

# Family Promise Presents FPCC 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Burgers and Bingo

SAVE THE  
DATE

Family, fun, and togetherness! Lets  
raise awareness and honor those we  
serve.

Help us continue the fight to end  
childhood homelessness.

## Bingo Event

Laugh, Play, Win – Join Our  
Family Fun Bingo Event!



Family  
Promise  
of Cowlitz County



October 11, 2025



Doors open at 4:30pm



Youth and Family Link  
907 Douglas St., Longview, Wa

## Contact Us

Phone Number

360-703-3131



# The Journey



Family  
Promise  
of Cowlitz County

Creating Hope, Nurturing Strength, Transforming Lives

Second Quarter 2025 Vol 6, Issue 2

## Our Blessings are in Our Numbers

by Dan Frei, Board President



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For much of my adult life, I've relied on my own talents and abilities to "make things happen." By relying on myself rather than others, I could do things my way, remain in control and have only myself to blame should my efforts fall short.

But Family Promise has shown me the benefits available when many are involved. This organization was formed with the premise that many hands make light work. By utilizing the talents of many, we can provide a mean-

ingful and successful ministry at a much-reduced cost when compared to other organizations. Family Promise is the largest nonprofit addressing family homelessness in the nation. And their use of volunteers enables them to operate at roughly one-third the cost of other organizations.

Our affiliate not only tries to help families in their time of need when a crisis comes by offering support and shelter, but we also give them the tools they need to create independence as well. Family homelessness is a complex issue that requires comprehensive, innovative solutions. Solving homelessness requires a

focus on prevention, shelter and stabilization as well as housing.

There are many opportunities in which we can make a difference in the lives of the families we serve. Selecting the "Get Involved" tab on our [fpcowlitz.org](http://fpcowlitz.org) website identifies the many ways in which you can help.

I want to thank all who have participated in this ministry to-date. Know that you've helped over 72 families secure housing for their families to-date. In addition, we've helped prevent an additional

192 at risk families from experiencing the trauma associated with becoming homeless. Please feel free to share these successes with your neighbors and friends. You are helping so many in this community in which you live.

As I titled this piece, the blessings are in the many who support this organization. In addition to the many opportunities that one can volunteer, our existence is dependent upon your financial support as well. Please know that all donations are appreciated, and we are attentive to using each dollar wisely. Many have shown their support by making regular monthly donations, which shows

(continued on page 2)

## Community Corner: Family Promise Receives Donation

On June 10<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the ribbon cutting for the groundbreaking, low-income, multi-family housing Sunrise Village, in Longview. The 40-unit development includes a community center plus dedicated apartments for low-income and disabled residents.

Housing Opportunities of Southwest Washington (HOSWWA) announced that with the opening of the property they would make a \$25,000 donation to a local non-profit homeless service support agency. Family Promise of Cowlitz County was chosen for this award! We are honored and deeply grateful! Our work in the community is only made possible due to the support of our partners!

Longview Presbyterian Church, long time supporters of FPCC, donated the 2 acres of land on which the low-income housing stands. We feel so privileged to work with both the congregation and HOSWWA as we move closer to the solution for family homelessness. We are hopeful Family Promise clients will benefit greatly with more low-income housing in our area.



**Sara Wallace receives the \$25,000 donation from Jennifer Westerman of HOSWAA**



**The 40-unit Sunrise Village development**

## Our Blessings are in Our Numbers

*(from page 1)*

their commitment to supporting our efforts to help these families.

Last December, we received a gift in the form of stock. The donor, who had reached an age that required annual distributions from her IRA, could have sold the shares, paid capital gains taxes on the amount of appreciation, and donated the after-tax proceeds. However, by donating the stock directly to Family Promise of Cowlitz County, she was able to increase the amount of her donation while generating additional tax savings for herself. If you would like to take advantage of this tax-smart giving strategy, please know that we now have an account for such donations.

As you will see in reading through this issue of *"The Journey"*, we are making a difference to many families with children facing a housing crisis. Thank you for the countless ways in which you continue to support this ministry.

— Dan Frei

## 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](mailto:sara@fpcowlitz.org) or 714-487-1459**





### **GO 4th Fund Raisers**



#### ***Parking Lot Fundraiser***

#### **Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

2218 E. Kessler Blvd.

Longview, WA 98632

OPEN 8am - 8pm Cost \$5

Proceeds go to Family  
Promise of Cowlitz County



#### ***Fireworks Stand***

***July 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup>***

**Family Faith Church** at the corner of

38<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Ocean Beach

Proceeds go to Family  
Promise of Cowlitz County



### **School Supplies Drive!**



***June 25th to September 1st***

Help our at-risk and homeless  
children this year!

See full list of needs at our website  
[fpcowlitz.org](http://fpcowlitz.org)

Drop off supplies any time at the Shelter.  
Text Sara Wallace for access at  
714-487-1459

### ***FPCC Day of Giving***

We are overjoyed and deeply grateful to share the results of our **Family Promise Giving Day** campaign — thanks to your generosity, we raised **\$17,050** to help families in our community find and sustain safe, stable housing.

Each donation, share, and word of encouragement made a difference. Whether you gave \$5 or \$5,000, you've helped bring hope to families experiencing housing insecurity. Your support means more than just a roof over someone's head — it means security, dignity, and the chance for a brighter future.

At Family Promise, we believe that **every family deserves a home**. Because of you, we are one step closer to making that belief a reality for more families in need. Your kindness has turned compassion into action, and that action will change lives.

From all of us at Family Promise, and on behalf of the families you've helped — **thank you**. We couldn't do this without you, and we wouldn't want to.

- Jamie Craig , Office Manager

# Donors to the General Fund for January through May, 2025

(Donors to the Sustainability Campaign are highlighted in yellow)

Elisabeth Allen  
Dale & Mary Anderson  
Bob & Marlene Anunson  
Robert Avignone  
Sign Masters Awards  
N' More  
Tim & Patricia Baker  
Kelso First Baptist  
Greg & Karla Bean  
Daryl & Gail Berg  
Ken Botero & Marjorie Berry  
Kathryn Black  
Lorie Blain  
Kariann Botero  
Mary Brennan  
Kathleen Cain  
Colleen Callahan  
Diane & Gregory Cantwell  
Celice Carlough  
Michelle Carr  
Bethany Lutheran Church  
East Hills Alliance Church  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Grace Bible Church  
Longview Presbyterian Church  
Renewal City Church  
Linda Clary  
Ann Cordero  
Lynn Couch  
Laura Countouriotis  
Marybeth Cranston  
Pete & Frances Crosby  
Mary Crow  
Stacy Dalgarno  
Barbara Davis  
Darold & Evalyn Dietz  
Lyn Doehne  
Donovan Doerr  
Pamela Doumit  
Josh Droke  
Precision Drying Services  
Allison Eckles  
Trece Eden  
Marlys & Rod Ericksen

Bob & Kathy Erickson  
Exodus Christian Fellowship  
Cindy & Pete Foley  
Darline Foster  
Dan Frei  
PayPal Giving Fund  
John & Joanne Gotshall  
Thrivent Grant  
Ryann Graye  
Ruth Ann Fletcher & Ronald Greene  
John & Trudi Gross  
Gail & Judy Groth  
Kay Gunter  
Marian Gutenberger  
Kerry & James Hall  
Robert & Jill Hall  
Amy & Brian Hamilton  
Connie & Howard Hammond  
Kate Harlan  
James Wallace & Lauri Harris  
Angela Heinlen  
Chuck & CreeAnn Henderson  
Angel Herron  
Margaret Hickey  
Sarah Hines  
Pam Howe  
Don Iverson  
Georgia J Welte  
Gary & Susan Jackson  
Katherine Johanson  
Gary & Jolaine Jorgensen  
Esther Jump  
Christine Justus  
Marilyn K Haan  
Mike & Teri Karnofski  
Eileen Kasemeier  
Ronald & Ruth Kimmel  
Suzy King  
Bob Kirshner & Pauline Kirchner  
Carol & Thomas Kirwan  
Kroger  
Nancy Kuehlwein  
Sharon Kuroda  
Amy LaFave  
Tracy Larson  
Edward Laulainen

Ramona Leber  
Shira Lile  
Hannah Booth Living Trust  
Marita Loch  
Ardyth & Richard Loewen  
Clifton Lollar  
Junior League Lower Columbia  
Kim Lowry  
Nancy Lundquist  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church  
Donna & Joe MacKenzie  
Jim & Judy MacLeod  
Roy & Lisa Maier  
Larry & Margaret Malone  
Kirsi Malone  
Ron Marshall  
Louise McAuliffe  
Kris McElroy-Weber  
Jodi Mcfall  
Donna McLain  
Seth & Stephanie McNally  
Doug Irvine & Marilyn Melville-Irvine  
Gavin Jeanne Mills  
Brian & Toni Miner  
Marcia V Mongrain-Finkas  
Frank Morrison  
Help Us Move In  
Kay & Ron Naff  
Maxine Newell  
Amy Norquist  
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the NW Community  
Giving Campaign  
Jean Orr  
Grocery Outlet  
Patricia Peterson & Stephen Jones  
Kat Pettersen  
Eugene Pistorese  
Susan Pointer

Family Promise National  
Tracey Pruitt  
Bill Hundley & Kay Purcell  
Peggy Reibe  
Gayle Reid  
Lam Research Corporation  
George & Mildred Robertson  
Derene & Karl Salzsieder  
Debbie Sanders  
Phillip Sari  
Brook Seaver  
Monica Seidl  
J. Chris & Heidi Shaw  
Patty & Steven Sheridan  
Autumn Sheridan  
Lori Shero  
Stephen Shope  
Debra & Richard Shuren  
Arlene Smith  
Ian Thompson  
Lori Thorburn  
Annie & Darrel Tietze  
Marsha Treadway  
Betty Trembley  
Adam & Danielle Trimble  
Loretta Urling  
Kat V  
Rosann Walker  
Sara Wallace  
Dennis & M Chris Wallace  
United Way  
Mary Wheeler  
Melissa Wilkie Living Trust & Robert Wilke Living Trust  
Margaret Williams  
Trish Wilson  
Mary Wingate  
Michael & Trudy Woods  
JoAnn & Leonard Workman  
New Song Worship Center

## In-Kind Donors

Kathleen Cain  
Shawn Nyman  
B jo Brewer  
Chelsea Tangen  
Jennifer Frost

Jeanne O'Connor  
Darylan Johnson  
Richard & Debbie Shuren  
Bob Anunson

## Special Donations

### *In Honor of:*

Judy and Dick Ainslie

-by Mary and Dale Anderson

Don and Lori Powell

-by Ron Greene and Ruth Ann Fletcher

### *In Memory of:*

Chris Leaf

-by Barbara Towne, James Hoeffner,  
and EverLoved Charity

Sara Anderson

-by Ian Thompson

Mary Lou Lance

-by Patricia Peterson

Diane Gordon

-by Christine Justus

Anthony Headington

-by Marsha Treadway

→ ***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)
- Full size sheets
- 11x17 paper reams

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](mailto:office@fpcowlitz.org).



## New Beds in Shelter!

We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to providing bunk beds for families in shelter. Your generosity has created safer, more comfortable sleeping spaces for children and parents during a challenging time in their lives.

Because of you, families now have a place to rest their heads, share moments of peace, and begin rebuilding with dignity. Thank you for making a real difference. ♥

- Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
- Richard & Debbie Shuren
- Kathleen Cain
- Emmanuel Lutheran Church
- 100 Women Who Care



### ***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, [sara@fpcowlitz.org](mailto:sara@fpcowlitz.org) or call 360-703-3131.

For a community resource list please visit our website ([www.FPcowlitz.org](http://www.FPcowlitz.org)).



# From Crisis to Stability: Our First Transitional Housing Graduate

Six years ago, a determined mother of three arrived at our program from Mountain Ministries. She was a native from Montana with a history of drug use, little formal education, no transportation, and a dream for a better life. Today, we are proud to celebrate her as the first graduate of our Transitional Housing Program.

Hilary is nothing short of amazing. She is hard working, intelligent and driven. In 2020 just before the pandemic, Hilary advocated for herself to get housed through the Kelso Housing Authority homes. She was granted housing and just in time because the world shut down right as she left Family Promise. During her first years Hilary started school to become a Substance Use Counselor, and she enrolled in the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program, with Kelso Housing Authority. In doing so, as you progress and improve income, they help you to set personal and financial goals and save in an escrow account for future home-buying.

Through hard work, persistence, and support from the community, she earned her degree, secured a full-time job with the Tribe. As her earnings increased, so did her savings—building to over \$20,000 in her FSS escrow account. She used those funds to purchase a reliable vehicle and create long-

term financial stability for her family. Today, she proudly works for her tribe and is helping others who are struggling.

We, at FPCC, are proud to celebrate her as the first graduate of our Transitional Housing Program—and now, a proud homeowner. She recently purchased her own home and is living the dream she never thought possible, creating lasting stability and independence for her family.



Her story is living proof that with determination, support, and opportunity, families can go from surviving to thriving. With stable housing and the right support, long-term success is possible. We are honored to have been part of her powerful journey, and proud to call her a role model for others on the journey out of homelessness.

When a family graduates Family Promise, they stay in our stabilization program for up to a year and we support them along their journey. Hilary has always stayed with us at heart. We feel privileged that she has come this far, and that we got to be a small part of her happy beginning!

## Our Local Impact

177

People Served in Interfaith Hospitality Network (shelter program)

104

Children Served in Interfaith Hospitality Network (shelter program)

more than 11,900

Nights of Shelter

over 30,300

Meals Served

176

Families served in Promise of Home (homelessness prevention program)

401

Children served in Promise of Home (homelessness prevention program)

916

Families Served in Resource Navigation

We are planning a small housewarming party for Hilary, hoping we can support her needs as she steps into homeownership! If you would like to support Hilary, please contact Sara at 714-487-1459 for details to come to the gathering!

## Financial Update

Update through May 30th, 2025

2025 Annual Budget:

**\$ 164,200.00**

2025 Contributions:

**\$ 80,755.58**

2025 Avg. monthly contributions:

**\$ 16,151.12**

2025 Volunteer hours reported:

**562 hours**

# Bridging the Gap: Supporting At-Risk Families with Children

by Sara Wallace, Executive Director

In communities across the region, more families are finding themselves on the brink—struggling to keep up with rising rents, job insecurity, and the soaring cost of basic needs. At Family Promise of Cowlitz County, we're committed to bridging the gap between crisis and stability for families with children.

We believe every family deserves more than just a place to sleep—they deserve stability, dignity, and a path forward. Every service we offer is designed with one goal in mind: to ensure no child has to grow up without a safe, stable place to call home.

While emergency shelter is a critical part of our work, it's just the beginning. Our work goes beyond temporary shelter. We provide wrap-around support—emergency housing, case management, employment assistance, and connections to vital resources—to help families not just

survive but rebuild. Our goal is to step in before homelessness happens, we offer emergency rent assistance to prevent evictions, utility support to keep homes livable, and family-centered case management to connect parents and children with resources that create lasting change.

We work one-on-one with families to address the root causes of their housing crisis—whether it's job loss, medical bills, or domestic violence—and walk beside them on their journey back to security.

Here is one family's story:

(Names have been withheld to protect identities and keep confidential information private.)

Single Mom lives with and cares for her 16-year-old son, who has been diagnosed with a rare disease that leaves him unable to care for

himself 100% of the time. He has incontinence amongst other conditions that mom and care givers help him with to stay comfortable and happy. She explained that her son must wear diapers due to medical and developmental reasons.

We understand and deeply respect the complexities involved in caring for individuals with special needs, particularly when those needs include medical or hygiene challenges.

Unfortunately, she has received concerns from other residents and property management regarding a persistent odor associated with soiled diapers. The smell has become quite strong in shared or nearby spaces, and some have expressed that it was impacting their comfort and quality of life.

We want to be clear: this young person and their family deserve compassion, dignity, and support. That said, we also recognize the importance of maintaining a healthy and livable environment

for all residents. The goal was to advocate for both parties and it was recognized that the best path forward was to work together on reasonable accommodations and solutions—including increased access to sanitation supplies, more frequent disposal assistance, odor-control methods, and additional support services from case workers or health agencies.

The resolution reached: Mom could obtain a portable washer, dehumidifier and air purifier and if she were able to pass inspection, she would be able to stay in the unit!

At FPCC we receive support from not just one, but many congregations. This is the heart of our program. Because each congregation has so many “servants at heart” to assist, we can call on our supporters and have these unique needs met, where she other-

wise might not find an agency to help with this specialized request. We pride ourselves on always finding an answer, never hanging up the phone without recommending or referring to our partners.

We called upon our people: pastors, dinner coordinators, volunteer groups and board members and in no time at all, we had an outpouring of love, concern and support. We were able to meet this need for this mom and her son. It was the kind of love only our small town can show, and a sight to see the community come together for this family. We've paved a bridge from families in need to those in the community who can answer and meet those needs.

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***“Our work goes beyond temporary shelter. We provide wrap-around support—emergency housing, case management, employment assistance, and connections to vital resources—to help families not just survive but rebuild.”***

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Had this family been asked to move their options for housing would have been greatly limited due to his medical needs. We understand both parties have responsibility. For the landlord, they must insure safe living conditions for all tenants. For mom, she needed a little bit of support.

This is what Family Promise is made of, building the connections that will lead to success. Keeping families in their homes is always the top priority. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate and find a respectful, sustainable solution that supports both the family's needs and the community's well-being. Our goal is to ensure the family can remain housed, while also maintaining a clean and comfortable environment for everyone.

Thanks to our dedicated staff, generous donors, and community partners, we've helped 23 families transition out of homelessness this year alone. But the need continues to grow.

To learn how you can help bridge the gap for local families, visit [www.fpcowlitz.org](http://www.fpcowlitz.org)



# At Your Service

## Board of Directors

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Trudi Gross	Secretary
Cindee Barbee	Treasurer
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Bob Erickson	At-Large
Lauri Harris	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

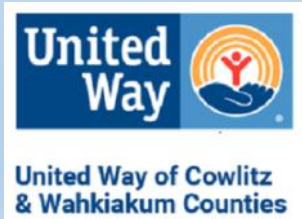
Family Center Office Phone  
360-703-3131

Visit our website at:

[www.fpcowlitz.org](http://www.fpcowlitz.org) (Cowlitz County)  
[www.familypromise.org](http://www.familypromise.org) (National Organization)

Find us on Facebook at:  
[www.Facebook.com/FamilyPromiseCowlitzCounty](http://www.Facebook.com/FamilyPromiseCowlitzCounty)

*Family Promise of  
Cowlitz County  
proudly supports:*



Kelso, WA 98626  
P.O. Box 1152

