



The Journey



Creating Hope, Nurturing Strength, Transforming Lives

First Quarter 2026 Vol 7, Issue 1

The Power of New Beginnings

by Sara Wallace, Executive Director



Spring is a season that reminds us of the power of new beginnings. As the days grow longer and the world around us begins to bloom, we are reminded that renewal and hope are always possible—even after the most difficult seasons.

At Family Promise of Cowlitz County, that spirit of renewal is at the heart of everything we do. Each year brings new opportunities to serve more families, strengthen our programs, and deepen the support we provide to parents and children facing housing instability. Every family we walk alongside carries a story of resilience, courage, and determination to build a better future.

with you. Dedications are a special way to honor a loved one, celebrate a group or business, or simply show your commitment to helping families in Cowlitz County find stability and hope.

None of this work would be possible without the generosity and commitment of our incredible volunteers, donors, community partners, and supporters. Your belief in our mission allows us to continue growing and creating new pathways to stability for families across our community.

As we embrace this new season, I invite you to continue being part of this important work. Together, we can ensure that more families

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This spring, we are especially excited to celebrate an important milestone: the opening of our 5th Family Room. Each Family Room represents a safe and welcoming space where families can find stability, connect with resources, and take meaningful steps toward permanent housing. Expanding to a fifth location means we can reach even more families in our community who need support and encouragement during challenging times.

have the opportunity to experience hope, stability, and a place to call home.

Thank you for standing with Family Promise and the families we serve.

With gratitude,

Sara

We are also inviting churches and other members of our community to take part in making this room into a welcoming space for a family coming in from homelessness to feel safe and comfortable. Would you like to decorate? Paint a mural? Add some decorations? Add an "in honor of" plaque? We welcome the opportunity to partner



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Megan's Story of Perseverance

Megan stood in the doorway of her new apartment, holding the keys while her boys ran excitedly from room to room. Their laughter echoed through the empty space as they imagined where their beds and toys would go. To them it was a fun adventure, but to Megan it meant so much more. It was the start of a new chapter for their family.



Not long ago, life had been uncertain. With the support of Family Promise of Cowlitz County, Megan and her boys found stability, encouragement, and a community that believed in them during a difficult time. While working hard to rebuild their future, Megan set an important goal for herself—finishing her high school diploma.

Balancing school, parenting, and everyday responsibilities wasn't easy. Many nights Megan studied after her boys had fallen asleep, determined to create a better future for her family. When she finally completed her diploma, her sons were her biggest cheerleaders. They had watched their mom work

hard and refuse to give up, and they were proud of her.

Now Megan is taking the next step toward her dream by starting nursing school. Inspired by the care and kindness she experienced during her own challenges, she hopes to one day help others in the same way.

Graduating from Family Promise and moving into their own apartment is more than just a new home—it represents strength, determination, and hope. For Megan and her boys, it's proof that with hard work and support, a brighter future is possible.



Their journey reminds us that with support, resilience, and hope, amazing things are possible. Being part of Megan and her boys' story has made this outcome even more meaningful, and we cannot wait to see all the wonderful things their future holds.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

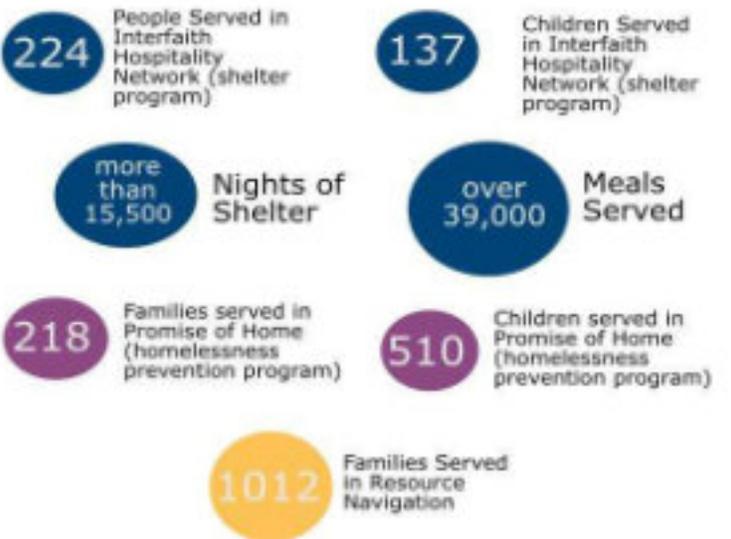
We raised \$4,079!!

Thank you for ordering your pies and helping us buy new beds for our expansion. We hope you enjoyed your tasty treats!

Did you miss out on the pie orders? Don't worry, we will be doing this fundraiser again in the fall, just in time for Thanksgiving. So please save all your holiday pie needs for us!

Special thank you to Willamette Valley Pie Company for partnering with us on this fundraiser

Our Local Impact



Community Corner

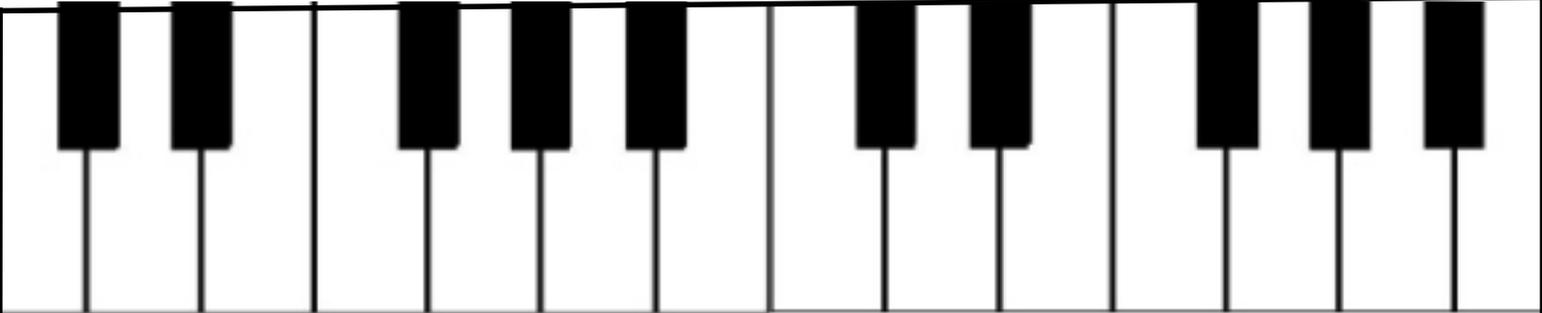
ONLINE GIVING DAY

April 26-27 Link to come

Support families in Cowlitz County by making a gift during our online Giving Day. Every donation helps provide safe spaces, resources, and support for parents and children working toward stability and independence.

★ Matching Challenge!

The Mission Board of Emmanuel Lutheran Church is generously offering a \$3,000 matching challenge during this event. That means your gift can DOUBLE in impact until the match is met!



Sunday April 26th 3pm

Jordan Nylander, piano

Presents a Benefit Concert for
Family Promise of Cowlitz County
Ballade in G minor by Chopin
New Original Compositions

Free to attend - Donations Accepted

All proceeds will go to Family Promise of Cowlitz County. \$3,000 matching fund provided by the Emmanuel Lutheran Church Mission Board



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jordannylander.com - fpcowlitz.org
elclongview.com
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
2218 Kessler Blvd Longview, WA 98632



Join us in raising awareness to end childhood homelessness, on April 26 & 27, 2026 for Family Promise Give Days a two day event dedicated to recognizing this invisible crisis and committing to making a change! Sun 4/26 will be a live musical event at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Online Giving starts 4/27!

Thank You

for keeping families together and safely housed.

 Family Promise
Giving  Day



Thank you so much



Love,

Your generosity and kindness over the holidays made this a Christmas to remember. Family Promise of Cowlitz County thanks you!

Thank you!

For your support, love and encouragement

Thank you so much for your generous support as we say first Christmas about 12 women and their hearts to us for last working dedication from each of our relatives. Thank you & Happy New Year!

Family Promise of Cowlitz County Staff, Board and Volunteers.



More Than a Program, a Community

A letter from our in-house single mom who in 6 weeks has found the way and is graduating into permanent housing! She has 4 children, under 9, and is doing it on her own. She is an inspiration and reminds us of the power of this platform.

"When my four kids and I left Oregon and moved to Washington, we had no idea where we were going to go or what was going to happen next. It was one of the most uncertain and difficult moments of our lives. Then Family Promise reached out and gave us a place to land, and that changed everything for us.

From the moment we arrived, we were welcomed with kindness, compassion, and understanding. You didn't just give us a room but a sense of safety, stability, and hope during a time when we needed it the most. Every staff member has gone out of their way to make sure we have what we need and that we were comfortable.

My kids feel safe here. They are happy here. As a mother, that means more to me than words can really explain. After everything we have been through, being in an environment where we feel supported and cared about has made such a huge difference in

our healing and in our ability to start rebuilding our lives.

Family Promise has been more than just a program to us — it has truly felt like a community full of people who genuinely care.

Thank you for opening your doors to us, for treating us with dignity and respect, and for reminding us that there are still people in the world who truly want to help others succeed. My children and I will always be grateful for the kindness you have shown us. We truly appreciate all of you so much."

From Tammy K



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.



New Rapid Intake Questionnaire

New: Online Rapid Intake Questionnaire for Families in Need

FPCC is pleased to announce a new Online Rapid Intake Questionnaire designed to help us connect with families in need more quickly. This new tool allows individuals and families seeking shelter or assistance to be added to our waitlist faster than ever before.

If you or someone you know is in need of support, please follow these simple steps:

1. Visit www.fpcowlitz.org
2. Click the blue link that says "Looking for help? Click here."
3. Complete the online questionnaire

Once the questionnaire is submitted, families will be added to our waitlist immediately for shelter or assistance.

We encourage community members, partners, and supporters to share this resource so that those who need help can access services as quickly as possible.

A Heartfelt Appreciation for Richard



At Family Promise of Cowlitz County, we are blessed to be surrounded by people whose hearts for service shine brightly through everything they do. Among them, Richard stands out as a steadfast pillar of compassion, creativity, and commitment.

For years, Richard has poured his time, energy, and care into our mission—especially through his work on our newsletter and countless events that bring our community together.

His thoughtful words and tireless efforts have helped tell our story, celebrate our families, and keep our supporters connected to the heart of our ministry.

Even while facing challenges with his health, Richard's spirit of dedication has never wavered. His kindness, humor, and faith continue to inspire us all. He shows us what it truly means to serve with a joyful heart, even in difficult times.

Richard, we want you to know how deeply you are appreciated and loved. Your hard work has touched lives, lifted spirits, and strengthened our community in ways beyond measure. As you focus on your healing, please remember that you are surrounded by a family that is lifting you in prayer and cheering you on every step of the way.

Thank you, Richard, for being such a vital part of the Family Promise family. Your light continues to guide and inspire us all.

With love and gratitude,

Your Family at Family Promise of Cowlitz County

Visit us at FPCowlitz.org

Financial Update

Donate Today!

Scan this QR code with your mobile phone!



2025 Financials

2025 Annual Budget:	\$164,200.00
2025 Contributions:	\$250,259.57
2025 Avg. Monthly Contribution:	\$20,854.96
2025 Volunteer hours:	1374 hours

2026 through February 28th

2026 Annual Budget:	\$183,231.00
2026 Contributions to date:	\$21,428.75
2026 Avg. monthly contributions:	\$10,714.38
2026 Volunteer hours reported:	220 hours

Donors to the General Fund, Grants & Sustainability Campaign

(November 2025 through February 2026)

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

Dale & Mary Anderson
Robert Avignone
Summer Bailey
Tim & Patricia Baker
Cindy & Michael Barbee
Greg & Karla Bean
Daryl & Gail Berg
Dianne Boatsman
Rupinderpreet Brar
Boyd & Deborah Burns
Kathleen Cain
Wendy Carter
Phyllis & Travis Cavens
Robert J. and Elaine Ciatto Family
Foundation Inc.
Harold Cockrell
Eliza Federal Credit Union
Pete & Frances Crosby
Barbara Davis
East Hills Alliance Church
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Anne DeFrancisco
Bob & Kathy Erickson
Exodus Christian Fellowship
Cindy & Pete Foley
Erstenburg Foundation
Chris Frei
Dan Frei
Grace Bible Fellowship
Grocery Outlet
John & Trudi Gross
Gail & Judy Groth
Annette & Richard Gushman
Amy & Brian Hamilton
David Hamilton
Connie & Howard Hammond
William Hehn
Chuck & CreeAnn Henderson
Rayna Hicks
Don Iverson
Gary & Susan Jackson
Patrick & Kathy Jones
Kalama United Women In Faith
Mike & Teri Karnofski
Elleen Kasemeler
Kelso First Baptist
Kelso United Methodist Presbyterian
Church

Ronald & Ruth Kimmel
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Kirchner Foundation
Greater Vancouver Chamber
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Harlan & Shirley Kittelson
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Cliton Lollar
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Longview Presbyterian Church
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Ellen & Mark Koelsch
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Lucy Lehman
Donna & Joe Mackenzie
Jim & Judy MacLeod
Richard & Virginia Mahoney
Roy & Lisa Maier
Louise McAuliffe
Kay & Ron Naff
New Song Worship Center
Dennis Perry
Lynn Peterson
Eugene Pistorose
Diane & Steve Pond
Peggy Reibe
Renewal City Church
Leon Rennells
George and Mildred Robertson
John Roche
Derene & Karl Salzsieder
Pat Sari
Phillip Sari
Glenda Schuh
Autumn Sheridan
Patty & Steven Sheridan
Richard & Debra Shuren
John & Shirley Simpson
Annie & Darrel Tietze
Betty Tembley
Jack & Kathy Troupe
Watershed Science & Engineering
Melissa Wilkie Living Trust & Robert Wilke
Living Trust
Mary Wingate
JoAnn & Leonard Workman

In-Kind Contributions

Timothy O'Farrell
Suzy King
Lois Brudi-Conrad
Jackie Keloer
Clarissa Keele



Special Donations

In Honor of:
Marlin and Dorothy Nelson and
Keith and Erika Abraham
by Marlene Herget

In Memory of:
Lois Brudi-Conrad
From her Family

At Your Service

Board of Directors

Dan Frei	President
Marsha Treadway	Vice-President
Trudi Gross	Secretary
Summer Bailey	Treasurer
Position Open	At-Large
Lauri Harris	At-Large
Jim Johnston	At-Large
Ron Naff	At-Large
Steve Pond, Sr.	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
<u>Jovan Tyler</u>	Case Manager

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Print Newsletter Editor: Richard Shuren

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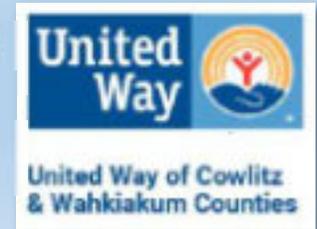
Visit our website at:

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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proudly supports:



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