

The Journey



Family
Promise
of Cowlitz County

Creating Hope, Nurturing Strength, Transforming Lives

Third Quarter 2024 Vol 5, Issue 3

Passing the Torch

by Vonda McFadden, Board Chair

Greetings from the board! We are honored to serve and be a part of such an amazing organization. This November I will conclude my service on the board after six years. I am proud of the last six years and where we have taken our affiliate. I began serving on the Family Promise Board when Pastor Dave Martin asked me to join. Pastor Dave is the reason we have an affiliate in Cowlitz County. His leadership showed us the way. He was dogged

in his pursuit that this county needed a Family Promise affiliate and he worked tirelessly to get us there. His

contribution cannot be overstated. After he moved to South Dakota, I became the Board President. It has been a good run, and it is now time to hand the reins over to Dan Frei. I have a mountain of faith that he is just the leader this organization needs at this time. I hope you will extend your well wishes to Dan.

When I joined the board all those years ago, we had just begun remodeling the second floor of the Presbyterian Church and were months away from our official opening. We hadn't even hired a

director. Our first director, Lisa Staudinger, got us through the Covid crisis admirably. Our current director, Sara Wallace, will carry us through for many years to come. Our original board worked tirelessly to move us forward, meeting twice a month, helping with the remodel, giving financially to see us through some lean times. Our current board continues to look to the future and what we can accomplish here. There have been many peo-

"It has been a good run, and it is now time to hand the reins over to Dan Frei. I have a mountain of faith that he is just the leader this organization needs at this time."

ple who have gotten us to where we are now, too many to name here. But you know who you are, and we are thankful for all you have done for this organization. We know you will continue to be our biggest champions.

Our board members, then and now, have a variety of different views but we all have a passion for helping our houseless families, and especially helping the children find a happy and safe place to call home.

Have we always done things perfectly? Of course not. But we have our families. The children in our

(continued on page 2)



In this issue:

Our Best Year, Yet! Thanks to You!
page 2

Our List of Donors
page 3

Past, Present & Beyond
pages 4 & 5

With a Whole Lotta Help from Our
Friends & Our Awesome Church
Partners
page 6

Coming in October! & Our Local
Impact
page 7

At Your Service . . .
page 8

Our Best Year Yet, Thanks to You!

by Sara Wallace, Executive Director

As summer comes to a close and the leaves begin to fall we prepare for the holidays and early nights, and reflect on all the support FPCC has gained this past year. From small projects to fundraising events and dinners, our volunteers, and most importantly the lives of all the families and children we have served, we want to thank each and every member of this community for the love and support they share.

This year we have graduated more families into permanent housing than any other year yet! The connections with our partners continue to grow and make the pathway to independence achievable. Thank you, to our partner agencies, all our partner congregations and volunteers.

Individuals Sheltered: 154 Children: 92 Adults: 61
Promise of Home Prevention: 145 Families 315 Children

FPCC and the partner congregations work in unity to ensure our families feel loved and supported all year. The holidays in shelter can sound overwhelming, but we come together and make an amazing season for the children to remember. If you would like to help with Christmas here in shelter please contact Sara, sara@fpcowlitz.org or 714-487-1459.

We welcome any dinner hosts - we would welcome you to stay and converse and break bread with the families. Let us know a day or two in advance so we can ensure they are available

and well. We hope to make the families feel that they are equal members of this community. Sharing a meal or having a conversation among neighbors gives hope and a sense pride and equality. The connections to the families is what this program is built on.

If you're a partner congregation and would like the families to come to your church for an evening, please reach out we will schedule a visit!

If you would like us to come speak to your congregation, please reach out!

With compassion, love, dedication and faith we can educate and support the members of our community who have become unhoused and lost stability to achieve new-found confidence that can weather any storm. Every child deserves a stable home and the platform to succeed. Let's continue this fight!

Family starts at home. Please support our mission. Because every child deserves a home.



Passing the Torch (from page 1)

care are why we continue to work hard every day so that their lives will be free of worry as to where they sleep or what they will eat.

I have always had big dreams of where we can go and how much we can help our families. I will continue to dream even as I leave the board. I will continue to be a huge supporter of Family Promise of Cowlitz County, and I hope you will join me in giving your support to this worthy organization. I look forward to seeing you all at the Burgers & Bingo Fundraiser in October.

- Vonda



**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 at sara@fpcowlitz.org or call 360-703-3131

For a full community resource list please visit our website (www.FPcowlitz.org).



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

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

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

In-Kind Contributions

Nancy Baldwin	Janelle Ormond
Kelly Colver	Clara Prothero
Marlys & Rod Ericksen	LaVonne Rodgers
John & Trudi Gross	Aubrey Shaw
Donnette Martelle	Jack & Kathy Troupe

Past, Present and Beyond!

by Sara Wallace, Executive Director

An update on our Families and giving you a look inside our program along the way!

Our Newest Graduate Family!

We would like to congratulate Jessica and her daughter Jasmine, and the newest addition to their family Zack! No, not a baby, but stepdad to Jasmine and Husband to Jessica!

Jessica and Jasmine entered Shelter just a few months ago. Jessica's partner Zack is in the military and is stationed on base. Jessica and her nine-month-old baby girl Jasmine came to stay in our program, and since entering Shelter, Jessica has grown beyond words. Jessica worked on self-reflection. She became Motivated and proud of herself. We witnessed a wonderful transformation. Jessica has been struggling most of

her life. She has two children who are not in her care but has shared custody. The boys spent the summer with us in Shelter and it was quite a treat. Baby Jasmine is the happiest baby ever and so beautiful.

In just a few short months, Jessica has gained employment, and was approved for her own apartment. She and Zack signed the lease and recently moved in. Just after moving, on September 19th at 7 AM they were married at the Kelso United Methodist Presbyterian Church.



Congratulations, Jessica and Zack, on your new family, on your new home and your journey ahead. Family Promise of Cowlitz County is proud of Jessica as an individual, for her progress as a mother and now as a wife.

Jessica plans to go back to school and Zach is heading to Japan for a military assignment.

Good luck and God bless!

Beyond Shelter

One of our dearest graduates from this past year has been constantly on our hearts. We watched her life transform with the love that she found for God and her son's new-found relationship with their higher power.

Heather transferred to FPCC from another shelter. Some of the traumas that are associated with homelessness were really causing her to struggle internally, keeping her from realizing her full potential. She was a hard-working smart mom, but there was something missing.

Sundays around the Family Center were loud, both upstairs and downstairs, from two active congregations. She and her children began to hear worship on Sunday morning, and it called to them. They began attending church on Sundays. I saw a miracle happen with his family. Jesus Christ delivered his message, and this family received his blessings! Heather's relationship with her sons blossomed. She gained full-time employment, continued her mental health services and dove deeply into her faith. She was an exceptional mom from day one, but there was new light around them when they found their faith. They were able to graduate into permanent housing and six months later they upgraded to a bigger home. Heather is working, independently supporting her sons. She's involved with her church, serving the community and giving back to Family Promise. Her kids go to a faith based private school, and have learned that God's love is unconditional. I've attached a message that Heather sent us from a follow up visit:

"Everything is really great actually. Ya know aside from faith, church is allowing us to be knitted into the community. I love my job, absolutely love being able to meet people and be able to just pour into them. So that's also given me a chance to know more people. At some point in the day there is always a prayer of gratefulness of everything we have. Meeting you and having your program was so humbling because you made sure we had everything we needed. For me to be able to have a home with all of the things that go with it still just brings me to tears. You run an amazing program that really took care of us. With so much love, girl! I am looking forward to what this next season has in store for us and would love to have opportunities to be a part of more things. I really just appreciate where we are in life and I'm so, so, so thankful."

All in the Timing

We have dozens of calls per week looking for Shelter, housing, utility funding, a shoulder to cry on or an ear to listen. I have a story to share that keeps us fighting for these families and provides some insight about how outside shelter case management works.

We received call from Dad with three girls in middle school. He had just separated from his two-year relationship and was needing Shelter. He made a good income. He had amazing credit and finances were in order. When you separate from a partner it can mean emergency relocation. Life changes in an instant and did it ever! As I welcomed him into my office to interview for the shelter, he seemed defeated, and very, very tired. He was on the hunt to find a place for his girls. As the interview progressed and as he told me his story, he shared that the mother of his three daughters passed away some years ago. He was all that they had. He sat in front of me feeling hopeless, and really felt like he failed these girls. I assured him we would find an answer, and that with this community and our support, his family would be settling into a safe stable environment very soon. I approved them for our program and begin working to find housing.

Meanwhile, earlier in the week, I was given a list of a few vacant local units, so we quickly applied for one that fit his family. Miracles do happen. By morning, he applied and was approved for a home big enough for the girls to each have their own room. He came back into the shelter to meet me and go over details. He was so grateful and humbled by our chance meeting.

He thanked me and I could feel his "thank you" from the heart. It gave me chills.

He signed a lease shortly after, and through resources in our Promise of Home Prevention program FPCC was able to be part of this family's journey around homelessness. They now had a fresh start as a family of four. This picture in front of me of defeat quickly turn to Hope and gratefulness. Congratulations Dad! Family Promise of Cowlitz County is right behind you!

With a Whole Lotta Help

From Our Friends . . .

by Sara Wallace, Executive Director

We would like to show some extra gratitude to Boyd and Debroah Burns. For the past 4 plus years they have generously donated a space in their commercial warehouse for FPCC to store our furniture donations, that our families will utilize once they gain housing. With out this space we would not be able to assist families with essential needs. THANK YOU it has been a tremendous contribution to the families in the program. Every child deserves a bed, and because of this opportunity we can give them one!

On June 26th, Deborah and the ladies of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church went above and beyond the call of service. The late June heatwave was no match for these determined ladies working in the warehouse! Seven amazing gals organized, cleaned, and remade our storage site to be more efficient for donations. These donations are now ready for their new homes. This task was long overdue, and we are so grateful for the completion of this project. THANK YOU



Thanks to: Candace Kolberg, Carol Rife, Terri Reichert, Mary Lou Wellman, Jocelyn Price, Paula Zerby, & Deborah Burns.

Our Awesome Church Partners

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

- Longview Presbyterian
- Trinity Lutheran and Evangel
- Gloria Dei and Renewal City
- Kelso First Baptist and Grace Bible Church
- Longview First Christian and Kalama Ward
- Kelso United Methodist Presbyterian and Longview United Methodist
- Emmanuel and East Hill Alliance
- St. Rose/ Immaculate Heart of Mary & Lake Sacajawea Ward
- And thanks to Bethany Lutheran for hosting families monthly

Next 8 weeks of Host Churches:

- Northlake and Exodus 9/22-9/28
- Longview Presbyterian 9/29-10/5
- Trintiy Lutheran and Evangel 10/6-10/12
- Kelso First Baptist and Grace Bible Church 10/13-10/19
- Longview First Christian and Kalama Ward 10/20-10/26
- Kelso United Methodist Presbyterian and Longview United Methodist 10/27-11/02
- Emmanuel and East Hills Alliance 11/3-11/9
- St. Rose / IHM & Lake Sacajawea Ward 11/10-11/16

Thank You, Kelso Schools and the Family & Community Resource Center

Thank you, Family & Community Resource Center (FCRC) and the Kelso School District for partnering and building our newest Promise of Change, unaccompanied youth program. Makoa was a true treasure and we can not wait to see what the future holds.



United Way of Cowlitz
& Wahkiakum Counties

We would like to thank United Way of Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties, for selecting Family Promise of Cowlitz County as the recipient for the Community Grant Fund.

Our partnership with the United Way is such an honor. With your help we can continue our fight to end Childhood homelessness.



Save the Date

2024

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Family Promise week is coming October 21st through 25th, along with the Night Without A Bed (NWAB) Burgers & Bingo fundraiser on October 18th.

To participate and raise awareness to end Childhood homelessness, please plan to sleep somewhere other than your bed and post a picture online to: #nightwithoutabed

#familypromiseofcowlitzcounty

You can also make a donation at www.fpcowlitz.org and support our mission.

Financial Update

Updates are through August 31, 2024

2024 Annual Budget:

\$ 149,881.00

2024 Contributions to date:

\$ 89,672.44

2024 Avg. monthly contributions:

\$ 11,209.45

2024 Volunteer hours reported:

1,170 hours

**Donate
Today!**

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



Our Local Impact

154

People Served in
Interfaith
Hospitality
Network (shelter
program)

92

Children Served in
Interfaith
Hospitality
Network (shelter
program)

more
than
9,000

Nights of
Shelter

over
25,000

Meals
Served

145

Families served in
Promise of Home
(homelessness
prevention program)

315

Children served in
Promise of Home
(homelessness
prevention program)

791

Families Served
in Resource
Navigation

At Your Service

Board of Directors

Pr. Vonda McFadden	President
Dan Frei	Vice-President
Trudi Gross	Secretary
Cindee Barbee	Treasurer
Nancy Baldwin	At-Large
Laura Countouriotis	At-Large
Bob Erickson	At-Large
Jan Heaton	At-Large
Jim Johnston	At-Large
Ron Naff	At-Large
Marsha Treadway	At-Large
Jovan Tyler	At-Large

Family Center Staff

<u>Sara Wallace</u>	Executive Director
<u>Jamie Craig</u>	Office Manager
<u>Jenny Kendall</u>	Administrative Assistant

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

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

Copyright © 2024 Family Promise of Cowlitz
County (All Rights Reserved.)

