



FPCC in Transition

by Sara Wallace, Executive Director

Hello Friends! 2024 is an exciting year for Family Promise of Cowlitz County. I have stepped into my new role as Executive Director, welcomed with open arms. I want to thank the community for all the love and support during our transition. I have a strong passion to end family homelessness, and a love for this community. Partnerships are the key to a successful organization.

I served as the Case Manager from August 2020.

Since coming to FPCC we have supported over 35 families and 124 children with

shelter, through to graduation into permanent housing. I am so proud of our accomplishments as a community, after all, it takes a village. In 2021 we began to work on a prevention program, with the assistance of HUMI (Help Us Move In) we were able to form Promise of home, our prevention program to stabilize families at risk. We have served over 140 families and 274 children, preventing them from becoming or remaining homeless. The shelter program has been successful, and we have hired a new staff member, Jenny Kendall. She has been an asset to our team and has a passion for our mission.

Welcome Jenny! Jamie Craig continues to be the heart of our program, and is now the Office Manager, officially. We would like to thank Jamie for her years of dedication and loyalty. Thank you, Jamie.

The past year has definitely been challenging. 2024 is our year to rebuild, restore and re-invent. Like we teach our families: self-sufficiency, resilience, and perseverance!

Please help us spread the word as

“When you give, we take a proactive step towards creating the society we want to live in. “

we are asking for your continued support over the next year for 100 donors, small business, founda-

tions, individuals, and congregations to designate \$100 in a monthly donation to our mission to end childhood homelessness.

We are planning an event in the Spring for the whole family, so keep an eye out for details! Family Promise of Cowlitz County will be participating in Give BIG, a statewide fundraising campaign where individuals and organizations come together across Washington to invest in our communities. When you give, we take a proactive step towards creating the society we want to live in. Every spring, the excitement for

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2024 FAMILY PROMISE CAMPAIGN FOR SUSTAINABILITY

We are looking for churches, individuals, civic organizations, small business, families and foundations to come together and pledge \$100 a month to Family Promise of Cowlitz County!



Family promise of Cowlitz County is launching a new giving campaign for 2024!

We strive to teach our families to be self-sustaining in life. By pledging your \$100 a month contribution, you will be helping us to apply the same practice, while also leaving our grants and other income available to fund other programs, such as promise of home.

If you wish to join our fight against homelessness by donating \$100 monthly, we will feature your name or business logo in our newsletter that goes out to over 1,500 Cowlitz county residents.

You can donate by scanning the QR code, below, with your smartphone or by going to www.fpcowlitz.org, select "Donate" and choose the "2024 one hundred" campaign. Or, you can mail a check to PO box 1152, Kelso WA. 98626. Payments can also be dropped off at our office at 215 Academy Street in Kelso.

If you all ready donate monthly and would like to increase your donation amount we would love to have you onboard! If your donation is ACH, just reach out to Jamie Craig at office@fpcowlitz.org and she can help you.

Thank you all for believing in the work we do and supporting us!

Here are current donors who have already committed to give this year to the campaign:

- Dan Frei
- Bob & Kathy Erickson
- Vonda McFadden (KUMPC)
- Watershed Science and Engineering
- Steven & Patty Sheriden
- Richard & Debra Shuren
- Jim & Judy Macleod
- Roy & Lisa Maier
- Grace Bible Church
- Chuck & CreeAnn Henderson
- Emmanuel Lutheran Church
- Richard & Ardyth Loewen
- Melissa & Robert Wilkie
- Louise McAuliffe
- East Hills Alliance
- City Renewal Church



Donate Today!

FPCC In Transition (from page 1)

Give BIG builds through word-of-mouth, social media, and an extensive multimedia promotional campaign, with local celebrities and sports teams encouraging the community to show their generosity. Please share FPCC and its good works so that Give BIG 2024 can be a success!

FPCC experienced major financial hardships last year and we ask that as a community we come together and support a wonderful program that aims to end childhood homelessness. We offer our families a hand up, not a handout. They are taught financial literacy, self-reliance and how to utilize the resources in the community that are available to them to be successful. It is possible to end the cycle.

If you would like to donate or volunteer please contact us sara@fpcowlitz.org or www.fpcowlitz.org. On behalf of every child we have served, THANK YOU!

Turning Points and (Good) Changes

by Vonda McFadden, Board Chair

We've all heard the saying, "March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb." It's because the weather can be a little crazy at the beginning and calmer at the end of the month. We, who are housed, often only think about the weather when it might interfere with plans we have. But for those without shelter, the weather is often the difference between life and death. Thankfully we have not had too many days of very cold temperatures, but it doesn't have to be cold if you are wet. We all know there are plenty of wet days this time of year. Now, imagine if you were a child trying to stay warm and dry and go to school to learn. Imagine if you were a child and you were hungry.

We continue to do this work every day because every child is important. Every child deserves a place to call home; a place where they can learn, feel safe and thrive. That is our goal here at Family Promise of Cowlitz County.

These last three months have been a turning point in our organization, and we are thrilled with where we

are headed. We are making real differences in people's lives, children's lives. While our shelter is the focus, prevention is also key in keeping people housed and out of shelter. Sara's efforts in this regard are truly outstanding.

Changes are happening and they are definitely for the better. Our newsletter is one of those changes. It might look a little different and we've moved to quarterly publications. We believe this will allow us to bring you more success stories and be better stewards of our funds. If you'd like to know more about what is happening and how you can help, don't hesitate to reach out to Sara. We'd love to partner with you.

Thank you to those who have stepped up to be part of our 100 for 100 campaign. I hope to see more of your names on these pages in the coming year. We are honored at your support of our efforts in Cowlitz County, and we anticipate great things this year. Thank you for joining us on the journey.

Help Us Grow!

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

We operate almost entirely on your donations. Please strongly consider donating to Family Promise, today.

Your support makes everything possible for our guests and clients!

DONATE TODAY



Past, Present and Beyond!

by Sara Wallace, Executive Director

An update on our Families and giving you a look inside our program along the way!

It is the biggest gift to share the success of each family we serve here at FPCC. We are working this year to convey the amazing stories of our families as often as possible!



Brandon, Jr.

In Shelter we have welcomed a new family, Brandon and Jamie, and their two amazing little children, Brandon Jr. (1) and pretty blue eyed Melody (3). Miss Melody has her 3rd birthday coming in April. Brandon and Jamie are both young eager parents, they have been in a relationship since 2019. They are both native to Lewis County. Brandon is currently searching for work; he loves to do electrical work. It is his passion, and we are hoping to get him in school once he finds steady work. He has done many things and is a hard worker. If you know a business that is hiring, he is

your man! Brandon is applying at the local mills this week. Mom will be going back to school and we hope to enroll the kiddos in preschool in the near future.

They have been a true pleasure. They are grateful to be here, great communicators and amazing parents. We have been working to create a routine and they have fit right in! Thank you, because of your support we can help a family like Brandon & Jamie's.



Melody

A look in the Past, or Future ... AND BEYOND

Heather and her two young boys came to us from another program; Heather felt she needed change. Oh Boy! Did a change of scenery pay off. Shortly after entering our program, Heathers attitude and mental health improved. She found more about herself she loved, and it seeped through to her boys. They all began a positive path of perseverance and determination. Heather and the boys were with us just over 2 months. Since coming to the program Heather gained full time employment and saved more than enough money to get her own place! They graduated back in October 2023. Heather and the boys are happily living locally, mom works, the boys attend school and they are happy, healthy and thriving. They also love to attend church, go rock and agate hunting and most of all mushroom picking!



- Longview First Christian and Kalama Ward
- Kelso United Methodist Presbyterian and Longview United Methodist

Next 8 weeks of Host Churches:

- Emmanuel and East Hills Alliance
- St Rose/IHM and Lake Sacajawea Ward
- Northlake and Exodus
- Longview Presbyterian
- Trinity Lutheran and Evangel
- Kelso First Baptist and Grace Bible Church
- Longview First Christian and Kalama Ward
- Kelso United Methodist Presbyterian and Longview United Methodist

A HUGE thank you to the last 8 Host Churches:

- Emmanuel and East Hills Alliance
- St Rose/IHM and Lake Sacajawea Ward
- Northlake and Exodus
- Longview Presbyterian
- Trinity Lutheran and Evangel
- Kelso First Baptist and Grace Bible Church

Extra Extra!



Want to hear about something specific in this newsletter? Drop us a line—or a whole draft!

Take Us to Your Leaders

Church Council, Council of Elders, Church Board, Board of Trustees, Meeting, Parish Council, Session . . . whatever your denomination calls them, they're your highly valued leaders! And you know that one person you're going to miss a lot now that they're off your Church Parish Council Board Session of Elder Trustees? Well, we want them!

If you know (or are) one of these leaders, we are inviting applicants for the Family Promise of Cowlitz County Board of Directors.

Previous Board experience helpful, but *not* required. Board terms are a three-year commitment. People of color, women, young people, and those who have personally experienced housing insecurity or homelessness are especially encouraged to apply. For more details, please email us directly at

Director@FPCowlitz.org,
PastorVonda@gmail.com, or call 360-703-3131.

Donors to the General Fund & Grants

(4th Quarter, 2023)

Mary Anderson
Robert Avignone
Patricia Baker
Cindy Barbee
Alan Barkman
Greg & Karla Bean
Daryl & Gail Berg
Kathryn Black
Mary Brennan
Deborah Burns
Mary Carter
Michelle Casanover
Jamie Lynn Craig
Frances Crosby
Barbara Davis
Donovan Doerr
Alida Donner
Ruth Earnest
East Hills Alliance Church
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Rod Ericksen
Marlys Ericksen
Kathy Erickson
Bob Erickson
Jackie Evans
Grace Bible Church
Cindy Foley
Network for Good
Firstenburg Foundation
Karen Franko
Dan Frei
Margaret Fuesler
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
John Gotshall
Margaret Graham
Lisa Graversen
Connie Gray
Ryann Graye
Patrick Green
Lauri Grimes
John & Trudi Gross
Richard Gushman
Brian Hamilton
David Hamilton
Howard Hammond

Richard Hardecker
Core Health
Jan Heaton
Chuck Henderson
Sarah Hines
Jeanette Hourigan
Daniel Hultquist
Don Iverson
Tony Jeanetta
Stephen Johnson
Patrick Jones
Kalama United
Methodist Women
Mike Karnofski
Jackie Keller
Kelso United Methodist
Presbyterian Church
Ronald Kimmel
Ruth Kimmel
Carol Kirwan
Harlan Kittelson
Diane A. Kmetz
Dave Knoyle
Mark Koelsch
Tamara Kost
Elizabeth Laufer
Lucy Lehman
Kelso Lions Club
Julie Lipke
Richard Loewen
Clifton Lollar
Longview Presbyterian Church
Nancy Lundquist
Donna MacKenzie
Donald Mackey
Maria Magnuson
Roy Maier
Allison Mattocks
Louise McAuliffe
Rev. Vonda McFadden
Thomas McFadden
Amy McMahan
Melissa Wilkie Living Trust
Dennis Midwood
Gavin Jeanne Mills

Ron Naff
Judith Nakashima
New Song Worship Center
Jeanne O'Connor
Michael Pervere
Eugene Pistorese
Susan Pointer
Jo Ralston
Cherie Rapp
Martha Redmond
Peggy Renaud
Renewal City Church
Robert J. and Elaine Ciatto
Family Foundation Inc.
Mildred Robertson
George Robertson
Rose Valley Friends Church
Pat Sari
Sandra Schlarb
Glenda Schuh
J. Chris Shaw
Alexandria Sheridan
Autumn Sheridan
Steve & Patty Sheridan
Claudia Sobczuk
Judy St. Jean
Debbie Studebaker
Mark Thorson
Three Rivers Ladies Golf
Association
Annie and Darrel Tietze
Marsha Treadway
Danielle Trimble
Sandy Walling
Watershed Science and Engineering
Mary Wheeler
Mary Wingate
Judith Wolfe



The View from the Office

by Jamie Craig, Office Manager

Happy Spring, family and friends! We hope you are well and ready for the new season! Time has flown by since Christmas and its crazy to think of how many families have come into shelter and moved along all ready. We just welcomed our newest family, and they are a pleasure to have around. I sure enjoy listening to the pitter patter of little feet and laughter coming down the halls.

With spring comes cleaning and boy did we need some help around here. Thanks to our new board member, Laura Countouriotis and her daughter Chloe's LCC communications group mates, we were able to organize, sort and clean out many areas of shelter. Thank you, students, for your help.

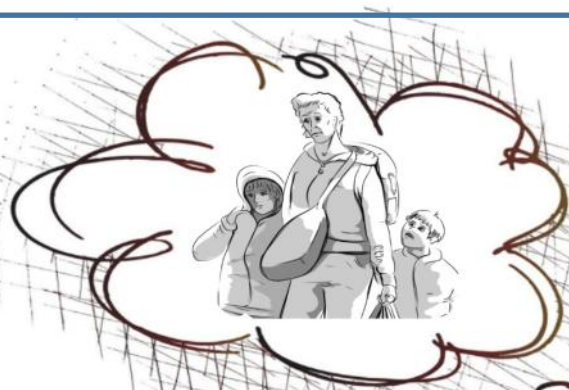
One of our biggest needs right now is for a new storage space. We get many donations of home goods for families when they graduate, and we need a central location to store these items. If you know of any space available, please let us know.



Financial Update

Updates are through February, 2024

2024 Annual Budget:
\$ 149,881.00
2024 Contributions to date:
\$ 10,275.29
2024 Avg. monthly contributions:
\$ 5,137.65
2024 Volunteer hours reported:
222 total hours



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



At Your Service

Board of Directors

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Pr. Vonda McFadden | President |
| Dan Frei | Vice-President |
| Trudi Gross | Secretary |
| Cindee Barbee | Treasurer |
| Veryl Anderson | At-Large |
| Nancy Baldwin | At-Large |
| Laura Countouriotis | At-Large |
| Bob Erickson | At-Large |
| Jan Heaton | At-Large |
| Jim Johnston | At-Large |
| Ron Naff | At-Large |
| Julie Rinard | At-Large |
| Marsha Treadway | At-Large |
| Jovan Tyler | At-Large |

Family Center Staff

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>Sara Wallace</u> | Executive Director |
| <u>Jamie Craig</u> | Office Manager |
| <u>Jenny Kendall</u> | Administrative Assistant |

Email Newsletter Editor: Steve Sheridan
Print Newsletter Editor: Richard Shuren

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Family Center Office Phone
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Visit our website at:

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

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

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