



# A Change of the Guard

by Dan Frei, Board Chair

I'd like to thank Vonda McFadden for her excellent leadership as board president these past 3 years. As I relieve her of that role, I can only pray that I can lead with the grace and calm that she showed throughout her tenure.

My involvement with Family Promise began in October 2016 when National Associate Tom Cioffi came to our community in an effort to increase the number of affiliates across the country. At that time, they had just surpassed 200 affiliates in 42 states. Washington state had 2 locations – one in Mt. Vernon and one in Spokane. (At this time there are 4 additional locations - Spanaway, Vancouver, Aberdeen and Kelso).

erated for about a year before the Covid-19 epidemic caused us to restructure as a static shelter. In many ways I feel we have only now begun to get our feet on the ground. So much has happened in the last few years that I feel there is a need to communicate our existence with several of the churches as well as the larger population.

My involvement with Family Promise has allowed me to meet so many wonderful people in our community. I find that I am often in awe of their faith. While I so often feel the need to “make it happen”, they have expressed a trust in God – that by doing their part, He will make their efforts fruitful.

I’m excited for the future of Family Promise of Cowlitz County. We have an executive director (Sara Wallace) with a passion to help families facing homelessness, an office manager (Jamie Craig) who has been with us from the beginning and board members with an array of perspectives and talents that support this wonderful organization.

As we near the end of what has been our 5<sup>th</sup> year of operation, I want to thank you for your continued support and prayers. This program is working and has helped so many in our community to achieve safe and permanent housing for their families. As we continue this important work, please consider us in your year-end giving.

- Dan Frei

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***“So much has happened in the last few years I feel there is a need to communicate our existence with several of the churches as well as the larger population.”***

Tom presented at several of our local churches and offered a compelling program that was met with enthusiasm. I joined a core team of 4 and began the work to bring this program to our community. It took nearly 2 years to register with the state and the federal government as a non-profit, get the commitment of several local churches, find a location in which we could begin operations, hire an executive director, etc.

We were able to begin offering help to families in late 2019, but had only op-



# Focus on Homelessness Prevention

by Sara Wallace, Executive Director

Dearest Friends,

As we welcome the feel of a warm fire and family gatherings, good food and laughter, let us be grateful for our family, our health and our home. Our goal is to ensure every child has a

home. Because of your faith in us, Family Promise of Cowlitz County was able to shelter 14 families with 36 children this year. Twelve of these families successfully graduated with 31 children moving into permanent, stable housing. Thank you for trusting our vision.

Preventing homelessness from even occurring has been a key focus, and with community support, in 2024 alone, we were part of preventing an incredible 43 families with 99 children from experiencing the trauma associated with becoming homeless. THANK YOU.

Childhood homelessness is an invisible crisis; these children look just like our children or our grandchildren. They were not part of the situation that forced them out of a home. Yet, the systemic circumstances that parents face (poverty, substance use, lack of affordable housing, mental health issues, domestic violence) create generational trauma that is passed down, hindering children from achieving their full potential.

Based on statistics from the National Alliance to End Homelessness, children experiencing homelessness:

- Are more likely to repeat a grade (Washington doesn't allow this anymore, so they fall behind)
- Have lower academic performance
- Are more likely to be expelled or drop out
- Have higher risk of health problems
- Have higher risk of mental and behavioral problems

Imagine eliminating this and giving them a chance to have their education at the same level as their peers!

Thanks to your generosity, hundreds of individuals have received shelter, meals, hotel stays, and other supportive services in the past year through our programs of shelter,

prevention/diversion and stabilization. With your help, we are working with families to help them regain stability and get back into their own home. For that, we thank you!

But there are still many more families in our community who need help. We've seen families finding it difficult to obtain affordable housing and struggling to pay rent. We receive 4 to 12 calls like this per day, on average. Because of these needs, we are focusing our growth and services on providing resources further upstream to help families *before* they face losing their homes. Our goal in this process is to break the cycle of poverty and instability that has impacted so many families in the Cowlitz County and SW Washington area.

With so few resources available for these vulnerable families, we need your help. We are currently looking for more church partnerships and monthly donations, in-kind donations and volunteers. At FPCC we teach family self-sufficiency with a community-based approach. No family is alone, no child left behind.

A great way to spread awareness on behalf of these families is to share this letter with your congregation! Ask them to add it to their bulletin or tell a neighbor or associate about us. Tell them about all the children we (with your help) have been able to serve! Together we can do so much more!

Thank you, thank you on behalf of the little boys and girls who walk the halls of this shelter, happy, fed and loved!  
Thank you!

- Sara Wallace, Executive Director, FPCC



# Donors to the General Fund, Grants & Sustainability Campaign (thru October 31st, 2024)

(Donors highlighted in yellow participate in the 100 for 100 Sustainability Fundraiser)

|  |                                       |                                   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Longview-Kelso Beta Sigma Phil Council | Jan Ferguson                          | Jackie & James Keller             | Kelso United Methodist Presbyterian Church              |
| Judy Ainslie                           | Cindy & Pete Foley                    | Judy Kilde                        | Family Promise National                                 |
| Robert Avignone                        | Rose Foundation                       | Ronald & Ruth Kimmel              | Bill Hundley & Kay Purcell                              |
| Tim & Patricia Baker                   | Dan Frei                              | Carol & Thomas Kirwan             | Cherie & Larry Rapp                                     |
| Cindy Barbee                           | Rose Valley Friends Church            | Dave Knoyle & Glenda Johnson      | Lam Research Corporation                                |
| Alan & Deana Barkman                   | Valorie Futcher                       | Jessica & Peter Kooiman           | Mike Reuter   |
| Michael & Sally Bartlett               | Tom Garstki                           | Kathy & Tom Laird                 | Julie Rinard  |
| Greg & Karla Bean                      | Nancy Gill                            | Beverly Laulainen                 | Majean Roehne   |
| Linda Beattie Inlow                    | PayPal Giving Fund                    | Lucy Lehman                       | Robert Ross   |
| Daryl & Gail Berg                      | John & Joanne Gotshall                | Carol & Louis Locke               | Derene & Karl Salzsieder                                |
| Ken Botero & Marjorie Berry            | Bob & Marie Grant                     | Ardyth & Richard Loewen           | Jori Scruggs-Brown                                      |
| Arthur & Mary Birkmeyer                | John & Trudi Gross                    | Justin Lunday                     | J. Chris & Heidi Shaw                                   |
| James & Kristine Bruckner              | Gail & Judy Groth                     | Nancy Lundquist                   | Autumn Sheridan   |
| Shelly Buller                          | Kay Gunter                            | St. Paul Lutheran Church          | Patty & Steven Sheridan                                 |
| Robert Casey                           | Abby Guttormsen                       | Donna & Joe MacKenzie             | Stephen Shope   |
| St. Rose Catholic Church               | Alice Hack                            | Donald & Mollie Mackey            | Debra & Richard Shuren                                  |
| Phyllis & Travis Cavens                | Pr. Craig Hafterson                   | Jim & Judy MacLeod                | Shirley Simpson   |
| Robert Chace                           | Kerry & James Hall                    | Hal Mahnke                        | Claudia Sobczuk   |
| Longview Presbyterian Church           | Arlene Hambly                         | Roy Maier                         | Lisa & Robert Sudar                                     |
| Longview United Methodist Church       | David Hamilton                        | Larry & Margaret Malone           | Judy & Ron Ten Harmsel                                  |
| Emmanuel Lutheran Church               | Amy & Brian Hamilton                  | Diane Manasco                     | Janice Thompson   |
| Trinity Lutheran Church                | Marcia Hamm                           | Ron Marshall                      | Ian Thompson  |
| Bethany Lutheran Church                | Connie & Howard Hammond               | Allison Mattocks                  | Karen & Mark Thorson                                    |
| East Hills Alliance Church             | Karen & Richard Hardecker             | Louise McAuliffe                  | Annie & Darrel Tietze                                   |
| Renewal City Church                    | Kate Harlan                           | Rev. Vonda & Thomas McFadden      | Marilyn & Pati Tracy                                    |
| Harold Cockrell                        | Jackie & Ray Harrison                 | Donna McLain                      | Marsha Treadway   |
| Bill & Cindy Coonan                    | Jan Heaton                            | Sandra Meske                      | Adam & Danielle Trimble                                 |
| Ann Cordero                            | Chuck & CreeAnn Henderson             | Donald & Gavin Jeanne Mills       | Julie Unsell  |
| Susan Coulombe                         | Sarah Hines                           | Brian & Toni Miner                | Sara Wallace  |
| Laura Countouriotis                    | Allison Hutchinson                    | Patricia Morrison                 | Kamren Wallace  |
| Denise Cram                            | Doug Irvine & Marilyn Melville-Irvine | Arne Mortensen                    | The Walworth Family                                     |
| Pete & Frances Crosby                  | Don Iverson                           | Kay & Ron Naff                    | United Way  |
| Barbara Davis                          | Gary & Susan Jackson                  | Grocery Outlet                    | Mary Wheeler  |
| Anne DeFrancisco                       | Janet Jacobs                          | Michael Pervere                   | Melissa Wilkie Living Trust & Robert Wilke Living Trust |
| Pat Doebele                            | Darylan Johnson                       | Patricia Peterson & Stephen Jones | Mary Wingate  |
| Donovan Doerr                          | Dayne & Jim Johnston                  | Kat Pettersen                     | Michael & Trudy Woods                                   |
| Gary & Ruth Earnest                    | Sally Jones                           | Eugene Pistorese                  | New Song Worship Center                                 |
| Lila Ellis                             | Mike & Teri Karnofski                 | Susan Pointer                     |   |
| Marlys & Rod Ericksen                  | Eileen Kasemeier                      | Tracy Pond                        |   |
| Bob & Kathy Erickson                   |                                       | Diane & Steve Pond                |   |
| Grace Bible Church                     |                                       | Margaret Porter                   |   |



# Adopt a Family for Christmas



This Christmas as we plan for the hustle and bustle, we have several families who are thriving but barely surviving. The cost of living has skyrocketed, and some are left with the question of "pay rent or have a Christmas?" We would like to give these children and their hard-working families a chance to do both.

With your help, we can keep the faith and spirit of the giving season alive. If you or your congregation would like to adopt a family this holiday season, or make a donation to do so, please contact [sara@fpcowlitz.org](mailto:sara@fpcowlitz.org) or call 714-487-1459.

Our families have been vetted, and are clients either in shelter, stabilization or at-risk families in our case management program. These families hope to someday give back just like they have been given the gift of the holidays for their children!

Families like Hilary and her children.

Hilary is one of Family Promise of Cowlitz County's first graduates.

She and her children have amazed us with their perseverance. Hilary is utilizing local resources to assist her family along the way. Kelso Housing Authority's family self-sufficiency program has been the steppingstone for her and her children towards becoming homeowners!

Congrats, Hilary on all your success!  
Your FPCC family is here for you!

(See more of Hilary's story on page 5.)



## In-Kind Contributions (thru October 31st, 2024)

|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Nancy Baldwin         | Donnette Martelle   |
| Linda Beattie Inlow   | Rev. Vonda & Thomas |
| Boyd & Deborah Burns  | McFadden            |
| Savanah Clement       | Fred Meyer          |
| Kelly Colver          | Janelle Ormond      |
| Home Depot            | Grocery Outlet      |
| Marlys & Rod Ericksen | Sugar Pearl Bakery  |
| Coralee Frederick     | Clara Prothero      |
| Galaxy Gourmet        | LaVonne Rodgers     |
| John & Trudi Gross    | Aubrey Shaw         |
| Jackie & James Keller | Jack & Kathy Troupe |
| Donna & Joe MacKezie  |                     |

# A Success Story

*by Hilary, a Family Promise Graduate*

I was part of a program through the Kelso Housing Authority called Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS). My goals were to become a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) counselor and to own my own home. Currently I am in school and working towards a bachelor's in social work.

Last January I accepted a promotion as a Substance Use Disorder Professional Trainee (SUDPT), which is just a fancy way of saying a counselor in training. This license allows me to practice and train as a counselor. This included a raise which took me out of the low-income bracket so I ended up graduating from the FSS early, but they gave me a check of \$18,000 to put towards a home or whatever I would like. I am currently on the search for a home but haven't found one yet.



My oldest, Corbin, moved to Wyoming and works as a manager of a family dollar store. He started as a general staff member and worked his way up the

corporate ladder and now he is a salaried employee. They even gave him a moving package as part of the promotion to go and run a store that was not doing so well to get it back up and running. Once he is done there and has

all the staff trained he will move on to the next store and do the same. I am super proud of him.

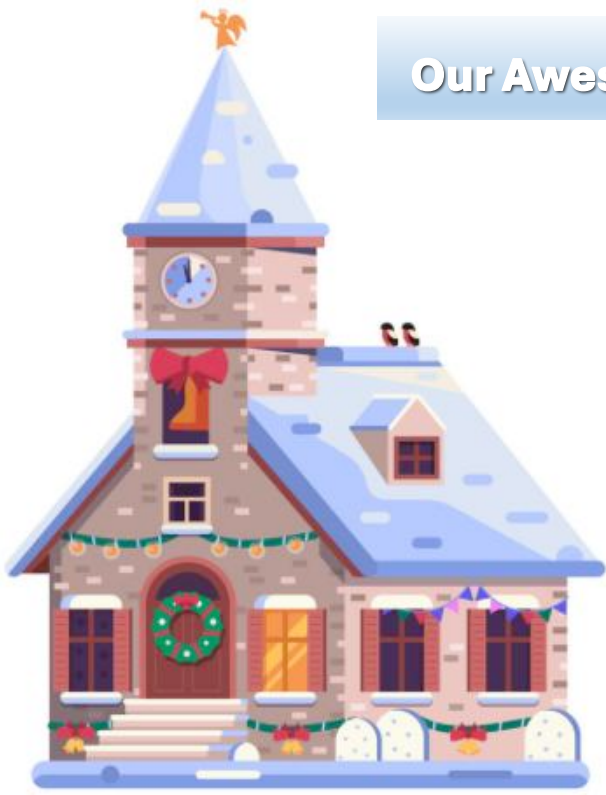
Jeniah is also doing great things. She is currently working as a CNA and in-home care provider. She will soon be exploring options to become a medical assistant. She owns her own car, pays her own insurance, and is becoming a grown young adult woman. I am super proud of her as well.

Wisdom is amazing as ever. Tallest one in his class. Sweet kind and funny as ever. He is in the first grade, making lots of friends and thriving. He's joining a basketball team in January and maybe a self-defense class of some sort when that is over.

My journey began at Family Promise. I wouldn't be where I am today without the love and support from all the members of the congregations, volunteers and staff. Thank you, FPCC.







## Our Awesome Church Partners

- Emmanuel and East Hill Alliance
- St. Rose/ Immaculate Heart of Mary & Lake Sacajawea Ward
- And thanks to Bethany Lutheran for hosting families monthly

### ***Next 7 weeks of Host Churches:***

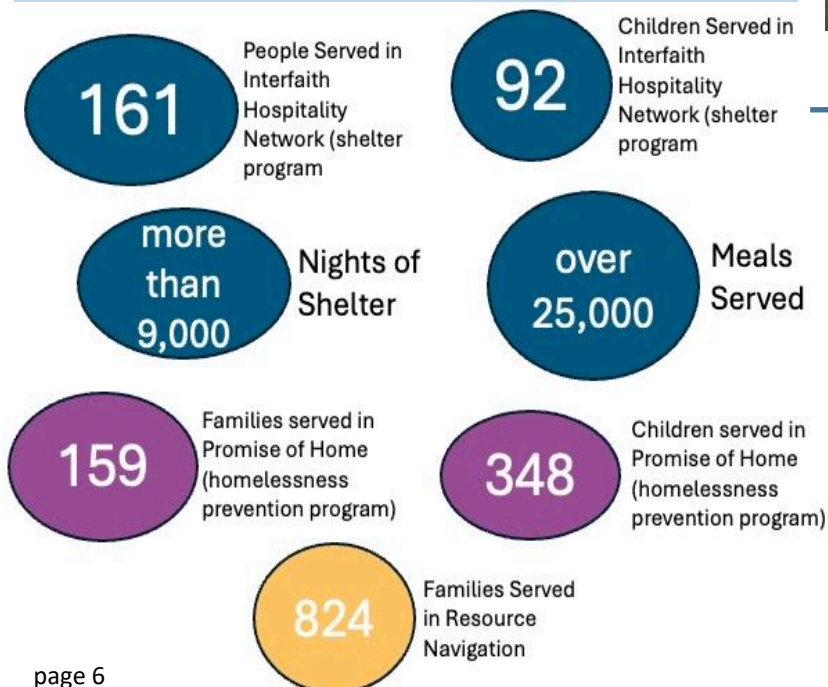
- Northlake and Exodus 11/17-11/23
- Longview Presbyterian 11/24-11/30
- Trinity Lutheran and Evangel 12/1-12/07
- Kelso First Baptist and Grace Bible Church 12/08- 12/14
- Longview First Christian and Kalama Ward 12/15-12/21
- Kelso United Methodist Presbyterian and Longview United Methodist 12/22-12/28
- Gloria Dei and Rose Valley Friends with Renewal City 12/29-1/04

### ***A HUGE thank you to the last 8 Host Churches:***

- Longview Presbyterian
- Trinity Lutheran and Evangel
- Northlake and Exodus
- Kelso First Baptist and Grace Bible Church
- Longview First Christian and Kalama Ward
- Kelso United Methodist Presbyterian and Longview United Methodist



## Our Local Impact



## Financial Update

*Updates are through October 31, 2024*

2024 Annual Budget:

**\$ 149,881.00**

2024 Contributions to date:

**\$ 111,723.62**

2024 Avg. monthly contributions:

**\$ 10,156.69**

2024 Volunteer hours reported:

**1,399 hours**





# Thank You

For supporting our annual Night Without a Bed Fundraiser:  
Burgers and Bingo

We hope you enjoyed this event! This is the first of many to come. Family Promise of Cowlitz County intends to continue this new tradition each year with your support. This was a true bonding experience that brought our families, churches, and community together for a night of fun and fellowship. If you missed this event, we hope you can join us in the years to come.

Special thank you to Mike and Ally and the East Hills Alliance team for catering the event. Huge shout out to David Fatcher for being our MC. And as always, the biggest thanks to our partner congregations, Family Promise Board and Staff, and our many volunteers for your help and continued support. Because of your generosity we were able to raise \$7,764! It takes a village, and ours is Mighty!



## Donations Requested

Moving into the new year, there are many ways you, your congregation, and your neighbors can continue to contribute to the success of this program and its families. Here are some ways that you can help:

→ *Monetary*: Donate through [fpcowlitz.org](http://fpcowlitz.org), drop off at 215 Academy Street in Kelso, or mail to PO Box 1152, Kelso. You can also text 360-233-2200 to give.

→ *Weekly Meals*: If you know of a group or organization that would like to provide dinner on a rotational schedule, please contact our office.

→ *Christmas Adoption*: Call or email Sara at 714-487-1459, [sara@fpcowlitz.org](mailto:sara@fpcowlitz.org) if you or a group would like to adopt one of our past or current families for Christmas!

→ *In-Kind*: We can always use the following items in our shelter:

- AA lithium batteries
- Blankets
- Towels
- Paper towels
- Trash bags
- Toilet Paper
- Ziplock bags all size
- Postage Stamps
- 11x17 paper reams
- Slippers
- Laundry Soap
- Hygiene Products



# At Your Service

## Board of Directors

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Dan Frei            | President      |
| Marsha Treadway     | Vice-President |
| Trudi Gross         | Secretary      |
| Cindee Barbee       | Treasurer      |
| Nancy Baldwin       | At-Large       |
| Laura Countouriotis | At-Large       |
| Bob Erickson        | At-Large       |
| Lauri Harris        | At-Large       |
| Jan Heaton          | At-Large       |
| Jim Johnston        | At-Large       |
| Ron Naff            | At-Large       |
| Lavonne Rodgers     | At-Large       |
| Karl Salzsieder     | At-Large       |

## Family Center Staff

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Sara Wallace</u> | Executive Director |
| <u>Jamie Craig</u>  | Office Manager     |

**Email Newsletter Editor:** Steve Sheridan  
**Print Newsletter Editor:** Richard Shuren

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Family Center Hours  
Monday through Friday, by appointment only

Family Center Office Phone  
360-703-3131

*Visit our website at:*

*[www.fpcowlitz.org](http://www.fpcowlitz.org) (Cowlitz County)  
[www.familypromise.org](http://www.familypromise.org) (National Organization)*

*Find us on Facebook at:  
[www.Facebook.com/FamilyPromiseCowlitzCounty](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyPromiseCowlitzCounty)*

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