

The Journey



Creating Hope, Nurturing Strength, Transforming Lives

Second Quarter 2026

Vol 7, Issue 2

A Heartfelt Thank-You to Our Family Promise Community by Dan Frei, Board President

At Family Promise of Cowlitz County, we are continually reminded that the work of transforming lives is never done alone. It takes a community—people who care deeply, who show up consistently, and who believe that every child deserves a safe place to sleep and every parent deserves the chance to rebuild. Today, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to all who support this mission.

Each of us has only our part to offer, yet when those individual acts of kindness come together, they create something powerful: hope. Whether you contribute on a monthly basis, bring food to the shelter on a day your church has committed to feed the families, or volunteer at one of our many fundraising events, your efforts make a real and lasting difference. You may not always see the impact firsthand, but we see it

"Each of us has only our part to offer, yet when those individual acts of kindness come together, they create something powerful: hope."

every day—in the relieved smiles of parents, in the laughter of children who finally feel safe, and in the steady progress families make toward stability.

The families we serve often find themselves without stable housing through no fault of their own. Job loss, medical emergencies, rising rents, and unexpected crises can push even the most hardworking families into homelessness. Times are tough, and the path forward can feel overwhelming. But because of you, these families are not walking that path alone. Your generosity provides shelter, meals, case management, and the encouragement they need to take the next step toward safe and stable housing.

We are blessed to have helped so many families graduate from our program—families who now have a place to call home, who are rebuilding their lives with confidence, and who carry with them the knowledge that this community believed in them. Their success stories are your success stories.

To every donor, volunteer, church partner, advocate, and friend of Family Promise: thank you. Thank you for giving your time, your resources, your compassion, and your heart. Thank you for believing that families deserve dignity and opportunity. Thank you for standing with us in this work.

Together, we are creating a community where families can thrive. Together, we are offering hope. And together, we are making a difference—one family at a time.

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A New Beginning for Annie Mae and Her Boys

When Annie Mae arrived at Family Promise of Cowlitz County with her two young sons, Ace and Brighton, she was facing one of the most difficult seasons of her life. Like many families we serve, she had encountered circumstances beyond her control and needed a safe place to regroup, heal, and rebuild.

During her time in shelter, Annie Mae worked hard toward her goals. With the support of our staff, community partners, and caring donors, she focused on creating a stable future for her family. She remained committed to moving forward, taking advantage of resources, building a plan, and doing the work necessary to regain stability.

Meanwhile, Ace and Brighton were able to experience something every child deserves—a safe place to sleep, meals they could count on, and the security of knowing their family was surrounded by people who cared.

Thanks to the support of our community and Annie Mae's determination, her stay in shelter was brief. Today, Annie Mae and her boys are happily settled into their own home.

Their story is a beautiful reminder that homelessness is often a temporary situation, not a permanent identity. With a little support during a difficult time, families can overcome barriers, regain stability, and create bright futures for themselves and their children.

It is with the help of many partnering agencies, that her story was filled with help and hope and loving people.

Because of generous supporters like you, families like Annie Mae, Ace, and Brighton are not defined by their crisis. Instead, they are empowered to write their next chapter—one filled with hope, stability, and the comfort of having a place to call home.

Welcome home, Annie Mae and boys!



Our Condolences

On behalf of everyone at Family Promise of Cowlitz County, we extend our deepest condolences to the employees, families, friends, and the entire Nippon Dynawave community following this heartbreaking tragedy.

Our hearts are with those who lost loved ones, those who were injured, and all who have been impacted by this devastating event. The loss of so many members of our community has touched every corner of Cowlitz County and serves as a reminder of how closely connected we all are. Reports indicate that eleven workers lost their lives in what has been described as one of the deadliest industrial disasters in modern Washington state history.

We recognize that no words can ease the pain being experienced by the families, coworkers, and friends of those affected. During this difficult time, we stand alongside our community in mourning and offer our sincere prayers, support, and compassion to everyone impacted by this tragedy.

May the families find comfort in the love and support surrounding them, strength in the days ahead, and peace in the memories of those they have lost.

With heartfelt sympathy,
Sara Wallace
Executive Director
Family Promise of Cowlitz County



"When one member of our community hurts, we all hurt. When one family grieves, we grieve together."

Community Connection

2026 International Festival

FPCC attended the Ethnic Support Council's 34th annual International Festival on May 30, 2026 at LCC Student Center.

The International Festival is a free, fun, family event that celebrates our community's diversity through ethnic music, dance arts & crafts, food, information and cultural displays, games and other activities. We were delighted to come out and mingle with our partners and the families in the community who are celebrating their cultures.



Parking for Go 4th Fest

Happy
4th of July

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN PARKING LOT
2218 E. KESSLER BLVD., LONGVIEW WA

ALL PROCEEDS:

Family
Promise
of Cowlitz County

100% Proceeds from your parking fee will go to support Family Promise of Cowlitz County families. We are a local non-profit that supports at-risk families with children experiencing hardships and homelessness. For more information please visit our website:

 www.fpcowlitz.org

\$5 parking fee

The True Cost of Securing Housing in Cowlitz County- The Brass Tacks

When discussing homelessness prevention, it is important to understand the financial barriers families face even when they have income and are capable of maintaining housing long-term.

In Cowlitz County, a typical two-bedroom rental ranges from approximately \$1,400 to \$1,550 per month, while many three-bedroom units suitable for families exceed \$2,000 per month.

For a working family with children, securing a rental often requires much more than simply paying the monthly rent. Many landlords require applicants to:

- Demonstrate household income equal to at least three times the monthly rent
- Pass background and credit checks
- Provide rental history and landlord references
- Pay application and screening fees for each adult applicant
- Provide a security deposit
- Pay the first month's rent before move-in
- In some cases, pay the last month's rent in advance
- Pay pet deposits or pet fees when applicable

For a family seeking a modest two-bedroom unit at \$1,500 per month, the upfront costs can look like this:

Expense	Estimated Cost
First Month's Rent	\$1,500
Security Deposit	\$1,500
Last Month's Rent (when required)	\$1,500
Application Fees	\$100
Utility Deposits/Connection Fees	\$300
Moving Costs	\$500
Total Upfront Cost	\$5,400

For a three-bedroom family unit renting for \$2,100 per month, move-in expenses can easily exceed \$7,000 before the family ever receives the keys.

In addition, a landlord requiring income equal to three times the rent would expect a household renting a \$1,500 unit to earn at least \$4,500 per month, or approximately \$54,000 annually. A family seeking a \$2,100 rental would need to show income of roughly \$6,300 per month, or more than \$75,000 annually.

Preventing homelessness is not simply the compassionate choice—it is the fiscally responsible choice.

Many of the served by Family Promise of Cowlitz County have the income necessary to sustain future rent payments but lack the thousands of dollars required upfront after experiencing a temporary financial setback such as a medical emergency, reduced work hours, vehicle repair, childcare disruption, or other unexpected expense.

This is why homelessness prevention is so important. A family may need only a few thousand dollars in assistance to remain housed or secure a new rental. Without that support, the family may become homeless, creating far greater costs for emergency shelter, social services, healthcare systems, schools, and the community as a whole.

Preventing homelessness is not simply the compassionate choice—it is the fiscally responsible choice. By helping working families overcome temporary barriers, we can keep children housed, reduce trauma, maintain employment, and preserve family stability while avoiding the significantly higher costs associated with homelessness intervention.

Perhaps most importantly, helping a family remain housed or quickly secure new housing is far less costly—and far less traumatic—than allowing that family to become homeless. Once a family loses their housing, the challenges multiply rapidly. Children may be forced to change schools, lose connections with friends and trusted adults, and experience the fear and uncertainty that comes with not knowing where they will sleep each night. Parents often struggle to maintain employment while navigating a housing crisis, and the emotional toll on the entire family can be profound.

From a community perspective, prevention is also a wise investment. The cost of helping a family overcome a temporary financial barrier is often only a fraction of what it costs to respond after homelessness occurs.

continued on page 5

(continued from page 4) Emergency shelter, crisis services, healthcare interventions, school disruptions, transportation needs, and intensive case management all place additional demands on community resources. By providing timely assistance before a family loses their home, we can preserve stability, minimize trauma, and help families continue on their path toward self-sufficiency. Prevention not only protects children and strengthens families—it is one of the most effective and fiscally responsible ways to reduce homelessness in our community.



Why Housing Stability Starts With Community Support

For many of us, moving into a new home is an exciting milestone. For the families we serve, it can feel like an impossible mountain to climb.

Many working families in Cowlitz County are doing everything right. They are employed, caring for their children, and working hard to build a stable future. Yet one unexpected setback, like we listed above, can put their housing at risk.

Many people don't realize that securing a rental home requires far more than simply paying monthly rent. Before a family can move in, landlords often require income equal to three times the monthly rent, a security deposit, application fees, utility deposits, and the first month's rent. Some also require the last month's rent upfront.

For a modest two-bedroom rental, these costs can easily exceed \$5,000. For a larger family-sized home, the upfront expenses can climb well above \$7,000. For a family already struggling to recover from a temporary hardship, these costs can be the difference between stability and homelessness.

This is where your support changes lives.

When donors invest in Family Promise of Cowlitz County, they are helping bridge the gap between crisis and stability. A family's challenge is often not that they cannot afford rent moving forward—it is that they cannot overcome the significant upfront costs required to secure housing after experiencing a short-term setback.

Your generosity helps keep children in their schools, parents in their jobs, and families together during difficult times. It helps prevent the trauma of homelessness before it begins and gives families the opportunity to regain their footing and continue moving forward.

The impact extends far beyond housing. Every family that remains stably housed avoids the emotional toll of homelessness, maintains community connections, and continues building toward a brighter future. Children retain the security of a place to call home, parents can focus on work and family, and hope is restored.

Because of compassionate supporters like you, families facing a temporary crisis can find stability, dignity, and a path forward.

Together, we are not just helping families move into houses—we are helping them create homes, build futures, and write new chapters filled with hope.

Thank you for making that possible.

Know or come across someone who needs help but you don't know what help is available? Check out the link on our website home page for a list of resources in the county.

https://www.fpcowlitz.org/_files/ugd/fddd7b_9b0ddad0922d487d8d57c276597029b9.pdf



The Power of Connection



We are so excited to share one of the beautiful moments that has recently taken place in our shelter!

Since transitioning families from our rotational shelter model into our current shelter program, we have seen incredible results. Children's sense of security has improved dramatically, and families are achieving stability and moving into permanent housing more quickly than ever before.

While this model has brought many benefits, there was one thing we missed—the personal connections that naturally happen when people gather together. For years, our volunteer meal providers did so much more than simply deliver dinner. They brought consistency, kindness, encouragement, and a reminder that

our families are supported by a caring community. A meal is nourishment, but it is also love, comfort, and something families can count on.

Recently, we had the joy of bringing some of that connection back in a very special way.

Many of you may recognize the name Jordan Nylander from the benefit concert held at Emmanuel during our Giving Day campaign. Jordan's wife, Glory, their children, and longtime Family Promise volunteer and supporter Ann Williamson spent an evening with our shelter families hosting a homemade pizza night.

Together, families rolled out homemade sourdough pizza crusts and created their own unique pizzas. The children delighted in a pizza-themed craft, using felt toppings to design their own colorful creations. The evening was topped off with a story time that brought everyone together.

What filled the room that night was far more than the smell of fresh pizza. It was laughter. It was creativity. It was conversation. It was children smiling and parents relaxing. It was families feeling seen, valued, and connected.

Moments like these remind us that healing and stability happen not only through housing and services, but through relationships and community. There is something truly special about gathering around a table, sharing a meal, and simply being together.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to Glory, Jordan, their wonderful children, and Ann



Williamson for sharing your time, your talents, and your love with our families. Your kindness created memories that will not soon be forgotten.

Because of supporters like you, Family Promise families experience more than shelter—they experience community, hope, and the knowledge that they are not alone.



Around the Dinner Table

More than a Meal: A recipe for connection

More recently, we were blessed by the generosity of Deborah and Boyd Burns, who joined our shelter families for a truly special evening centered around food, family, and life skills.

Their goal was not simply to provide a meal, but to teach families how to prepare a delicious, budget-friendly dinner together as a family unit. Parents and children worked side by side in the kitchen, preparing the meal, learning new skills, and sharing responsibilities. The children eagerly helped with cooking, assisted with cleanup afterward, and then gathered around the table with their families to enjoy the meal they had created together.

The smiles throughout the room were contagious. There was laughter, teamwork, and a sense of pride as families shared a meal they



had prepared with their own hands. As I watched the evening unfold, I felt the love and admiration in the room. The kindness and encouragement that Deborah and Boyd brought with them radiated throughout the shelter.

What made the evening so meaningful was that it went far beyond dinner. It was an opportunity for families to practice the routines and traditions that help create stability at home. It was a chance to build confidence, strengthen family bonds, and learn practical skills they can carry with them long after they graduate from our program.

Deborah and Boyd wanted to contribute more than a meal—they wanted to share the lessons, connection, and love that come with gathering around the table as a family. Their gift was not only food for the evening, but an experience that reminded our families what is possible as they continue their journey toward independence and lasting stability.

Deborah and Boyd are longtime Family Promise of Cowlitz County supporters who are near and dear to our hearts. Their generosity has extended far beyond this special dinner event. For years, they have graciously provided storage space for donated furniture and household items, ensuring that we have a safe place to store the essentials our families need as they transition into permanent housing.

Because of their ongoing support, families graduating from our program have been able to furnish their new homes with beds, dressers, kitchen items, and other necessities that help transform an empty apartment into a place they can truly call home. This behind-the-scenes gift has made an immeasurable difference in the lives of countless families over the years.

Their commitment to Family Promise is a beautiful example of what community support looks like—not only providing resources, but also investing their time, talents, and hearts into the success of our families. We are incredibly grateful for Deborah and Boyd and the many ways they continue to help families build a brighter future.

Thank you, Deborah and Boyd, for sharing your hearts, your time, and your wisdom with our families. Your impact reached far beyond the dinner table.



If you, or your congregation would like to come connect with our families please let us know!!

SCHOOL SUPPLY GIFT CARD DRIVE

Walmart
Target
Fred
Meyers
Amazon



Help us provide the necessities, to get our kiddos ready for school. Our sheltered and graduate families need your help- make a positive impact on their education and hygiene. Thanks to our community, for the various school supply drives, these items are readily available. We are hoping to help our families get the other hard-to- gather items, such as: socks underwear, bras, boxers and the things that need to be brand new.

We will assist in purchasing the items to ensure accountability.

We are asking for gift cards to: Walmart, Target, Fred Meyers, Amazon, Ross Marshalls. Local is best.

Or donate crew socks, ankle socks all youth sizes, girls xs-xl underwear boys boxer briefs and underwear xs-xl

AUGUST 1ST-30TH

You can drop off to Sara at 215 academy St. Kelso between 10am-2pm. If you need a code to access the shelter text Sara at 714-487-1459

sara@fpcowlitz.org



Family Promise presents OUR ANNUAL BURGERS 'N BINGO

JOIN US TO RAISE AWARENESS TO END CHILDHOOD HOMELESSNESS, A NIGHT OF FAMILY, FUN AND A CHANCE TO GET TO KNOW OUR ORGANIZATION. BRING THE KIDS AND MAKE MEMORIES. GIVING FAMILIES HOPE, TOGETHER.

TICKETS GO ON SALE JULY 15
WWW.FPCOWLITZ.ORG

FAMILY | HOPE | COMMUNITY

SATURDAY OCTOBER 24, 2026 5:30 PM
YOUTH AND FAMILY LINK
907 DOUGLAS, LONGVIEW WA 98632

SAVE
THE
DATE

A Mother's Determination: Belle's Journey Home

When Belle arrived at Family Promise of Cowlitz County with her four children, she was carrying the weight of uncertainty that no parent should have to bear. Like many families facing housing instability, Belle found herself in a difficult situation despite her determination to provide a safe and stable life for her children.

As a mother of four, Belle's greatest concern was keeping her family together and ensuring her children felt safe during a challenging time. While staying in shelter, she remained focused on her goals and committed to building a better future. She worked closely with Family Promise staff, actively participated in case management, and took each step necessary to move her family toward stability.

The journey was not always easy, but Belle never gave up. Through her hard work, determination, and willingness to keep moving forward, she demonstrated incredible strength and resilience.

At the same time, our community stepped in to help. Support from generous donors, available resources, volunteers, local partners, and caring community members provided the resources and encouragement Belle needed to overcome the barriers standing in her way.

Today, Belle and her four children are living in a home of their own.

Their story is a powerful reminder of what can happen when determination meets opportunity. With support from the community and a mother committed to creating a brighter future for her children, a temporary crisis became a new beginning.

Because of supporters like you, families like Belle's are able to move beyond homelessness and into stability. Your generosity provides more than shelter—it provides hope, encouragement, and the chance for families to build the future they deserve.

Today, Belle's family is no longer defined by the challenges they faced. Instead, they are writing a new chapter filled with security, stability, and the comfort of having a place to call home.

Each client we serve teaches us something to carry with us to the next. This is the most valuable tool we have.

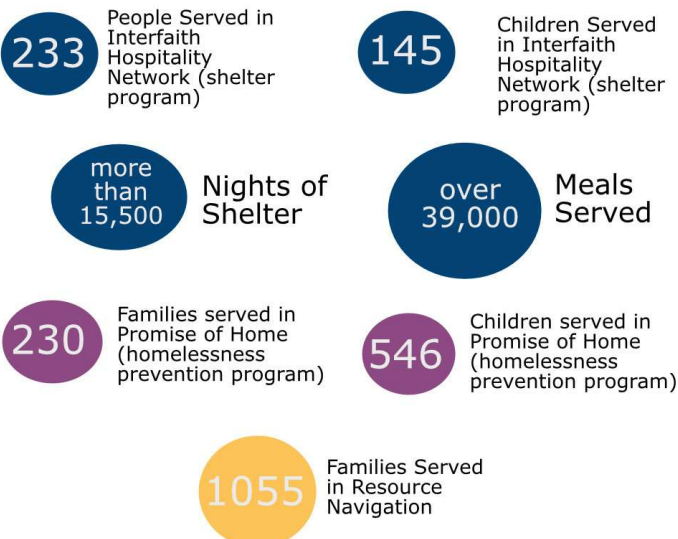


Donate Today!

**Scan this QR code
with your
mobile phone!**



Our Local Impact



Through 6.22.26

2026 Family Promise campaign for sustainability



We are looking for churches, individuals, civic organizations, small businesses, families and foundations to come together and pledge \$100 a month to Family Promise of Cowlitz County. This is to help us sustain our five core programs: Shelter, Stabilization, Diversion, prevention and our new youth program: promise of change.

If you would like to schedule a presentation for your congregation or board, please contact Sara at sara@fpcowlitz.org or 714-487-1459



We can always use the following items in our shelter:

- AA lithium batteries • Slippers
- Blankets • Trash bags
- Hygiene Products • Toilet Paper
- Laundry Soap • Ziplock bags (all sizes)
- Paper towels • Full size sheets
- Postage Stamps • 11x17 paper reams

If you would like to donate, scan the code, below, to go to our Amazon Wish List page and place your order. Or, go to the link: <https://a.co/bIGojXB>.

You can also call the office at 360-703-3131 or email Jamie at: office@fpcowlitz.org.



Financial Update

Year To Date

2026 Annual Budget- \$183,231

2026 Contributions to date- \$64,890

2026 Avg. Monthly Contr. - \$21,978

2026 Volunteer hours - 550

Visit us at FPCowlitz.org

Looking for Help? Click here

Click to read latest newsletter

Cowlitz Community Resources

Subscribe To Our Newsletter

WE ARE FAMILY PROMISE OF COWLITZ COUNTY



Donors to the General Fund, Grants & Sustainability Campaign

(March-April-May)

Donors highlighted in yellow are helping to ensure our long-term sustainability through the 100 for 100 campaign. Please consider joining them by becoming a sustaining supporter. Simply select "Give to the 2026 One Hundred Campaign" on our website's Donate page or contact our office for more information.

Richard and Judy Ainslie	Bob & Kathy Erickson	Sally Jones	Leon Rennells
Robert Avignone	Grace Bible Fellowship	Mike & Terry Karnofski	Bonnie Romer
Summer Bailey	Exodus Christian Fellowship	Ruth Kimmel	Karl & Derene Salzsieder
Ron & Alice Bakke	Cindy & Pete Foley	Thomas and Carol Kirwan	Debbie Sanders
Kelso First Baptist	Dan Frei	Kathleen Lappe	Crhis and Heidi Shaw
Greg & Karla Bean	John & Joanne Gotshall	Beverly Laulainen	Autumn Sheridan
Daryl Berg	Marie & Bob Grant	Richard & Ardyth Loewen	Steven & Patty Sheridan
Boyd & Deborah Burns	Connie Gray	Clifton Lollar	Richard & Deb Shuren
Kathleen Cain	Ryann Graye	Cindy Lopez- Werth	Celeste Stubbs
Cheryl Caplan	John & Trudi Gross	Joe and Donna MacKenzie	Don Sturdivant
East Hills Alliance Church	Gail Groth	Jim & Judy MacLeod	Mark & Karen Thorson
Emmanuel Lutheran Church	Randy & Kerry Hall	Roy & Lisa Maier	Annie & Darrel Tietze
Renewal City Church	Brian & Amy Hamilton	Louise McAuliffe	Marsha Treadway
Bethany Lutheran Church	David & Greta Hamilton	Help Us Move In	Julie Unsell
David & Ann Cordero	Richard & Karen Hardecker	Ron & Kay Naff	Brian Wagner
Laura Countouriotis	Kate Harlan	Dennis Perry	Mary Wheeler
Pete and Frances Crosby	William Hehn	Michael Pervere	Melissa Wilkie Living Trust
Barbara Davis	Chuck & CreeAnn Henderson	Eugene Pistorese	Ann & Dale Williamson
Longview Presbyterian Deacons	Daniel & Marty Hultquist	Susan Pointer	Mary Wingate
Donovan Doerr	Don Iverson	Michael & Heidi Polis	Michael & Trudy Woods
Marilee Donovan	Gary & Susan Jackson	Marilyn Pursley	New Song Worship Center
Barbara & Skip Dunlap		Jodyne Reid	

In Kind Contributions

Molina Healthcare

Jackie Keloer

Olympic Elementary PTO

Kay Purcell

The benefit concert by Jordan Nylander raised over \$4,000 towards our giving day campaign thanks to individual donors and a \$3,000 giving match from Emmanuel Lutheran Church, missions board! You can watch a recording of the concert online at: <https://www.youtube.com/live/NXSZLXjfHhU?feature=shared>

You can learn more about Jordan's upcoming concerts and future music releases at www.jordannylander.com

Help Us Grow!

Your prayers and donations are like oxygen and blood to us.

We operate almost entirely on your donations. Please strongly consider donating to Family Promise, today.

Your support makes everything possible for our guests and clients!

**DONATE
TODAY**



At Your Service

Board of Directors

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Trudi Gross	Secretary
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360-703-3131

Visit our website at:

www.fpcowlitz.org (Cowlitz County)
www.familypromise.org (National Organization)

Find us on Facebook at:
www.Facebook.com/FamilyPromiseCowlitzCounty

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Family Promise of
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Kelso, WA 98626
P.O. Box 1152

