

The Journey



Family
Promise
of Cowlitz County

Creating Hope, Nurturing Strength, Transforming Lives

First Quarter 2025 Vol 6, Issue 1

Happy Early Spring

by Sara Wallace, Executive Director

Greetings, Friends & Family

As the sun is beginning to peek through the clouds, the days will seem longer, school will soon end, and we will begin to plan summer trips and activities as this time of year can be a favorite for most PNW natives. No matter how you start or end your day, it always begins and ends at home. So many blessings, reasons to be thankful, let us recognize those experiencing many hardships right here in our County. Those who's days and nights do not end and begin with home. At FPCC we shelter, support

struggling families housed. It is essential the family avoids eviction and homelessness at all costs. Many families are facing eviction, 46% of WA residents are rent burdened, and in the last 12 months 302 families have been evicted in Cowlitz County alone. Once an eviction takes place this family will be left completely unable to rent from any agency and most private landlords. After they recover from the crisis that left them homeless, they are met with the barrier of the eviction.

Housing is more than just a roof over our heads—it's the foundation for stability, security, and opportunity. As we continue our mission to prevent evictions and keep families in their homes, I want to take a moment to thank you—our supporters, partners, and community members—for your dedication to this cause.

Over the past year, Family Promise of Cowlitz County and our supporting congregations, have helped many families avoid eviction, provided rental assistance or utility assistance to 139 households, and empowered these clients with local, financial and personalized resources to help ensure

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"Housing is more than just a roof over our heads—it's the foundation for stability, security, and opportunity."

and advocate to end family homelessness every day. Preventing homelessness, if possible, is the key to illuminating the trauma associated with becoming and remaining homeless.

Trauma that can leave permanent effects.

Our main goal for our Promise of Home Prevention Program is to keep these



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A Life Changing Donation

We are delighted to share this story of kindness and generosity.

In January 2025 we were contacted by an anonymous donor at a local church (Fathers House) who had a gift for a family in need. We have seen families become homeless over the loss of a car. So, to gain a dependable car? Lifesaving!

The gentleman who donated the vehicle wishes to remain anonymous. Below is a letter, from the family! We thank you very much for serving this family. Through this blessing you have delivered this family from their hardship! Thank you!

Dear Family Promise and Generous Donor,

I hope this letter finds you well. I just wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for the incredible gift you've given me—the Nissan 2011 Versa. I am truly overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity, and I can't thank you enough for this amazing gesture.

This car means so much more to me than just a vehicle. It represents your thoughtfulness and the support you've shown me, and I sincerely appreciate it. Having reliable transportation is such a blessing, and I can already tell how much easier it will make my daily life.

Your generosity and selflessness are truly inspiring, and I feel so fortunate to have someone like you in my life. Please know that I will take great care of the car and always remember this act of kindness.

Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart. If there's ever anything I can do to repay even a fraction of this kindness, please don't hesitate to let me know.

*With heartfelt appreciation,
The Reid Family*



Happy Early Spring

(from page 1)

each family has long-lasting success. Each success story is a testament to the power of collective action.

One story of determination starts with a single father of 3 little girls. He found himself and his children being asked to leave their home and leave quickly. He was at an end and felt afraid and hopeless. When he found his way to us he said, "I found some hope when I met you, it gave me some peace like someone was looking out for us, and if anything, that gave me comfort." He was able to get approved for an apartment with enough rooms for the girls. Finally some relief! That is, until we received the break down for the move-in costs: \$50 for the credit check fee, \$1750 for 1st month rent, \$2000 deposit, and \$400 non-refundable move-in fee. A total of \$4,200 with a prorated half due the first of the following month. This was quite a stretch. At this time the Housing Authority was offering some assistance for new deposits, and he was eligible to receive that grant. We assisted him in the application process and FPCC was able to pay the remainder of the move fees. This was a combined effort preventing homelessness for this family of 4 who had

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never been in this situation. Seeing the girls running around the empty apartment picking bedrooms, laughing and playing was the sweetest sounds imaginable! Because of Promise of Home Prevention, we did it!

Despite our progress, the housing crisis continues to affect thousands in our community. Rising rents, unexpected financial hardships, and systemic barriers make eviction prevention more crucial than ever. That's why we are expanding our reach, advocating for stronger tenant protections, strengthening partnerships to serve even more families in need, and fundraising for assistance to offer our families hand up.

We have been given the opportunity to jump-start our Prevention Program. HUMI (Help Us Move In) has offered us a \$10,000 booster grant to take to the community to match, WE DID! We were able to match the FIRST part of the grant, that requires us to take this \$20,000 to our community members and match for a total of \$40,000! We are half way to our goal. Please help us so we can continue to serve these families in need!!!

Thank you for standing with us in this fight for housing security. With your support, we will continue to build a future where every family has a place to call home.



Grocery Outlet, Bargain Market Supports FPCC

by Jamie Craig

We wanted to take the time to put a spotlight on our local neighborhood grocery store that supports Family Promise and many other organizations in Cowlitz County. Mike and Michelle Casanover bought our local Grocery Outlet store eight years ago, becoming Longview residents and enrolling their three children in the local schools. As previous owners of a GO store in California, Mike and Michelle quickly brought the SHARE program with them to Cowlitz County where they have made an impact in our small town.

Our partnership first began through our partner church, Exodus, where members, including Grocery Outlet Store Operators, the Casanover's, were actively involved in supporting Family Promise and the Families we serve. Today, Grocery Outlet supports us in a bigger way, by giving all our supporters the opportunity to give back while buying their groceries. "It really does come full circle," Michelle says of the program.

The SHARE program is an incentive program designed to give back **5%** of your purchase to the nonprofit of your choice by presenting a card (like the one pictured) or telling them who you would like your purchase to benefit Family Promise.

Mike and Michelle have over 75 non-profits in our community that participate. Their commitment to giving back is as clear as their commitment to providing customers with fresh, high-quality groceries at discounted prices.

If you are looking to support Grocery Outlet's charitable efforts, you can participate by dropping by any day of the week and checking items off your grocery list. But don't forget to tell them that Family Promise sent you!

Thanks Mike and Michelle.

- From the community you lovingly serve.



Jamie Craig (FPCC Office Manager), and the Bargain Hunter stand with owners Michelle and Mike Casanover



100 Women Who Care

We would like to shine a light on 100 Women Who Care Lower Columbia Chapter. FPCC was the first recipient of the year for their January 15th 2025 Giving Circle.

We received \$6,500 and are awaiting a 50% match for a total of \$9,750!! 100 Women Who Care truly makes a difference.

"Together We Can" is an understatement!

If you would like to become a member, please visit their social media page! Thank you, 100 Women!!



Kelei LaFave, Sara Wallace (FPCC), Stacy Dalgarno and Michelle Carr at the 100 Women Who Care gathering

Donations for November & December, 2024

Donors to the General Fund

Cindy Alexander	Tom Garstki	Roy Maier
Jean & Roger Amundson	Ryann Graye	Ron Marshall
Robert Avignone	John & Trudi Gross	Brian & Toni Miner
Tim & Patricia Baker	Annette & Richard Gushman	Jessie Minger
Alan & Deana Barkman	Amy & Brian Hamilton	Eugene Pistorese
Greg & Karla Bean	Connie & Howard Hammond	Cherie & Larry Rapp
Julie Kendall & Ray Betts	Diane Held	John Roche
Diane & Gregory Cantwell	James & Sue Hoeffner	Pat Sari
Mary Carter	Allison Hutchinson	Glenda Schuh
Ever Loved Charityvest	Don Iverson	Autumn Sheridan
East Hills Alliance Church	Gary & Susan Jackson	Claudia Sobczuk
Robert J. and Elaine Ciatto Family Foundation Inc.	Joanne Jollerton	Annie Tietze & Darrel Tietze
Karen & Patrick Cooper	Eileen Kasemeier	Lawrence Towne
Pete & Frances Crosby	Dave Knoyle & Glenda Johnson	Adam & Danielle Trimble
Barbara Davis	Mardy & Robert Korten	Kalama United Methodist Women
Anne DeFrancisco	Three Rivers Ladies Golf Association	Shirlee Whyte
Lila Ellis	Lucy Lehman	Melissa Wilkie Living Trust & Robert Wilke Living Trust
Cindy & Pete Foley	Kelso Lions Club	Mary Wingate
Firstenburg Foundation	Clifton Lollar	New Song Worship Center
Chris Frei	Kaycee Looney	
	Donna & Joe MacKenzie	

Donors to the Sustainability Campaign

Daryl and Gail Berg	Carol & Thomas Kirwan
Majorie Berry & Ken Botero	Ardyth & Richard Loewen
Longview Presbyterian Church	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Emmanuel Lutheran Church	Jim & Judy MacLeod
Renewal City Church	Roy Maier
Bob & Kathy Erickson	Louise McAuliffe
Grace Bible Church	Rev. Vonda & Thomas McFadden
Rose Foundation	John Szkodyn
Dan Frei	Kay & Ron Naff
John & Joanne Gotshall	Diane & Steve Pond
Chuck & CreeAnn Henderson	Pat Sari
Mike & Teri Karnofski	Kelso United Methodist Presbyterian Church
	Derene & Karl Salzsieder
	Patty & Steven Sheridan
	Debra & Richard Shuren
	Watershed Science & Engineering

→ **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)
- 11x17 paper reams of paper

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



Donations for January & February, 2025

Donors to the General Fund

Elisabeth Allen	Darline Foster	Hannah Booth Living Trust	Lam Research Corporation
Dale & Mary Anderson	PayPal Giving Fund	Marita Loch	Brook Seaver
Robert Avignone	Ruth Ann Fletcher	Junior League Lower Columbia	Monica Seidl
Sign Masters Awards N' More	Gail & Judy Groth	Kim Lowry	J. Chris & Heidi Shaw
Tim & Patricia Baker	Marian Gutenberger	Donna & Joe MacKenzie	Autumn Sheridan
Kelso First Baptist	Jill Hall	Roy Maier	Lori Shero
Greg & Karla Bean	Amy & Brian Hamilton	Larry & Margaret Malone	Arlene Smith
Kariann Botero	James Wallace & Lauri Harris	Kirsi Malone	Lori Thorburn
Colleen Callahan	Angel Herron	Louise McAuliffe	Annie Tietze & Darrel Tietze
Diane & Gregory Cantwell	Sarah Hines	Kris McElroy-Weber	Marsha Treadway
Celice Carlough	Pam Howe	Jodi McFall	Adam & Danielle Trimble
Michelle Carr	Don Iverson	Seth McNally & Stephanie McNally	Loretta Urling
Bethany Lutheran Church	Georgia J. Welte	Donald & Gavin Jeanne Mills	Kat V
Linda Clary	Gary & Susan Jackson	Brian & Toni Miner	Rosann Walker
Lynn Couch	Katherine Johanson	Frank Morrison	Sara Wallace
Marybeth Cranston	Esther Jump	Kay & Ron Naff	Dennis & M. Chris Wallace
Pete & Frances Crosby	Marilyn K. Haan	Maxine Newell	United Way
Stacy Dalgarno	Eileen Kasemeier	Amy Norquist	Melissa Wilkie Living Trust & Robert Wilke Living Trust
Barbara Davis	Carol & Thomas Kirwan	Jean Orr	Margaret Williams
Darold & Evalyn Dietz	Kroger	Grocery Outlet	Trish Wilson
Lyn Doehne	Nancy Kuehlwein	Kat Pettersen	Mary Wingate
Donovan Doerr	Amy LaFave	Eugene Pistorese	New Song Worship Center
Precision Drying services	Tracy Larson	Family Promise National	
Trece Eden	Ramona Leber	Tracey Pruitt	
Jan Ferguson	Shira Lile	Gayle Reid	
Cindy & Pete Foley			

Donors to the Sustainability Campaign

Daryl & Gail Berg	Bob & Kathy Erickson
East Hills Alliance Church	Dan Frei
Emmanuel Lutheran Church	Chuck & CreeAnn Henderson
Longview Presbyterian Church	Ardyth & Richard Loewen
Grace Bible Church	Jim & Judy MacLeod
Renewal City Church	Phillip Sari
Exodus Christian Fellowship	Patty & Steven Sheridan
	Debra & Richard Shuren

In-Kind Donors

B Jo Brewer	Shawn Nyman
Boyd & Deborah Burns	Jeanne O'Connor
Kathleen Cain	Chelsea Tangen
Jennifer Frost	

Special Donations

In Honor of:

Judy & Dick Ainslie

- by Mary & Dale Anderson

Don & Lori Powell

- by Ronald & Ruth Ann Fletcher

In Memory of:

Chris Leaf

- by Barbara Towne, James Hoeffner, and Ever Loved CharityVest



New Beds and Furniture

We are planning on getting new beds and updating some furniture! Each time we have a family move out of shelter, we are delighted to see them graduate into housing and get their independence back. We are all on cloud 9 and share the excitement! So much so that often we are giving them the beds they slept on! If they need them, why not? The community generously seems to take care of our graduates, so we would have new beds in no time.

Now, we will be bringing new beds into the program that are here to stay, which means no more scrambling to get beds in shelter! This will keep each room uniform and equipped to maximize space. For a family, this means the world, a familiar bed brings peace, a sound night's sleep and a feeling of home. We would like to thank Gloria Dei Lutheran Church for their donation of a new bunk bed set for our shelter families. This donation will be the end and beginning of a child's day! A day of security, certainty and comfort.

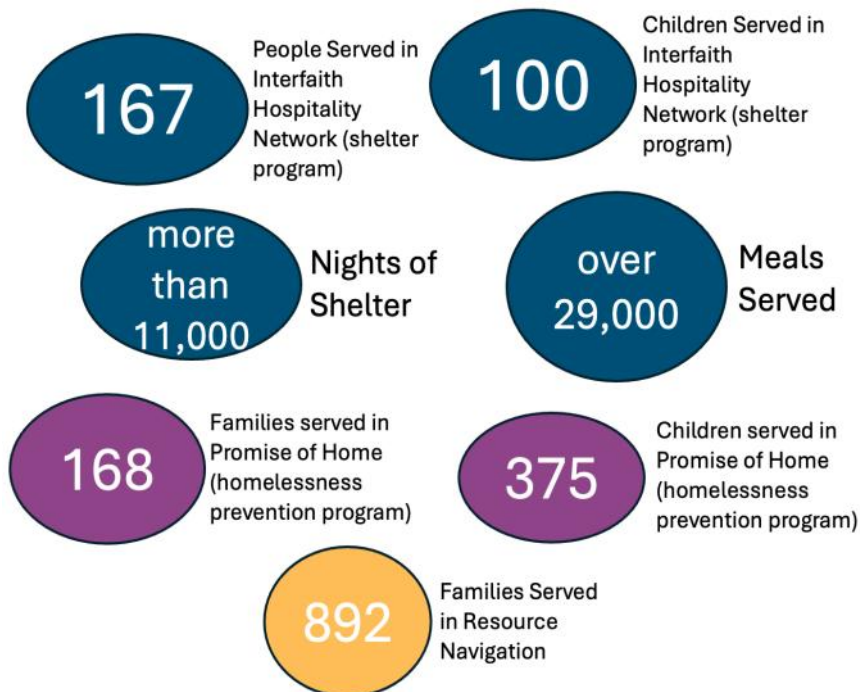
If you would like to help us achieve this goal, please contact us to support our new bed project or scan the code to see an Amazon Wish List for frames, mattresses and supplies!



<https://a.co/0xiEQX3>

We will continue to accept donations of gently used beds and store them for the families once they graduate! (If storage is available)

Our Local Impact



Financial Update

Update through December 31, 2024

2024 Annual Budget:
\$ 149,881.00

2024 Contributions:
\$ 171,812.07

2024 Avg. monthly contributions:
\$ 14,314.67

2024 Volunteer hours reported:
1,615 hours

Update for January & February, 2025

2025 Annual Budget:
\$ 164,220.00

2025 Contributions:
\$ 35,774.80

2025 Avg. monthly contributions:
\$ 17,887.40

2025 Volunteer hours reported:
204 hours

We would like to send a heartfelt warm thank you to Max Kamp, of Continental Investor Services, for his assistance and to Betty Trembley for her generous donation. With this and a partial match from the Rose Foundation we were able to make the first portion match to the Prevention Grant we were working towards. This is a tremendous impact to the community and those in need, and we are so incredibly thankful!

Thank you Betty Trembley, the Rose Foundation and Max Kamp! Your contribution will prevent countless families from being homeless! Every child deserves a home and because of you we may continue the fight!



Junior League of Lower Columbia chose FPCC as one of the 10 recipients of their Festival of Trees Fundraiser. We are so grateful and in awe over this event and all the women who work so hard each year to make this event count! Thank you to all the generous bidders and sponsors. Our portion was \$10,000! This will allow us to continue our mission to end childhood homelessness!!

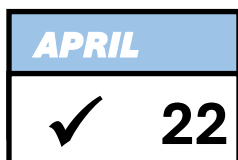


FAMILY PROMISE GIVING DAY

APRIL 22

Mark your calendars!!!

More to come.



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

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We would like to WELCOME BACK, Karl Salzsieder who served on the FPCC Board in the past and has returned to contribute his time and service to us again. Thank you, Karl.

WELCOME to Lauri Harris. She and her husband, Jim, have been volunteering at Family Promise for over a year and have been an amazing addition to our team! Thanks Lauri, for your service.

Lastly we WELCOME Lavonne Rodgers. Lavonne sits on the board for FISH of Cowlitz and is an active member of our community. We are so happy to have her join us! Thank you and welcome!



2025 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



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
Jan Heaton	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

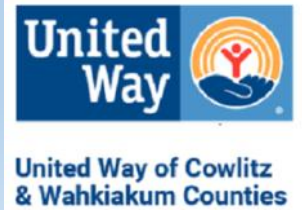
Visit our website at:

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

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

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Kelso, WA 98626
P.O. Box 1152

