



# The Promise

July, 2008

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## Interfaith Hospitality Network Opens August 3rd.

It is finally here, Family Promise® of the Lewis-Clark Valley! It has been three years in the developing, but opening day is here. So many people have worked for so long to make Family Promise a reality. But as we all know, "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain." I know our work has not been in vain. I have seen God's hand of guidance and blessing upon us throughout the process. He has brought individuals and resources. He has worked timing and situations. God has built this house, and He deserves the praise.

I want to say "Thank You" to everyone who has volunteered and donated to Family Promise. Thank you to the Core Group who worked for a very long time laying the foundation for the now-standing Family Promise. Thank you to the countless volunteers who have helped in planning, fund raising, promoting, recruiting, and many other capacities. Thank you to those who have donated finances and resources to see this vision made a reality.

These volunteers are the laborers that have built this house we call Family Promise.

Matt Jorgens, President,  
Board of Trustees

**Day Center Open House**  
**July 26 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM**  
**921 9th Avenue, Lewiston**

## We're Over The Top!

By Carolyn Jones

Everyone's efforts are finally being seen as we start the easy walk down from the mountain we have been climbing, to realize the opening of the network on August 3, 2008. The excitement is building for our first families to enjoy the comfortable charm of our Day Center. With everything coming together and the final touches being made, our Grand Opening will be on July 26, 2008 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Come join us and celebrate our new beginning. We are planning a Ribbon-Cutting 1:00 PM, everyone is welcome to take part to initialize our future endeavor.

## Upcoming Events

- July 26, 2008, Open House at the Day Center
- August 3, 2008, FPLCV Interfaith Hospitality Network opens
- September 26, 2008, Box City fundraiser

## Meet Our Director

Ron Ramos began work as the Lewis Clark Valley Family Promise® Director on June 10, 2008. He is highly qualified and brings experience which we anticipate will greatly enhance the mission of our network. As the administrator Ron will provide the coordinating, planning and support needed by the guests and the volunteers.

Ron graduated from Summit Pacific College with a B.A. in Religious Studies. With additional studies, he obtained credentials as an ordained minister under the Assemblies of God.

Ron began his work experience in Baja, Mexico, as a director of a Christian charitable ministry (Foundation for His Ministry), which provides homes and other services to people in need. As the administrator he coordinated the efforts of over 150 staff and volunteers involved in the outreach. Following a service of six years in Mexico, he was employed as the Practice Administrator at Valdosta Women's Health Center in Georgia. In this position he became acutely aware of the need for compassionate medical care.

Ron was born in El Salvador, lived with his family in Costa Rica, then immigrated to Canada. He now resides in Lewiston with his wife and their young daughter.

Our Mission:

*We, the Family Promise® of Lewis Clark Valley, purpose to partner together to provide positive solutions for homeless families in our community.*

## From Our Director...

As the director of Family Promise® of Lewis Clark Valley, Inc., I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Family Promise. For over 20 years, Family Promise has helped low-income families nationwide achieve lasting independence and to redress the underlying causes of poverty and crisis within the family unit. When presented with the possibility of working with this organization, I immediately knew that God was calling me to take this step.

My heart and passion has always been in helping people, this is what God has called me to do. Throughout the years, I have been involved with non-profit organizations that have a heart to reach out to those in need. I'm excited to be here for such a time as this.

The "seeds" of Family Promise have been planted in our valley, now we anxiously await the growth that God will bring.

Ron Ramos, Director,  
Family Promise of Lewis Clark Valley

## Our Van

We are signed, sealed, and delivered! There is a bright, like new, white 12-passenger Ford Van parked in our driveway at the Day Center, and ready for our guests. Come and see it at our Grand Opening! The Community Development Block Grant for transportation is confirmed for funding our new van and driver, Larry Wunderlich. You'll be surprised at the inside comfort, easy access barn doors, and our continued original warranty! Family Promise is so blessed!

By Carolyn Jones



## July Training

Donna Lawson, from the national IHN office, conducted the initial training of the director, board members, coordinators, and first Host/Team volunteers on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of this month. Ron will train other Host and Team volunteers sometime during the week before their guests arrive.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live in a box?

Would you like the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life?

## Cardboard Box City Fundraiser

Sign up for the first annual Family Promise® of Lewis Clark Valley **Cardboard Box City, September 26 at Our Lady of Lourdes** parking lot. Raise money, spend the night in a cardboard box, have fun and help families in crisis. There will be music, door prizes and a pancake breakfast. Be a part of the solution to homelessness one family at a time!

For more information, contact Toni Kraut at 791-4565 or Shirlene Jutte at 751-0999.

By Toni Kraut

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## Day Center Activity

The Day Center has been a busy, busy place during the past weeks, beginning with a work day on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June, when a large contingent of volunteers from area churches cleaned the house and painted walls and ceilings on the first floor. Plumbers, electricians, contractors and floor layers have completed required repairs. Thanks to other gracious Family Promise supporters, we have a new roof and will have new windows by the August 3<sup>rd</sup> opening. "Green

Thumbs" are working to bring the yard alive.

There are still opportunities for volunteers, before and after, our August opening. If you have time to paint, clean, sew simple window curtains, or help with construction projects, please call to offer your services, 798-3349.

## Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are needed to help with the following:

- Staying at the Day Center when Ron needs to be out
- Driving the van on weekends
- Lawn maintenance at the Day Center
- Maintenance/improvements at the Day Center

If you are able to help with any of the above, please call the office, 798-3349.

## Host and Team Congregations

By Shirlene Jutte

Lewiston First United Methodist and Good News Fellowship (SDA) have recently pledged to join us as a Host and a Team church: Welcome on board! They join the other nine Host and six Team churches bringing our total to 17 churches. A big thanks to all of you for your participation in Family Promise; it is an exciting time as we get close to our opening date of August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We still need more churches on our team and hope that some of you who are praying and thinking about being a part of the Interfaith Hospitality Network will decide to make that decision also.

I love working with all of you and look forward to moving on together in God's work.

Following is the congregation schedule for the first round:

August 3	Host-- First Church of God Teams-- Warner Alliance and Clarkston Wesleyan Church
August 10	Host-- Lewiston First United Methodist Church Team-- Shekinah Christian Community
August 17	Host-- Clarkston First Christian Church Team-- Presbyterian Church, Clarkston
August 24	Host-- Nazarene Church (Team church not needed)
August 31	Host-- Congregational/Presbyterian (Team church not needed)
September 7	Host-- Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Team-- To be determined
September 14	Host-- Episcopal Church of the Nativity Team-- River City
September 21	Host/Team to be determined (New Bridges Community)
September 28	Host-- First Baptist Church, Lewiston Team-- Good News Fellowship (SDA)