



# The Promise

February, 2009

Volume 2, Issue 1

## Fundraising

Family Promise of Lewis Clark Valley was the beneficiary of proceeds from a dance program at LHS in December. The auditorium was almost filled for both the matinee and evening perform-



ances bringing the profit to about \$3,000.00. Many thanks go to Kim and Signe' Haverfield and the Main Street Dancers, to Shelleigh Beeson and the River City dancers, and to all who helped with the performances!

Cardboard Box City 2008 in September was a HUGH success. We netted over \$18,000! Plans are in the works for 2009 to make it bigger and better. Mark you calendars for September 25.



Watch for information about the Progressive Dinner coming this spring.

Grant applications have gone out to Twin County United Way, Idaho Community Foundation, and Bank of America Foundation. If awarded to us, we plan to use these funds for operations and an AmeriCorps volunteer during 2009-2010.

## Larry Wunderlich

Larry Wunderlich is our wonderful van driver. He's highly qualified for this task; a retired military man, who then worked for 10 years with elementary school students. He is full of friendly enthusiasm, even when picking up guests in the early morning hours. Larry reports that the van is working very well. In addition to transporting guests between host churches and the day center, Larry takes children to a Clarkston Heights day care and guests to appointments.

Our Mission:

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

### Host and Team Churches:

Community of Christ Church  
Congregational Presbyterian Church  
Episcopal Church of the Nativity  
First Baptist Church, Lewiston  
First Christian Church of Clarkston  
First Church of God  
First Church of the Nazarene  
First Presbyterian Church  
First United Methodist Church

Good News Fellowship SDA  
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Lewis-Clark Catholic Community  
New Bridges Community Church  
River City Church  
Shekinah Christian Community  
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Warner Alliance Church  
Wesleyan Church

## From Our Director

The time has come to end a year and begin a new one. How great it is to be able to see the accomplishments that have been made possible through the hard work of all those who volunteer their time and talents to Family Promise. Our families have been blessed to be a part of such a great support system. The volunteers are truly the backbone of our organization.

All the partnerships that have been established since the Network's inception have allowed our families to be exposed to many opportunities. One such partnership is with Financial Peace University by Dave Ramsey. Through this partnership, we have been granted 10 kits for families and 20 kits for teens to empower them with knowledge on straightening out the family finances. What a great tool it has been for us to help serve our families with long term vision and tools that will help them long after they leave our program.

This new year promises to be a great one. We are well on our way to improving our efficiency to better help our guests. Thank you all for your support as we seek to fulfill the purpose of partnering together to provide positive solutions to families in crisis in our valley.

## 2008 Annual Report--Program Updates

- Food and shelter—Since opening August 3, 2008, our Family Promise® IHN served 5 families, including 12 children, five under the age of 5. We provided 1191 bed nights of lodging and served 3573 meals through our host and team congregations. Guests were housed in community churches at night and had the use of the Day Center during the day. Case management was done on site at the Day Center to assist the guests with finding housing, accessing services to secure employment, child care, etc.
- AmeriCorp volunteer—Maria headed up all Day Center logistics. She helped with volunteer training and helped guests with life skills and employment preparations and answered needs as they came up.
- LCSC Business Intern—Keri worked on fundraisers, Cardboard Box City and the dance, and helped guests with their case plans.
- Volunteers—Many volunteers from the valley donated time and talents, logging more than 14,000 hours for Family Promise of Lewis Clark Valley.

Ron Ramos, Director  
Family Promise® of Lewis Clark Valley  
ronramos@familypromiselc.org

## Christmas Week in our Network

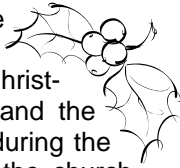
It was with some apprehension that the Church of God received the news they would be hosting the IHN the week of Christmas. They are a smaller congregation and the pastor was even going to be out of town during the holidays. But several volunteers outside the church stepped up and said they would help anytime that week.

Because volunteer coverage at the day center would be difficult during the holiday, it was decided to have the guests stay at the church during four of the days in addition to staying at night.

The Wesleyan Church and Warner Alliance Church pitched in along with the Church of God and it was a lovely week. Volunteers made Christmas decorations with the children in the evenings which they hung on a small tree in the sanctuary. The guests decorated another tree in the fellowship hall of the basement. It looked so festive and got us all in the mood for Christmas Day. The guests woke up Christmas morning to find that Santa had quietly made a visit during the night, leaving stockings for all, as well as "many" parcels under the tree.

We extend a big thank you to the Church of God for being so gracious with their lovely facilities and for all the volunteers who made the week special for our families.

Shirlene Jutte



## Six Month Update

Our Family Promise® Interfaith Hospitality Network has now been open for six months! After more than three years of planning, preparation, fund-raising, coordination, and just plain hard work, our IHN was able to open its doors last August. So many volunteers have continued to work to make Family Promise an ongoing success. Thank you to everyone who has given of their time, resources, and love in order to help families in need. You the volunteers, are the reason that Family Promise is succeeding.

We have an amazing Day Center Staff. Ron Ramos, our Network Director, has been the backbone of this organization since we opened, but God has blessed us with additional staff: Maria, Larry, and Keri. As a new network we are blessed, to have a strong staff to cover the day to day operations.

The churches are an integral part of this organization. I am continually amazed that so many churches from so many backgrounds with such great differences in traditions have been willing to work together to meet a need in our community. Each congregation brings unique personality and abilities to this tapestry of service.

Family Promise could not exist without the continued participation of the community. The businesses have supported this new-to-us idea through donations and volunteers. The government officials have also been very supportive; helping us because they see the benefits of both

our services, and our methods.

Things have not always gone perfectly in these first six months. We have had our share of bumps in the road. Overall, things have been fairly smooth, but thank you for your patience as we have dealt with issues that we did not foresee.

As we look to the future for Family Promise, I am excited about what I see. We are continuing to work with new congregations to bring them on board. We are planning to hire a part-time social worker in the near future. We have continuing plans to upgrade the Day Center. We will even consider long-term plans for things like transitional housing. Donna Lawson, a trainer from Family Promise, National, will be returning to help guide the Board through some of the visioning and long-term planning.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to make Family Promise a success; volunteers, staff, congregations and community. It has been the cooperative effort of each individual that has made these first six months so wonderful. Thank you for your continued help as Family Promise helps those in need.

Matt Jorgens  
Board President

### Board of Trustees

|                                   |                |               |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Matt Jorgens, President           | Jim Downy      | Kelli Loftus  |
| Steve Thomas, Vice-President      | Sharon Hoseley | Bill McVicar  |
| Heather Ohrtman-Rogers, Secretary | Shirlene Jutte | Jean Roberts  |
| Jana Peer, Treasurer              | Toni Kraut     | Karin Seubert |

## Volunteer Opportunities

Without volunteers the Family Promise program could not function. Thank you to you all! Please give these opportunities for service prayerful consideration, for the needs of our network continue.

With your congregation—talk with your coordinator

- Provide meals
- Be an evening host
- Stay overnight
- Help with set-up

At the Day Center—call the office at 798-3349 or Jean Roberts at 743-2906.

- Stay at the Day Center for a couple of hours when staff isn't there.
- Drive the van when staff isn't available (about one hour).

Help with updating and maintenance at the Day Center—call Ben Barkley at 509-243-4662.

- Painting
- Other tasks as needed

Talk with friends about Family Promise. Please let us know if you think there are others who might like to join the network, and we'll contact them. We need at least 2 more hosts and several teams.

## Day Center Update

Construction is continuing in the basement of the Day Center. Finishing the walls in the smaller room will begin the week of February 9. This will hopefully be completed in a couple of weeks.

Two more lockers are being built for storage for our families. When the weather is a little warmer, an egress window will be installed in the fireplace room and then the walls will be insulated and sheet-rocked so it will be warmer in the winter. After all that is done, carpet will be installed.

Plans are in the works to research the possibility of putting a second bathroom in the basement. Once we find out if we can do it, and the cost, we'll look for a grant.

Toni Kraut

## Gift Received

Our Family Promise® is excited to announce a gift of \$4,000, from Potlatch No. 1 Federal Credit Union. Thank you! The CEO of the credit union, Chris Loseth, wrote, "We here at the credit union respect the work your organization does for the good of the people you serve. Our motto is 'Not for Profit, Not for Charity, But for Service.' It is very apparent to us and those that you serve, that you are doing work and good deeds that are both appreciated and needed in the Lewis Clark Valley."

Sharon Hoseley

