

# The Journey



Family  
Promise  
of Cowlitz County

Creating Hope, Nurturing Strength, Transforming Lives

Third Quarter 2025 Vol 6, Issue 3

## Reflections and Promises of Fall

by Sara Wallace, Executive Director, FPCC



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Dear Supporters, Partners and Friends,

As we embrace the crisp air and changing colors of autumn, I'm reminded of the incredible transformations happening every day at Family Promise of Cowlitz County. This season brings with it a time of reflection, renewal, and a commitment to making a difference in the lives of families in need.

At FPCC, our mission is simple yet profound: to provide shelter, support, and the tools families need to overcome

homelessness and rebuild their lives.

With each passing day, we see the power of community and resilience in action. This fall, we're inspired by the parents and children who, despite facing tremendous challenges, continue to show us what it means to hope, to fight for a better future, and to persevere.

Thanks to your generosity, we've been able to provide not just a safe place to stay, but the essential resources that help families break the cycle of homelessness—whether through access to mental health services, education, employment support, or parenting resources. Our goal is not just to shelter families in their time of crisis but to walk alongside them as they navigate the path toward long-term stability

and independence.

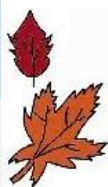
As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to creating greater opportunities for families to thrive. This fall, we will gather for Burgers and Bingo Night—an evening of community and fellowship—while continuing our mission to raise awareness, generate vital support, and bring much-needed attention to this invisible crisis.

However, we know that our work is far from done. We have had an overwhelming number of calls for help. The need for our services continues to grow, and we remain deeply committed to doing all we can to provide a warm and welcoming space for families experiencing homelessness.

On behalf of everyone at FPCC, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your unwavering support. Together, we are making a difference, and together, we will continue to give families the chance to build brighter, more stable futures. Every child deserves a home!

With gratitude and hope,

Sara N. Wallace  
Executive Director  
Family Promise of Cowlitz County



## Day of Caring 2025

The 2025 Day of Caring hosted by the United Way of Cowlitz County was in full force this year on September 11th, with many gathering for one purpose: to make an impact!

The United Way staff graciously partnered Family Promise to provide a crew that was so perfectly made for our needs, a true product of today's goal! Weyerhaeuser! This crew came ready, willing and more than able to help us with not 1 but 3 projects!

In the wake of our very first graduate, Hilary, purchasing her very first home, we had an idea!

Purchasing a home can be overwhelming with landscaping, painting, repairs, etc. Having the knowledge to navigate the process of maintenance can be so valuable.

We planned a team to help Hilary get some of these needs filled! The crew came with chainsaws, a trailer, paint brushes and good attitudes! There were community members at every end of the yard, even on the roof! As I walked around thanking everyone, I had chills on my arms and tears in my eyes! Each person had a smile on their face and the willingness to give all their effort into whatever it was they were doing. I felt bonded as a group that day. It truly was God's work in motion.

We had a second group at the shelter building working on some furniture that was needed and scrubbing our bathrooms, kitchen, laundry and bathtub for our families. The Shelter has a new sparkle. Cleaning is never anybody's favorite job, but they did it with a smile!

For quite some time now, Family Promise has been graciously given storage space in a warehouse, owned by one of our supporters, Boyd Burns and his wife Deborah. This space has been graciously donated to us year after year. We utilize the space to keep furniture, household items, beds, and other appliances

for our families who may need it when they graduate into or move from shelter to their new home. We had been given donations over the last year and haven't had the capacity to organize recent donations. And it was a heap! Jamie Craig, our office manager, headed the team at the storage facility.

Along with the warehouse team, they donated storage bins and shelving to make it more accessible and convenient. It turned out beautiful.

Thank you to Laurie and Jim for doing not one, not two, but *three* dump runs for us!

Thank you to the team at Hilary's house for coming so well prepared so well organized and just so amazingly ready for any task. Really, it was just beyond anything we could've asked for.

We thank all the hard-working volunteers involved and The United Way of Cowlitz and Wahkiakum County.

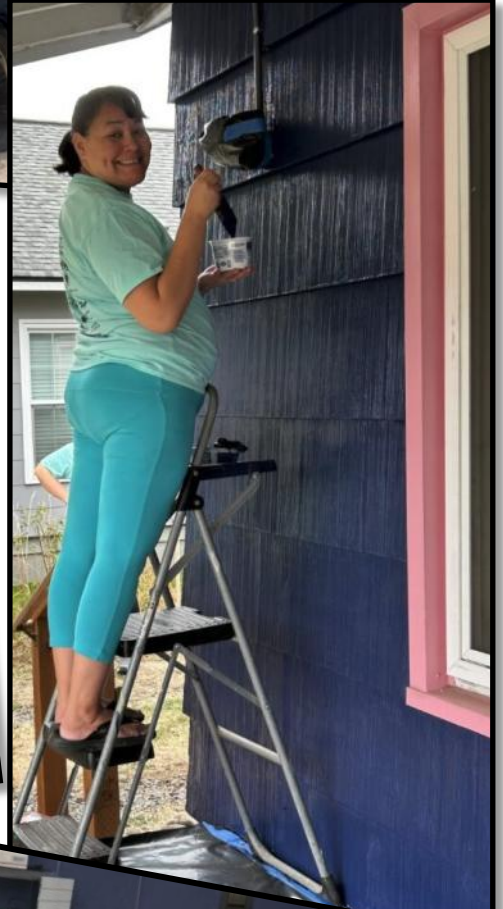


**Jamie Craig, Dan Frei, Sara Wallace and Hilary at her home on the Day of Caring**





Weyerhaeuser  
crews working  
on the Day of  
Caring, 2025.





# ***Donors to the General Fund for June through August, 2025***

(Donors to the Sustainability Campaign are highlighted in yellow)

Phyllis Alexander  
Robert Avignone  
Tim & Patricia Baker  
Kelso First Baptist  
Alan & Deana Barkman  
Greg & Karla Bean  
Daryl & Gail Berg  
Kathleen Cain  
Wendy Carter  
East Hills Alliance Church  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Grace Bible Church  
Longview Presbyterian Church  
Renewal City Church  
Karen & Patrick Cooper  
Pete & Frances Crosby  
Barbara Davis  
Longview Presbyterian Deacons  
Bob & Kathy Erickson  
Exodus Christian Fellowship  
Garri Ferguson  
Cindy & Pete Foley  
Price Foundation  
Dan Frei  
Rose Valley Friends Church  
John & Joanne Gotshall  
Amy & Brian Hamilton  
Connie & Howard Hammond  
Chuck & CreeAnn Henderson  
Marlene Herget  
Longview Housing Authority  
Opp of SW WA  
Don Iverson  
Gary & Susan Jackson  
Mike & Teri Karnofski  
Carol & Thomas Kirwan  
Dave Knoyle & Glenda Johnson  
Three Rivers Ladies Golf  
Association

Sharon & Steve Larsen  
Richard & Ardyth Loewen  
Clifton Lollar  
Lucy Lehman  
River City Baseball,  
Longview Babe Ruth  
Donna & Joe MacKenzie  
Jim & Judy MacLeod  
Roy & Lisa Maier  
Louise McAuliffe  
Mike & Rosalie McDermid  
Kay & Ron Naff  
Dennis Perry  
Eugene Pistorese  
Kelso United Methodist  
Presbyterian Church  
George & Mildred Robertson  
Peggy Reibe

Derene & Karl Salzsieder  
Debbie Sanders  
Phillip Sari  
J. Chris & Heidi Shaw  
Autumn Sheridan  
Patty & Steven Sheridan  
Richard & Debbie Shuren  
Ron Simmons  
Annie Tietze & Darrel Tietze  
Betty Trembley  
Melissa Wilkie Living Trust &  
Robert Wilke Living Trust  
Ann & Dale Williamson  
Mary Wingate  
Kalama United Women  
In Faith  
New Song Worship Center

## **Special Donations**

*In memory of:*

Myrna

by Marlene Herget

*In Honor of:*

Ann Hanson

by Steve Hanson

Julia and Ed

by Marlene Herget



## **In-Kind Donors**

Kathleen Cain  
Glenda Johnson  
Jim Johnston

Nicole Johnson  
Suzy King  
Daniel Levins



## Help for the Holidays

There are roughly 92 days till Christmas! YES 92!



We need your help adopting families and making Christmas possible for the kids who go without a lot of things year-round. Please contact Sara and we will get you paired up with a needy family this holiday Season. The past years have been such a blessing. THANK YOU.

ALSO Coming up HERE AT FPCC: Annual Christmas potluck! Date will be announced soon - bring a dish and stay for the fun and SANTA!!!



Coming Tuesday October 9th: Community Mediation Center Resource Fair, free to all at the LCC Student Center

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

- AA lithium batteries
- Blankets
- Hygiene Products
- Laundry Soap
- Paper towels
- Postage Stamps
- Slippers
- Trash bags
- Toilet Paper
- Ziplock bags (all sizes)
- Full size sheets
- 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](mailto:office@fpcowlitz.org).



**Do You Know  
a Family with  
Children That  
Needs Help?**

Refer them to Family Promise of Cowlitz County. FPCC can provide shelter or resources to keep a family in their home.



Contact Sara Wallace at FPCC,  
[sara@fpcowlitz.org](mailto:sara@fpcowlitz.org) or call 360-703-3131.  
For a community resource list please visit our  
website ([www.FPcowlitz.org](http://www.FPcowlitz.org)).



### GO 4th Fund Raiser

Thank you to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, for hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> of JULY parking lot fundraiser on behalf of FPCC! We were able to raise \$900! THANK YOU to Ann Williamson for leading this project!



### School Supplies Drive!



Thank you so much to all who donated the massive amounts of school supplies we were able to assist over 60 children with the supplies they needed to start the school year ready to learn! THANK YOU!

### Financial Update

Update through August 31st, 2025

2025 Annual Budget:

**\$ 164,200.00**

2025 Contributions:

**\$ 163,881.00**

2025 Avg. monthly contributions:

**\$ 20,485.00**

2025 Volunteer hours reported:

**906 hours**

### Donate Today!



<https://www.fpcowlitz.org>

### Our Local Impact

**196**

People Served in Interfaith Hospitality Network (shelter program)

**117**

Children Served in Interfaith Hospitality Network (shelter program)

**more than 12,400**

Nights of Shelter

**over 30,300**

Meals Served

**189**

Families served in Promise of Home (homelessness prevention program)

**442**

Children served in Promise of Home (homelessness prevention program)

**947**

Families Served in Resource Navigation

through 9/17/25



Dessert  
Dash Photo  
Booth  
Silent Auction

Kids Bingo  
Food Family  
Fun



Night  
Without  
a Bed

**FAMILY BINGO  
AND BURGER  
NIGHT**

## FUNDRAISER

Purchase Tickets: [www.fpcowlitz.org](http://www.fpcowlitz.org)

We invite you to bring the whole family for fun, fellowship and togetherness! Help us raise awareness as we shine a light on the invisible crisis of childhood homelessness. Raise funds, play bingo and be part of the heartfelt initiative aimed at transforming lives and building a brighter future for those in need..

**Sat ,11 Oct 2025**

**5pm-8:30pm**



**How You Can Help**

**More surprises  
in store!**

**Purchase Tickets** ✓

**Become a Sponsor** ✓

**Donate** ✓

Location  
**Youth & Family link**  
**907 Douglas street**  
**Longview wa 98632**



Contact Us  
**360-703-3131**   
**[office@fpcowlitz.org](mailto:office@fpcowlitz.org)**

**Kids under 12 are  
free!**

# At Your Service

## Board of Directors

Dan Frei	President
Marsha Treadway	Vice-President
Trudi Gross	Secretary
Cindee Barbee	Treasurer
Laura Countouriotis	At-Large
Bob Erickson	At-Large
Lauri Harris	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
<u>Jovan Tyler</u>	Assistant Case Manager

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

Family Center Address  
215 Academy Street 2nd Floor, Kelso, WA 98626

Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 1152, Kelso, WA 98626

Family Center Hours  
Monday through Friday, by appointment only

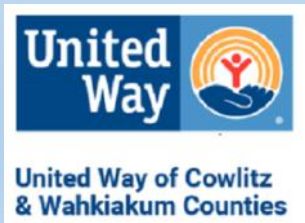
Family Center Office Phone  
360-703-3131

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](http://www.Facebook.com/FamilyPromiseCowlitzCounty)

*Family Promise of  
Cowlitz County  
proudly supports:*



Kelso, WA 98626  
P.O. Box 1152

