



The Promise

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Reflections from a Volunteer

When I first heard about Family Promise, I had difficulty understanding how churches would provide housing, meals and "hosts" for homeless families. I talked to an individual who had been an evening host and heard only positive comments and this person felt blessed to have volunteered. She admitted that being a host to total strangers was beyond her comfort zone and that she did not want to be a host, but felt obligated. She encouraged others to step beyond personal comfort and volunteer. Several weeks later, the Family Promise rotation arrived for the Catholic Community and it was "our turn" to provide the volunteers.

Usually, there are many individuals willing to provide food. There are never enough volunteers for evening host (share a meal, play games with the children, talk to the parents) or overnight host. The overnight host arrives about 8:30 pm, sleeps at the church and goes home after 7am. A sleep over/slumber party with total strangers is definitely outside my comfort zone. After discussion with my wife, we agreed to be overnight hosts. This meant we would have to sleep at Trinity Lutheran Church in Fellowship Hall. It was rough! We HAD to watch TV, play card games, talk,

laugh, and get to know these strangers. They had places to go in the morning so lights out was around 10pm. We wound up talking with one mom till 11pm. Then we slept till our usual wake up time. I make the coffee at our house. That was my welcome role the next morning. So I got the first cup hot out of the pot-uuummm! To be honest, the two families made us welcome and included us into their "family".

The next morning, we had but a brief time to say good bye as they all left for the Day House and their daily routine. We were home by 7:30 am. The evening before, we were nervous uncomfortable strangers. The next morning, we were made glad that we had made time to participate in helping these families move forward to a better life. Our role was small and didn't take much effort. I encourage others to stretch their comfort-zone boundaries and volunteer as an evening host or overnight host the next time the Catholic Community has a week with Family Promise. How's that old phrase go? "I double dog dare you!" You will be blessed and enriched by the experience.

Take a risk and be an overnight host. Think of it as a campout-inside.
Jack Waldemarson

Our Mission:

We, the Family Promise® of Lewis Clark Valley, purpose to partner together with local community agencies and our faith community to provide positive solutions for families in crisis in our community. This will be done in such a way as to empower families to become self-sufficient and independent.

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
Valley Christian Center
Warner Alliance Church
Wesleyan Church

From Our Director

As I read through some of our past newsletters and look through some old case files, I am overwhelmed with amazement at how Family Promise has impacted families in our community. It's even more exciting to run into some of our past guests at a local event or store and be energized as I hear how things are going in their lives. I hear things like, "I love my new job", "we love our new place", "it's exciting to have new families that we met in the program and call them our friends". All this feedback I hear from past and present families is because of

the faithful and unyielding commitment of our volunteers that has resulted in long term impact on families. Since the beginning of this year, we have served six families, made up of nine adults and 14 children.

As Family Promise continues to serve the needs of families in our valley, I can truly say that our labor comes with a cost, but it is not in vain. Won't you join us as we seek to provide positive solutions to families in crisis through the partnership with local agencies and our faith community?

Ron Ramos, Director
Family Promise® of Lewis Clark Valley

Fundraising 2009

I can't believe 2008 has come and gone and we're already one quarter into 2009! I'm excited about some new fundraising opportunities that we've been blessed with.

Real Deals Home Décor put on a special sales event for Family Promise on April 22 from 10am-8pm at their store at 1112 36th St N, Suite B. They donated 20% of their gross sales to Family Promise. Free hot dogs and Pepsi were provided, along with a jumping castle for the kids. Preliminary figures show a profit of over \$1,200.00 from the event. Thank you Nathan and Alicia Yoder for your generosity!

Why would any sane person want to golf 100 holes in

Home and Garden Show

500 informational packets were handed out to visitors to the Home and Garden Show the week end of April 3, 4, and 5. Many people had not heard of Family Promise® and responded with enthusiasm when they heard about the uniqueness of the program. We received promises of support and also questions about referrals of family members who are in financial crisis. We thank all those who helped with well-spent-time at the booth.

Sharon Hoseley

Day Center Update

We are continuing to work on the basement. I have been blessed with help from Rayner Havens, Bob Roberts, Bob Walk and Mike Hogan. The walls in the west room are finished, textured, and painted; doors, and a window between rooms have been added, so the room is now ready for lights to be hung and carpet to be installed.

We have finished the third and final locker. It needs to be painted and secured to the wall. Ron suggested another shelf be added to each of the lockers, which should be done in the next couple of weeks. The single dryer was not keeping up with the industrial washer, so a second dryer has been installed. As the weather is finally warming up, we are going to repair the yard light above the deck and get a bid on rain gutters. Our next big project will be the egress window to be put in the east room downstairs.

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.

Ben Barkley



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one day?? New Bridges Community Church is sponsoring the Iron Man/Woman (I know you're out there!) golf event on Tuesday, May 19 at Bryden Canyon Golf Course. This event benefits non-profit groups that want to raise money for their organization. The non-profit finds a golfer and then they help the golfer raise a minimum of \$1000 in pledges. Thank you Jim Cach and Rob Dammarell for volunteering to be our golfers! I've been told that this event is a lot of fun. If you would like to help collect pledges, pledge sheets are available at the Day Center.

Save the date! It'll be here sooner than you think. September 18 is the date for Cardboard Box City, 2009. It's going to be bigger and better so start planning your designer home now. You won't want to miss out on our signature event!

Toni Kraut

“Be a part of the Fun,”

says Pastor Steve Thomas of the First Church of the Nazarene.

“Join the Family Promise volunteers.”

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

Our volunteers are a blessing to Family Promise. Thank you all for your time, effort, and for your prayer.

Coming Events

- May 19, Bryden Canyon Golf Course, Iron Man/Woman Golf Event



- September 18, Cardboard Box City

