



THE Journey

THE NEWSLETTER OF



Creating Hope, Nurturing Strength, Transforming Lives

October 2022 Vol 3, Issue 5



Problems Are Opportunities In Work Clothes

by Dawn Morgan, Executive Director

Recently my oldest daughter said to me “Mom, you’re a problem solver. If you see a problem, you’ll keep at it until you find a really good solution.” I have to admit that it was nice to hear a compliment from her. It makes me happy to be known as a problem-solver.

COVID-19 sure did leave us with some challenges, and Family Promise of Cowlitz County is no exception to this. The uncertainty of how to best help families who seek out FPCC is still unfolding, but I can tell you this with conviction: we will figure it out.

After college graduation, I’ve worked in the social services and healthcare fields. Most recently I was the Executive Director of the Children’s Discovery Museum. When I saw that FPCC was looking for a new director, I felt called to apply for the position. My family has supported FPCC since the beginning, so this opportunity to be a supporter from the inside of the organization seemed a great fit.

My husband (Joe) and I have been married for 24 years and have 2 daughters in college. We live in Longview and enjoy spending time with friends and family.

I would also like to thank everyone for such a warm welcome; I know we’re going to accomplish some great things together on behalf of FPCC!

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— Dawn



This October 17th through 23rd, we're celebrating Family Promise Week in hundreds of communities across the country – wherever there's a Family Promise Affiliate. Since 1988, more than one million children and parents have turned to Family Promise for assistance with homelessness prevention, shelter and housing, and other supports, and the need for our services continues to grow.

Join us during Family Promise Week for Night Without a Bed, a social media challenge that raises awareness and support for families battling homelessness. On **October 22**, sleep on a sofa, the floor, in your car – anywhere except your bed. Share photos on social media using the hashtag #nightwithoutabed2022 accompanied by a brief post describing your Night Without a Bed experience.

Whether on your own or with family or friends, it's a great opportunity to experience in a small way the hardship of homelessness and to show your support for families in need and help others understand the magnitude of this crisis that affects one in 19 children.

WHAT IS NIGHT WITHOUT A BED?

Night Without A Bed is a social media challenge to raise awareness about family homelessness.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

We ask participants to sleep anywhere without a bed: car, tent, or a living room floor and post it to social media. Post a photo or video to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/FamilyPromiseCowlitzCounty> using #NightWithoutABed2022. Also, see the adjacent article for Youth Groups.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

Families, children, and Family Promise volunteers!

DONATE!

And if you'd like to help homeless families and promote awareness of the problem of homelessness in our community you can donate through our website at: FPCowlitz.org

Or if you prefer you can send a check to:
 Family Promise of Cowlitz County
 P.O. Box 1152
 Kelso, WA 98626

Learn more about how you can participate at www.nightwithoutabed.org.

ATTENTION:



Youth Groups and Leaders!

This year for the National *Night Without A Bed* fundraiser, we are looking to team up with local youth groups of all kinds to raise awareness of childhood homelessness. We will be hosting a Pizza and game night on **October 22nd** for all interested in participating at First Christian Church (2000 E Kessler Blvd., Longview) starting at 6 pm.

After the event, we are asking for people to go home and sleep anywhere besides their bed, post on social media with our NWAB hashtag and raise awareness as well as funds for Family Promise and the families we serve.

If you are interested in having your group of teens participate, please reach out to Jamie Craig (office@FPCowlitz.org or call 360-703-3131).

Night Without A Bed | **How to Participate**

+ + = Spend one night outside the comfort of your own bed.

+ + = Take a picture or video of yourself + where you're sleeping and post it to social media.

+ + = Think and write out a caption that explains why you're spending the night without a bed.





Help for Students Experiencing Homelessness

by Richard Shuren



Children experiencing homelessness lack the stability and support to succeed academically. Additionally, disruptions to a child's education impacts their social and emotional development¹. The previous issue of "The Journey" contained an article on how homeless students are counted, using either the McKinney-Vento Act of 1987, under the U.S. Department of Education method or the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) method.

The Cowlitz County Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), using the HUD method, reported in 2018 (the most recent data on the website!) that of an estimated 1,465 total homeless people, 450 were children. School officials recognize this as an underestimate.

A student may meet the criteria under the McKinney-Vento Act if they are:

- Living in a shelter or a motel
- Living in a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station
- "Couchsurfing", that is, doubled up with relatives or friends due to loss of housing or economic hardship

If you are, or know of, a family with school-age children that meets these conditions, you should know that the eligible children may have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking enrollment documents normally required
- Attend classes while the school gathers the needed documents
- Receive transportation to and from the school originally attended before becoming homeless, if requested
- Receive educational services comparable to other students, according to their needs

In addition, college age students experiencing homelessness and living apart from their parents can use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This form allows a student to apply for several types of financial aid, including grants, student employment and federal student loans without having to enter their parents' information. Filing for the 2023-24 college school year has recently opened.

Contact the local school district staff liaison to find out what services and support may be available. Below is a list of Cowlitz Country staff, by district.

¹/ Volunteers of America website, voa-gny.org (2019).

District	Staff Person, Title	Phone & Email	Address
Castle Rock	Bryan Keatley, Program Coordinator	360-501-2933 bkeatley@crschools.org	615 Front Ave Castle Rock, WA 98611
Green Mountain	Jacqui Vansoest	jacqui.vansoest@ greenmountainschool.us	13105 NE Grinnell Road Woodand, WA 98674
Kalama	Jane Delker, Counselor	360-673-5212 jane.delker@kalama.k12.wa.us	548 China Garden Road Kalama, WA 98625
Kalama	Billie Jo Thomas, Counselor	360-673-5207 billiejo.thomas@kalama.k12.wa.us	548 China Garden Road Kalama, WA 98625
Kelso	Nancy Baldwin, Family Support Specialist	360-501-1993 nancy.baldwin@kelsosd.org	1904 Allen Street Kelso, WA 98626
Kelso	Don Iverson, Director of Student Services	360/501-1905 don.iverson@kelsosd.org	601 Crawford St Kelso, WA 98626
Longview	Amy Neiman, Director, State & Federal Programs	360-575-7423 aneiman@longview.k12.wa.us	2715 Lilac St. Longview, WA 98632
Longview	Mollie Dubois, McKinney-Vento Homeless Coordinator	360-575-7767 mdubois@longview.k12.wa.us	1225 28th Ave. Longview, WA 98632
Toutle Lake	Scott Grabenhorst, Superintendent	360-274-6182 sgrabenhorst@toutlesd.org	5050 Spirit Lake Highway Toutle, WA 98649
Woodland	Jake Hall, Executive Director of Learning Supports and Alternatives	360-841-2716 hallj@woodlandschools.org	800 Second Street Woodland, WA 98674
Lower Columbia College	Richard Arquette, Director of Student Programs & Student Housing	(360) 442-2443 rarquette@lowercolumbia.edu	1600 Maple St. Longview, WA 98632
	National Center for Homeless Education	(800) 308-2145 homeless@serve.org http://nche.edu.gov	

Information obtained from various district and educational services websites.





Family Promise board member Randy Hall hails originally from Keene Valley, a small town of about 600 people in upstate New York. He graduated from NYS College of Environmental Science and Forestry in 1983 (Syracuse), then moved to Washington to work in the “big trees”. Here, Randy met a Kelso girl who would later become his wife and put down roots. They have two wonderful children: Erin, who works at West Rock, and Mark, who is in college.

After 1986, Randy began to work as a manufacturing supervisor; then eight years later, became a construction estimator and project manager. In 2017, Randy obtained his realtor’s license and started a career in real estate.

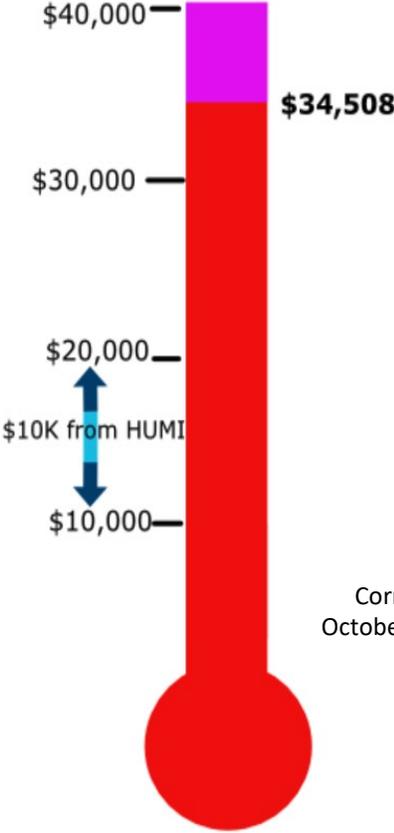
His involvement in Family Promise began with Christian-based business classes that led him to seek non-profits that were helping those experiencing homelessness, especially families with children. In addition to being on the Family Promise board, Randy has a wealth of experience in fund raising, and construction management and estimation. He has many connections with the local business community and is also working at the county level on homeless issues. A current emphasis is helping to break down negative perceptions of families experiencing homelessness with landlords and encouraging them to offer available rental units to Family Promise graduates.

Randy appreciates the focus of Family Promise on children and believes the staff, especially Sara Wallace “works hard and really cares” about helping.

He is also Chairman of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and former President of the Kelso Rotary Club. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, fishing, hunting, gardening, golf, and travel.



2021-2023 Progress



Corrected
October 1, 2022

Financial Update

- 2022 Annual Budget: **\$207,994.00**
- 2022 Contributions to date: **\$122,284.19**
- 2022 Avg. monthly contributions: **\$ 12,228.00**
- 2022 Volunteer hours reported: **1,129 hours**

Thank you for your support of families enduring homelessness.

The Cost of Homelessness

by Richard Shuren

Based on an article from Mid-Willamette Valley Family Promise, by T.J Putnam

Ugh, inflation. The cost of goods and services is skyrocketing and that is especially bad news for low-income families in Cowlitz County. If you're a family that is living paycheck-to-paycheck or dealing with even with less, inflation has a large impact. Inflation for the annual period ending August 2022 was 8.3%, up from 5.3% the previous year. Cowlitz County rents have increased 19% in the past 12 months.

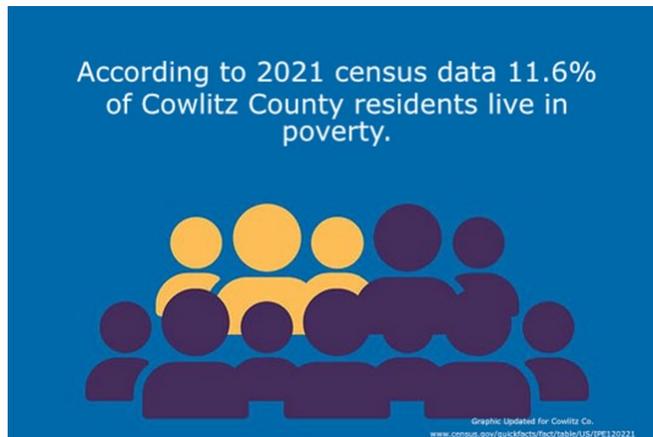
Even though everyone pays the same prices regardless of income, low-income people spend a larger percentage of their earnings on everyday costs. For example, a local family of four bringing in \$5,000 a month might spend \$1,100 per month for a 2-bedroom, 1 bathroom apartment (zumper.com) and \$600 on groceries every month. Their groceries are 12% of their monthly costs, while rent is a modest 22%. A second family of four brings home \$2,500 per month (based on one full-time minimum wage

job). Their \$600 for food accounts for 24% of their monthly income, while rent is a hefty 44%. Higher income families have 66% or \$3,300 to spend on the rest of their expenses, and perhaps even save some money. In contrast, the low-income family is left with \$800 per month to spend on the all the rest of their essentials, including transportation, utilities, clothing, health care and more. No

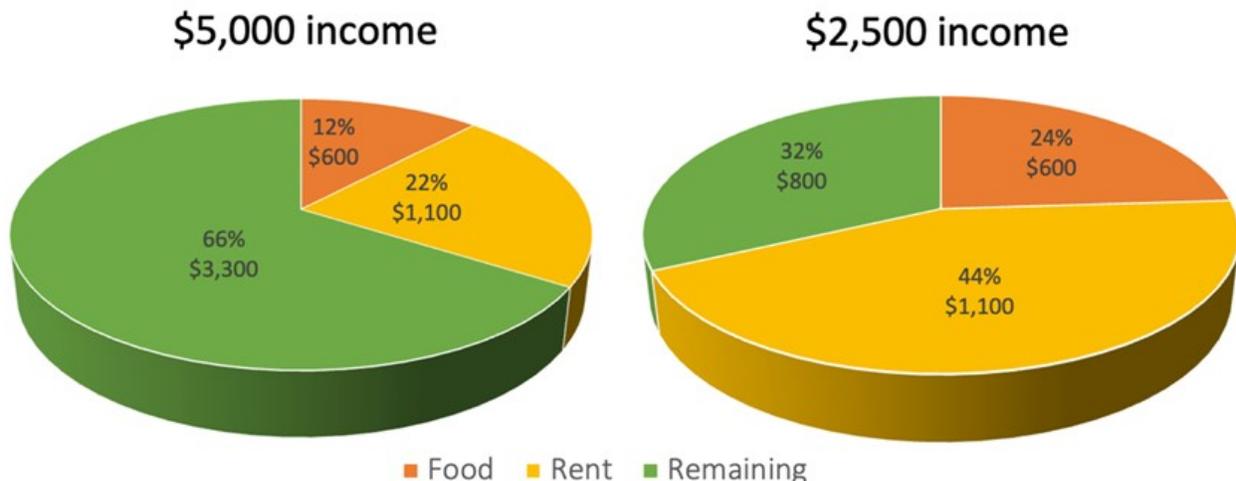
expense can be considered a small expense if you are unable to afford it.

Low-income families are looking for a lifeline to afford their basic needs. **Remember, there are ways to help families through these rough economic times!** You can donate to our

General or Promise of Home fund, purchase items on our needs list, and volunteer with us at FPcowlitz.org! These are small ways you can help be part of the solution that ends homelessness for a family.



Rent and Food as a Percent of Monthly Income



Our Local Impact

94

People Served in Interfaith Hospitality Network (shelter program)

55

Children Served in Interfaith Hospitality Network (shelter program)

7,943

Nights of Shelter

23,829

Meals Served

40

Families served in Promise of Home (homelessness prevention program)

91

Children served in Promise of Home (homelessness prevention program)

\$326

Promise of Home cost per child (average)

378

Families Served in Resource Navigation

Giving Update

by Dawn Morgan

GIVE MORE 24!

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

WOW!! What a fantastic GiveMore24! Campaign! Allow me to say that I'm just blown away by all the support for FPCC. A sincere THANK YOU to all involved for their willingness to promote this online giving day to their network. Together we were able to raise a whopping **\$44,122.00!** We exhausted our match and were just a bit short of our \$50,000 goal.

To break down for you all how awesome FPCC did, I will let you know that there were 216 non-profits participating in the 2022 campaign, with 29 of those from the Kelso/Longview area.

Cowlitz County didn't even make an appearance until #20 on the fundraising leaderboard, with FISH raising \$51,348.00. Next at #21 was the Lower Columbia School Gardens, with \$50,669.97. This includes three \$1,500.00 prizes. We were the next largest fundraiser in Cowlitz County.

THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL BOARD MEMBERS AND THEIR PEER-TO-PEER campaign; you really knocked it out of the park!!

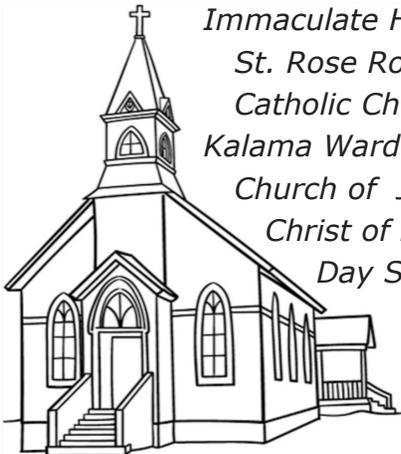
We are so grateful for the wonderful support and couldn't do this important work without you. It's exciting to be involved in an organization that can make such a difference in the lives of people who pass through our doors.

We are poised to do some wonderful things here at FPCC and I'm glad to be a part of those.

Our Awesome Partner Congregations

Bethany Lutheran Church
 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 Roman Catholic Churches
 Kalama Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Kelso First Baptist Church
 Kelso United Methodist Presbyterian 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 Christ
 Longview Presbyterian Church
 Longview United Methodist Church
 New Song Worship Center
 Northlake Church
 Renewal City Church
 Trinity Lutheran Church





Gifts & Gratitude

Your prayers and donations are like oxygen and blood to us.

We operate almost entirely on your donations. A very special thanks to our very special supporters. Your support makes everything possible for our guests and clients!

Business and Organization Donors

These businesses and organizations have supported us through their donations. Please support them and thank them for their support.

Bicoastal Media
Cole's Appliance Repair
Community Foundation for SW WA
Davis & Associates, CPAs, PS
Gibbs and Olson Engineering
High Cascades Agency
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the NW Community Giving Campaign
Keys Plus
Kroger
LOCAR (Lower Columbia Association of Realtors)
Longview Century Club
Longview Rotary
Luggage of Love
Mike Burchett Media Consultation
Minuteman Press
Network for Good
Pacific Door and Window
PEO Sisterhood Chapter IL
Performance Sheet Metal, Inc.
Realty ONE Group Pacifica
Redwood Toxicology, Inc
Sign Masters Awards n' More
Solid Rock Cruisers
Wilcox and Flegel Fuel Oil Co

Financial Donors

These donors' gifts in July, August and September offer families facing homelessness a hand up on the road to home.

Karla Bean
Daryl Berg
Gregory Cantwell
Phyllis Cavens
Frances Crosby
Barbara Davis
East Hills Alliance Church
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Bob Erickson
Exodus Christian Fellowship
Ilene Faling
First Baptist Church of Longview
Grace Bible Fellowship
Trudi Gross
Alice Hack
Amy Hamilton
Brian Hamilton
Greta Hamilton
Howard Hammond
Chuck Henderson
Mike Karnofski
Jackie Keller
Ruth Kimmel
Thomas Kirwan
Carol Kirwan
Richard Loewen
Longview Church of Christ
Patricia Lund
Donna MacKenzie
Roy Maier
Louise McAuliffe
Rev. Vonda McFadden
Melissa Wilkie Living Trust
Barbara Millard
Ron Naff
Network for Good

New Song Worship Center
Northlake Church
Irene Olason
Eugene Pistorese
Renewal City Church
David Rhoadarmer
Kathleen Rollins
Karl Salzsieder
Steve Sheridan
Claudia Sobczuk
Stella Lutheran Chapel
Don Sturdivant
Annie Tietze
Pat Toulouse
Toutle Christian Fellowship
Danielle Trimble
Mary Wingate
Trudy Woods
Ann Wright

In-Kind Donors

By donating everyday items to Family Promise, these donors made a difference in the lives of families experiencing homelessness who are working hard to regain sustainable independence.

Laura Countouriotis
Kris Keough
Steve Sheridan
Debra Shuren
Hanna Stone
Shannon Winchester

At Your Service

Board of Directors

Pr. Vonda McFadden	President
Karl Salzsieder	Vice President
Dan Frei	Secretary
Linda Davis	Treasurer
Ken Botero	At-Large
Leticia Casarez	At-Large
Bob Erickson	At-Large
Randy Hall	At-Large
Hollie Kero	At-Large
Ron Naff	At-Large

Family Center Staff

<u>Dawn Morgan</u>	Executive Director
<u>Sarah Wallace</u>	Case Manager
<u>Jamie Craig</u>	Administrative Assistant

Email Newsletter Editor: [Steve Sheridan](#)
Print Newsletter Editor: [Richard Shuren](#)

Family Center Address

215 Academy Street, Kelso, WA 98626

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 1152, Kelso, WA 98626

Family Center Hours

9 a.m. — 6 p.m. Monday through Friday

Family Center Office Phone

360-703-3131

Visit our website at:

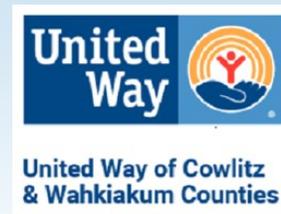
www.fpcowlitz.org (Cowlitz County)

www.familypromise.org (National Organization)

Find us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/FamilyPromiseCowlitzCounty

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of Cowlitz County

