

A community based response to the crisis of family homelessness

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our Affiliate newsletter! We want this to be a vehicle for you, our stakeholders, to hear about the Affiliate information *you* need. To that end, we welcome and encourage your feedback about all aspects of the newsletter: its content and its form, how it reaches you and how often (currently planned for every other month). It's *your* instrument. Please let us know how to make it work better for you. What would you like to hear about? (And maybe help us come up with a name?)

In this issue, we will focus on where we are right now and where we're going in the near-term future. We'll let you know about upcoming events and meetings, guest successes, and training events. We will also address the concerns many of us feel about social contact given the COVID-19 situation and various governments' responses.

We'll bring you news joyful and concerning, and let you know how you can rejoice with us and how you can be

involved and empowered in shaping solutions to puzzles we face. We'll also highlight the view from a partner congregation and the work of a volunteer in each issue—so be ready to share your story!

This newsletter is also aimed at letting you know how important you are to us. In any relationship, communication is key, and we have been remiss by not being intentional in communicating with you. We have some repair to do, and this newsletter is part of it. Additionally, while we won't be able to have community meetings for a while, we do intend to start them back up again when we get the all-clear from the Centers for Disease Control and our governor.

In the meantime, please stay safe and well, and know that we appreciate you more than we can express. Thank you all for your generous, faithful, and dedicated service to our guests. You make a lifelong impact on everyone you serve!



WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

Emmanuel

By Amy Hamilton

My husband and I have served dinner at two previous sessions of Family Promise at Emmanuel. This round we accepted a new challenge, overnight duty on Friday night and breakfast on Saturday morning, I have to admit, I wasn't really looking forward to this challenge. I was nervous about the length of the assignment and the responsibility of handling any overnight emergencies. But what I experienced made me eager to do it all again. We arrived right on time at 8 p.m. on Friday night. One mom and her two young daughters were camped out in front of the TV watching a movie. We joined them and *(continued on page 3)*

COMING SOON

Family Promise Giving Day--May 20th
Taste of Cowlitz County And the
Family Promise Golf Tournament--To
Be Announced

OUR AWESOME PARTNER

CONGREGATIONS

Abundant Life Church of the Nazarene
Bethany Lutheran Church
East Hills/The Grove Alliance Church
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Evangel Christian Fellowship
Exodus Christian Fellowship
First Baptist Church of Longview
First Christian Church of Longview
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Grace Bible Fellowship
Immaculate Heart Roman Catholic Church
Kalama Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Kelso First Baptist Church
Kelso Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Lake Sacajawea Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Longview Church of the Nazarene
Longview Presbyterian Church
Mint Valley Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Northlake Baptist Church
Renewal City Church
Rose Valley Friends Church
St. Paul Lutheran Church
St. Rose Roman Catholic Church
St. Stephen Episcopal
Trinity Lutheran Church

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Communications Chair: [Karin Bailey](#)
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Development Chair: **Vacant**
Facilities Chair: **Vacant**
Family Launch Crew: [Ron Naff](#)
Newsletter Editor: [Steve Sheridan](#)
Social Media Manager: **Vacant**
Web Master: **Vacant**

If you are interested in helping with one of the vacant opportunities to serve please contact Lisa at the Day Center.

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Hilary, Corbin, Jeniah, and Wisdom moved into their own place on Friday, March 20

Dear Friends of Family Promise,

Thank you so much for the many ways you have supported and encouraged us in the first six months of our existence and through the first two-and-a-half-plus years of our start-up and development. Words alone cannot adequately convey our appreciation.

Additionally, we presently have only enough funding to continue normal operations for about three months. You have been our staunch supporters in prayer, work, and funds up to this point, and we pray you would continue to support us as we move through this time.

The best way to assure our financial health through the years ahead is through regular monthly support.

We ask that you please go to our website (www.FamilyPromiseOfCowlitzCo.org) and make a monthly EFT pledge of whatever size makes sense for your household's budget and ability. We also have credit card and PayPal giving options, but EFT makes us better stewards of your gifts because it costs us only 1% of your donation, rather than the 3% charged by credit cards and PayPal. Suggested giving levels are listed on the website, but you can also give at any

level you designate.

We are grateful to be empowered to make our community stronger by helping homeless children and their families get back on their feet. We couldn't do it without you!

Thank you and God bless,


Pastor Dave Martin
President, Board of Directors

Lisa P. Steadinger
Executive Director

OPPORTUNITY

When a guest family is getting ready to graduate, many people come forward with donations of household goods the family will need in their new home. We don't have room to store all these items at the Day Center, and are looking for some space where we could store potentially a whole (simple) household of furniture and other items until moving day. If you have an empty garage, large shed, or shop where we could store goods, please call or email us!

We and our guests would be tremendously grateful - and it counts as a charitable contribution.



RUBBER MEETS ROAD (cont)

talked a while before it was time for the girls to go to bed. Soon after that another family came in from playing basketball in town. They were ready for a snack and some conversation as well.

After the movie, everyone headed to their rooms for the night, us included. We stretched out our sleeping mats and sleeping bags and promptly fell asleep.

I slept much better than I expected and woke up ready to make breakfast. We were in the kitchen ready to prepare breakfast around 8:30 and whipped up lots of sausage, pancakes, and eggs to feed the crowd.

After everyone had had their fill, clean-up was a breeze and several guests pitched in to help. Once the kitchen was clean, we recruited two of the teens to join us in a game of Uno. There were some questionable but fun rules we adopted, teasing, a little trash-talk, and fun for all!

Just like that, our time was up and we were ready to go home. Time flew by and we really enjoyed interacting with the families, just like having family visit us at home.

There is so much fun to be had—Don't miss out! Take a leap of faith and share your amazing selves. You will be blessed!

YOU CAN HELP BY DONATING AT:

<https://familypromiseofcowlitzco.org/donate/>



VOLUNTEER PROFILE

I'd like to introduce Steve Sheridan as the new Family Promise of Cowlitz County newsletter editor.

Steve first heard about Family Promise from the pulpit when Father Bryan announced that a new

opportunity for the community was that coming and would to help congregations work together



homeless families. Steve was excited for the churches in the community to come together in a new way and help the homeless.

Steve attended foundational meetings for our Affiliate and helped promote Family Promise and volunteered where he could.

Steve enjoys meeting and helping the families and has been Day Center host, van driver, and overnight volunteer.

As newsletter editor Steve hopes to help communicate the Family Promise mission and successes. He is eager to use some of the skill sets he acquired while working for the promotion of Family Promise.

When not learning the software needed to make the newsletter Steve enjoys traveling with his wonderful wife, reading, gardening and wood turning

The Launch of the Launch Team

The Launch Team gets to work at the most fun and rewarding moment of Family Promise guest life: graduation. The Launch Team works to gather the basic household items graduating families need and makes sure they go to the right place at the right time.

We had been seeking a Launch Team Captain and are very excited and grateful to announce that Ron Naff has stepped forward to fill that role. Ron is one of the

Congregational Coordinators at Longview Presbyterian Church, a new Family Promise Board member, and an all-around great guy. Thank you, Ron, and welcome!

But Ron can't do it all himself, and many hands make light work. **Would you like to join our Launch Team?** If you'd like to be involved in this special, joyful time in guest's lives, please email Ron (rhnjoecool@hotmail.com) and cc: Jan Heaton (jheaton@familypromiseofcowlitzco.org), or call the Day Center.

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