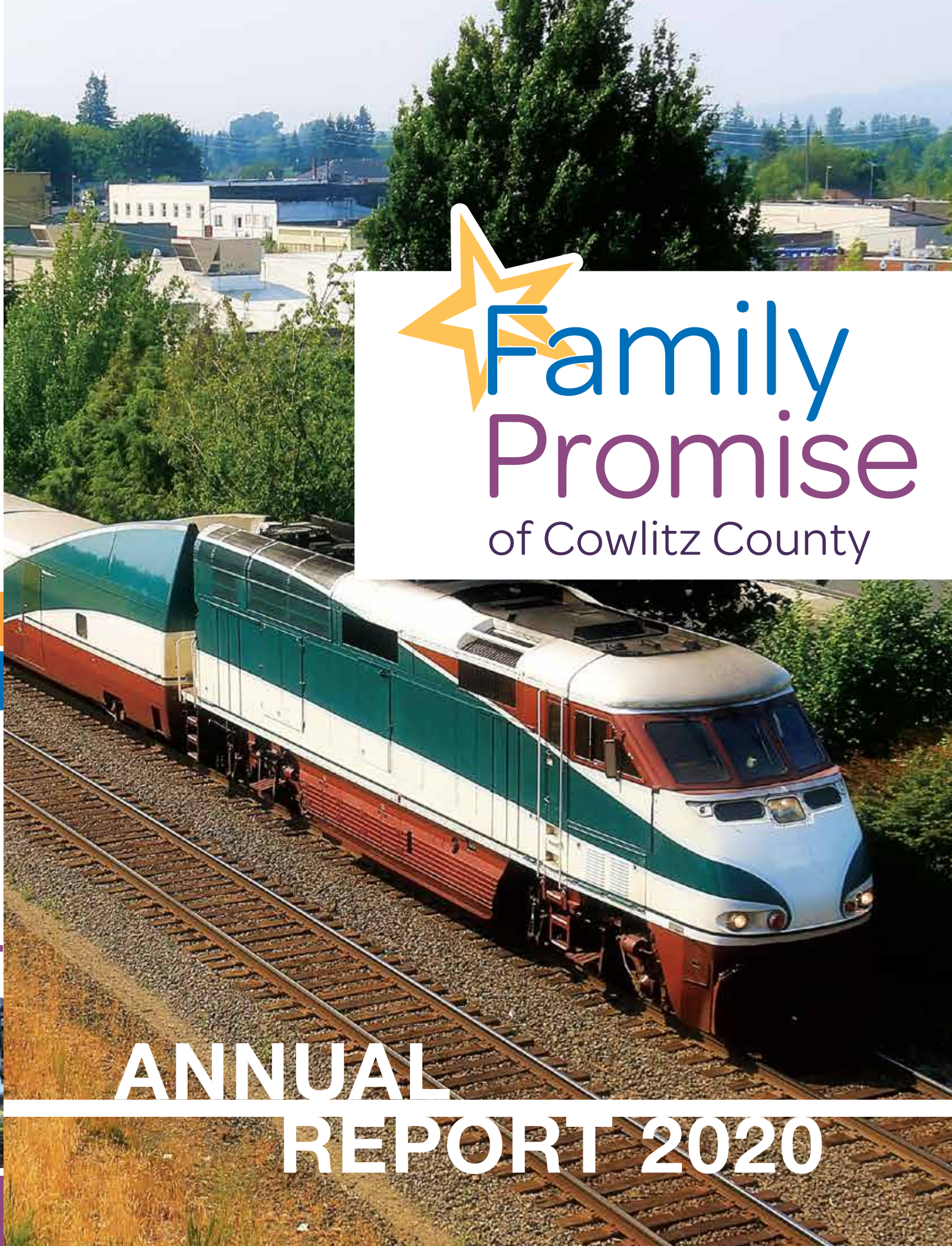
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ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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A message from incoming president

Pr. Vonda McFadden

Dear Supporters of Family Promise:

My name is Vonda McFadden and I am honored to begin serving as President of the Family Promise of Cowlitz County Board this month. I have sat on the board for two years and currently chair the Congregational Relations Committee. I serve as the pastor of Kelso United Methodist Presbyterian Church (KUMPC). KUMPC also owns the building where the Day Center is situated. My husband Tom and I are originally from Oklahoma and moved to the Pacific Northwest 12 years ago.

I have been involved in working with the homeless for many years, as far back as college, helping those in my local community. It is important to me to bring hope and homes to families in our community suffering from homelessness, especially the children. We all deserve a place to call home.

While Covid-19 has changed how we do business and even live our lives, we have continued to help families find homes. I am thankful for the many faithful volunteers who spend hours and hours working to help our families. Thank you also to my fellow Board members and our Affiliate's staff for all of their hard work standing Family Promise of Cowlitz County up over these past two years. I look forward to continuing the hard work begun by outgoing Pastor Dave Martin and expanding our outreach into our community this coming year.



Vonda McFadden

A message from outgoing president

Pr. Dave Martin

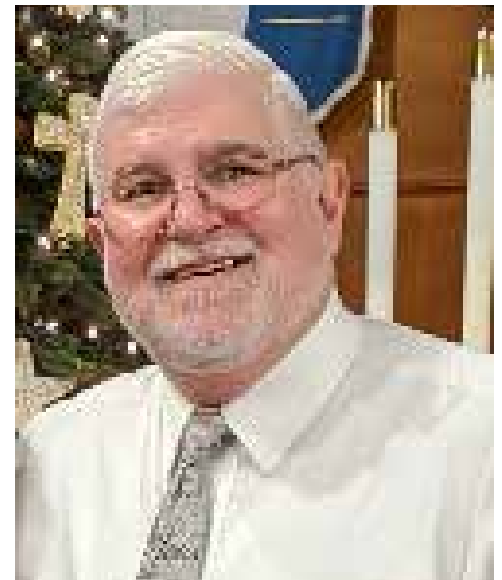
Dear Friends of Family Promise:

It has been my privilege to lead the FPCC Board of Directors for the initial two years of our existence. As I reflected on those two years, I couldn't help but compare our progress to an infant learning to walk. In our early days, we stumbled a bit. But little by little, we got our feet under us and began to move forward. We completed an extensive remodeling of the Day Center, convinced 26 different churches to work together as Host and Support Churches, and slowly assembled a dedicated staff. On August 25, 2019, our affiliate opened for business and we began the work of lovingly bringing homeless families back to lives of hope and stability.

Our "walk" faltered a bit as we navigated through the minefield of Covid-19 restrictions, but our determination to keep moving forward never wavered. Like an infant who keeps enduring the bumps and bruises of falling to know the real joy of walking, we've kept persevering. And because of that, we continue to see good things happen at FPCC.

Three things that have encouraged me the most in my involvement with FPCC have been the willingness of churches to work together for the common good of our county, the community buy-in into Family Promise, and the amazing relationships that develop between guest families and volunteers. I foresee a bright future for FPCC. It is my hope that in years to come we will become more involved in homeless intervention, the creative procurement of affordable housing, and in expanding the number of simultaneous hosting rotations.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge all those Board members, who've served alongside me these past two years. Thanks for your hard work, dedication, and friendship. It has been a joy to serve with each of you: Karin Austin Bailey; Leticia Casarez; Linda Davis; Greg Filer; Dan Frei; Pastor Bill Hale; Sylvia Hale; Pastor Vonda McFadden; Ron Naff; George Robertson; Karl Salzsieder; Jed Schroeder; Pam Torgerson; Dani Trimble; and Ray Van Tongeren. I echo those sentiments to our very talented Executive Director, Lisa Staudinger.



Pastor Dave Martin



4,331 NIGHTS OF SHELTER PROVIDED



Family units donating: 238



Networking

Core Mission:



- Children Served-Interfaith Hospitality Network: 18
- Adults Served-Interfaith Hospitality Network: 12
- Meals provided: 12,993
- Pets served-IHN: 4
- Children Served-Outside Case Management: 80
- Adults Served-Outside Case Management: 47



Campaign outcomes:

- Christmas 2019: \$2100
- Night without a Bed: \$11,802.89
- GiveMore24: \$18,754.80
- General/Other: \$96,361.04
- 129,018.73 Total Donation
(Individuals & Organizations)

- Partner Congregations: 25
- Business Supporters: 43
- Partner Agencies: 29
- Facebook Followers: 540
- Electronic Newsletter Subscribers: 495
- Paper Newsletter Subscribers: 242



TOTAL DONATIONS IN 2019

Dear Friends and Supporters,

2020 has been a challenging year on so many levels. I know you've felt this as we have. I began my position as Executive Director for Family Promise of Cowlitz County in June, 2019 as the Day Center remodel was nearing completion. The challenge of helping get the remodel finished on time, getting office operations up and running, and beginning to serve guests seemed fairly extraordinary at the time. I remember thinking that after the first nine months or so, things would begin hitting a rhythm and we'd be able to enjoy slightly less intensity. That nine month mark turned out to be March 2020.

Indeed, we were beginning to get our bearings, develop a routine, and feel like we knew how operations would run. And you know what happened next.

Over the next nine months, we would change operations drastically three times: first from our normal rotational shelter to near total operational shutdown in emergency static shelter in Laurie Hall. Then back to a limited rotational shelter in July when Laurie Hall was no longer going to be available. Then back to static shelter again, but with normalizing operations, as we assessed how the pandemic had impacted the availability of volunteers.

At every step, our commitment to the safety of volunteers, guests, and staff has been our greatest consideration. And at the same time, we were determined to continue our mission, which in a pandemic took on an even greater urgency. Through every twist and turn, as every challenge hit us, you've stayed with us and supported us through the difficult and unexpected. Your faithfulness has made it possible for us to survive and continue our work of turning around the lives of children experiencing the trauma homelessness. You are the only reason we are still standing, still serving, and still saving families in crisis. To say we are grateful is a huge understatement.

Looking forward to 2021, we aim to not only continue our current operations in static shelter as normally as possible, but also to increase our capacity to serve families experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness. The more children we can get back into a home of their own—and the more children can stay in their homes—the brighter and more promising these children's futures will be, strengthening our community now and into the future.

We know 2021 will not magically flip a switch and suddenly everything will become "normal" and easy. It's going to be another challenging year, though one we fervently hope brings resolution to many situations. But we also know that we can get through it, and in fact, thrive and grow in our capacity to serve. You give us hope and confidence that we can make 2021 a great year because you have our back.

Thank you and God bless!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Saudinger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



VONDA MCFADDEN
PRESIDENT



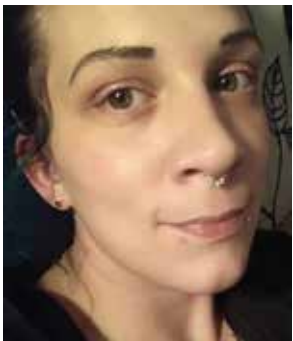
KARL SALZIEDER
VICE PRESIDENT



LINDA DAVIS
TREASURER



GREG FILER
SECRETARY



LETICIA CASAREZ



DAN FREI



BILL HALE



**PASTOR
DAVE MARTIN**



STAFF MEMBERS



RON NAFF



PAM TORGERSON



JAN HEATON
OFFICE COORDINATOR



LISA STAUDINGER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



SARA WALLACE
GUEST SUPPORT ASSISTANCE
AMERICORPS MEMBER

