

# FamilyPromise

of Cowlitz County **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2021**



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## THE VIEW FROM THE DECK

*Karrie and Danny -FPCC Graduates, Summer 2021*



Family Promise gave us a chance to be together. No other shelter would allow our family to be sheltered together. Once we were able to support each other, we both got jobs, got our housing secured, and got into a house.



When we were apart and on the streets or on friends' couches it was hard to manage the kids and responsibilities. We succeeded with the support of Sara, Lisa, and Family Promise volunteers. Being connected to the resources like learning to budget our money



and save, we also felt like equals there. We didn't feel like "homeless people," but like family. They trusted us and that helped with our confidence.

Thank you so much from our family!

**-Karrie & Danny, FPCC Graduates  
Summer 2021**

*Promise Kept*

## From the Captain's Quarters



We begin each new year with hope in our hearts, looking forward to new beginnings and fresh starts. And that is what you help our guests achieve, even in the face of all the uncertainty and chaos of the last two years. Your support gives

families new beginnings in their own homes and a chance to move forward strong into the rest of their lives.

We all hope and pray 2022 is not as the memes portray it: "2020, too." This year, we intend to expand upon the good and important work that was done in 2021.

It is wonderful to look back and see all we've accomplished (see the ED message, p. 4). But we must always look forward—to the next family we can help get on their feet and find a home, the next child we can prevent from losing housing, and how we can make real our vision in which every family has a home and the chance to build a better future.

It's a simple vision, but one with enormous impact for the people in Cowlitz County. Imagine a community where everyone has a safe place to live. Imagine a community where homeless shelters are not needed. Imagine a community where every child feels safe and has enough food to eat. Everything we do at Family Promise is to further these goals.

Many will say that is a pipe dream. I disagree. My faith tells me that as coworkers in God's service (1 Cor 3:9), we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. We make our vision a reality, family by family, by working together to change lives. But it's a big, complex job; no single organization can do it all. Individuals, congregations, and other local organizations work with

Rev. Vonda McFadden  
President, Board of Directors



**6,393** NIGHTS OF SHELTER PROVIDED

**19,179** MEALS PROVIDED

Since August, 2019



### MISSION & PROGRAMS

Interfaith Hospitality Network: Our goal is to prevent families from becoming homeless in the first place, but when that isn't possible, we bring families into shelter at the Family Center. There, the wonderful our Interfaith Hospitality Network shelter program provides three

meals a day, including hot dinners, intensive case management, life skills offerings to help them become more stable once they graduate, and most of all, love and fellowship.



Pets Served in 2021: 1 Service Dog

	2021	SINCE AUGUST 2019
Families	10	22
Children	16	43

	2021	SINCE AUGUST 2019
Nights of Shelter Provided	1,374	6,393
Meals Provided	4,122	19,179



### PROMISE OF HOME

Thanks to a two-year challenge grant from Help Us Move In (HUMI; [www.helpusmovein.org](http://www.helpusmovein.org)), we started a homelessness prevention program in 2021. For each grant year, HUMI provides a challenge grant of \$10,000. First, we raise \$10,000, then we receive the \$10K match

from HUMI, then we ask the community to match the resulting \$20K.

This creates a total of \$40,000 for each of the first two years of Promise of Home to help ensure a strong foundation going forward.



Rev. Vonda McFadden  
President, Board of Directors

*Vonda McFadden*

The enthusiasm of several donors made it possible for us to begin in December to help families stay in their homes. In its single month of operation in 2021, Promise of Home

prevented homelessness for 6 families with 10 children at an average cost of \$321 per child.



# TOTAL DONATIONS IN 2021 Cont'd

## Business Supporters



- Bicoastal Media
- Cole's Appliance Repair, Inc.
- Community Foundation of SW WA
- Davis & Associates, CPA's
- Gibbs & Olson
- High Cascades Insurance
- Kaiser Permanente
- Kroger
- Lower Columbia College
- Mike Burchett Media Consultation
- Minuteman Press of Kelso, WA
- Performance Sheet Metal
- SignMasters Awards & More
- Steamers Carpet Cleaning
- Wilcox & Flegel
- Pacific Door & Window

## Partner Agencies



- Community Foundation for Southwest Washington
- Fish of Cowlitz County
- Generational Hope Foundation
- Janus Youth
- Love Overwhelming
- Lower Columbia CAP
- Lower Columbia College
- Luggage of Love
- Rose Foundation
- South Kelso Neighborhood Association
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Stella Lutheran Church
- Umpqua Bank Charitable Foundation
- United Way of Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties

## Outreach



- The Journey Subscribers: 1,195** [+737 over 2020]
- Facebook Followers: 632** [+108 over 2020]
- Instagram Followers: 182** [new in 2021]

# Promise Kept

I am a single mom. I have come across hard times: my family got COVID months back and we still haven't recovered financially. I have taken out loans and got a second job, and thankfully, I was almost caught up.

I was referred to Family Promise to apply for Promise of Home. For me it saved me from being on the streets. I was many months behind on rent and my landlord was also suffering the effects. Promise of Home granted us the last month of rent we were behind and I was able to catch up and be current.

It brings tears to my eyes to say I am able to keep my home. THANK YOU!

**-Tanya H, Promise of Home Grantee**  
Winter 2021



# TOTAL DONATIONS IN 2021

## Financial Support



**Unrestricted Donations: \$149,442**

**Restricted Donations: \$32,011**  
Grants and Special Projects

**Total: \$181,453**

**Total Donors: 292**  
+54 over 2020



## Community Outreach | Support

• **Volunteer Hours: 1,249**

*Estimated; not all volunteers inform us of their time. We began recording in Quarter 2 of 2021.*

## Partner Congregations

- East Hills 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 / St. Rose RCC
- Kalama Ward of the LDS
- Kelso First Baptist Church
- Kelso United Methodist Presbyterian Church
- Kelso Ward of the LDS
- Lake Sacajawea Ward of the LDS
- Longview Church of the Nazarene
- Longview Presbyterian Church
- Longview United Methodist Church
- New Song Worship Center
- Northlake Church
- Renewal City Church
- Rose Valley Friends Church
- Trinity Lutheran Church

# Promise Kept

I had sudden and totally unexpected heart surgery and the amount of time I was allotted off wasn't enough for me to get disability or any type of assistance in place of the income I would be losing. I knew we would fall short on rent and we could not find any rental assistance other than COVID relief. My family and I were facing losing our home.

I was referred to Family Promise and learned about Promise of Home. I made an appointment with the case manager to apply for the rent assistance, that same day I was approved for the rent assistance my family and I needed. Without Family Promise, I do not know how we would have made it through that month.

Thank you, Sara and the team! Going through a newly found heart condition was scary. Having this support made everything a bit more bearable.

**- Ty M, Promise of Home Grantee**  
Winter 2021





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## From the Crow's Nest

Lisa Staudinger  
Executive Director



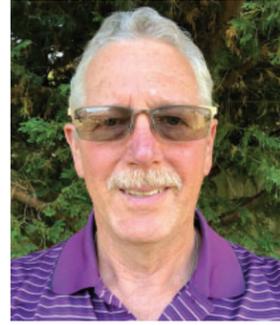
**VONDA MCFADDEN**  
PRESIDENT



**KARL SALZIEDER**  
VICE PRESIDENT



**LINDA DAVIS**  
TREASURER



**DAN FREI**  
SECRETARY



Have you ever hiked a path with major inclines? You're chugging away, beauty all around but no sense of how far you've gotten, kind of out of breath. By your sixteenth switchback, it can feel like a real slog. Maybe you start getting tired—even discouraged.

It takes all your focus just to take the next step.

And then you come around a turn in the trail and BAM! A stunning panorama shows you that you have been getting somewhere!

So it was in 2021. There were challenges at every turn but we kept striving for the summit of giving families a hand up and a chance at stability—both by serving directly and by building a stronger Affiliate. By the end of the year, we looked back and realized we had come further than we had realized.

In 2021, we graduated more families than in our previous two years combined, started Promise of Home to prevent homelessness, welcomed new staff, expanded our Board of Directors, and began our capacity expansion effort so we can shelter four families at a time again. We've positioned our Affiliate to serve increasing numbers of families in new ways over the coming years (see pages 3 and 4).

You, our supporters, are the reason for this. About 1100 individual supporters, community agencies and small businesses join us on this journey. As one, you link arms with us and offer encouragement and resources for the climb.

The strength you lend comes in many forms—cooking, delivering meals, coordinating volunteers, volunteering at the Family Center, donating money, taking on leadership roles. Each gift of time,

talent or treasure empowers us to overcome challenges along our trail, ushering us further toward success in our mission: serving families in terrible circumstances. Almost half of those we have served are children. Their lives have been forever changed by Family Promise. By us. By you.

It hasn't been an easy climb, and we couldn't have done it without you. With your help, we begin 2022 with tremendous gratitude and hope, defiantly stating that we ain't no ways tired. Because the path ahead may not be any less steep or rocky or perilous, but we walk it to save the lives of families and children in their darkest hour.

We are continually overwhelmed with gratitude for you. With such love-in-action surrounding us, who knows what we will look back on by the end of 2022? May we continue strengthening each other for the journey throughout the year.



**LETICIA CASAREZ**



**HOLLIE KERO**



**BOB ERICKSON**



**RANDY HALL**



**RON NAUFF**



**KEN BOTERO**

## STAFF MEMBERS



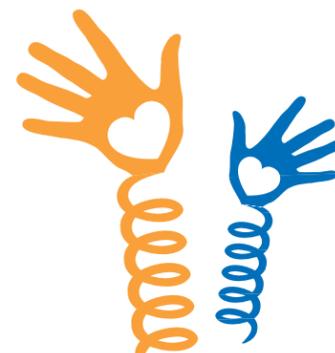
**JAMIE CRAIG**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



**LISA STAUDINGER**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**SARA WALLACE**  
CASE MANAGER



Lisa Staudinger  
Executive Director