

## Tea at the Manor

May 20th, 2023  
Featured Speakers

### Dr. Miriam Mickelson

*Sedro-Woolley School District Superintendent*

#### Effects of Homelessness on Education for Children

In her unforgettable presentation, Dr. Mickelson shared her varied experiences with children living in poverty and homelessness. Her lived-experience in a third-world country paired with her interactions with other children in poverty has shaped her career and her understanding of how students are impacted by housing instability.

The effects of homelessness on students is physical, psychological, and behavioral. These include:

- Attendance issues
- Constant worry distracts from school engagement
- Difficulty fitting in and general sense of belonging
- Weakened family relationships, structure, and guidance due to high levels of stress in the home
- Hopelessness, "everything's falling apart, why try"

The issues that these students are facing impacts not only them, but their classrooms, their school, and ultimately their community.

It is VITAL that programs like Family Promise continue in order to provide these children with stability, parental support, and hope for their future.



### Paul Woodmansee

*Co-founder of BYK Construction*

#### Lack of Affordable Housing

Paul became interested in housing issues when he noticed some of his employees who made a good wage were still living at their parent's home. When he asked them why, they told him that they couldn't find housing.

Paul's statistics about the lack of affordable housing in the Skagit Valley were very eye opening. The bottom line is that people making the area median income cannot afford the current mortgage costs. Renters face constant changes in the cost of their housing which makes it hard for them to stabilize and/or save to purchase a home.

Some of the challenges builders face is a lack of multi-family zoning in cities and land availability. A workable solution is to focus on city density.

Paul ended his talk with a call to action. He urged us to:

- Talk with friends about what our neighbors need for housing.
- Vote for leadership who understand housing needs and who address the issues.
- Request for city and county officials to use land analysis tools to plan for addressing housing issues.



## “A place I called home” - Nina’s story

When a friend told me about Family Promise I was a little fearful but I had no other options. When I first walked in, I was greeted by Angie. Right away all my nerves were calmed by her warmth. For the first time in a long time, I didn't feel alone.

My confidence grew as I realized I was changing my life with every goal met. When I would feel guilty about my journey, they assured me that everyone's story is different and my journey is mine and mine alone.

From day one I felt welcomed and never felt like a burden. I got involved in all the classes they offered. My whole experience with Family Promise was nothing short of amazing!

When I got the news that I got accepted into a home with my Section 8 voucher, I screamed and ran straight to Danna. She was the first person I wanted to tell. She embraced me and we both just cried. I have no words to express my gratitude for Family Promise.

Family Promise is a place I called Home: a place of comfort and security. I will never forget what Family Promise gave me, taught me, and the important role it has in my story of recovery and growth.



## **Volunteer spotlights**

Volunteers are what make Family Promise special!!!

This year we especially thank:

**Pat Anderson**  
**CUMC Community Kitchen**  
**Stayin' Alive Dragonboat Team**



**Nina Boudinot** is on the Dragonboat team and spoke about her team of cancer survivors who not only row together, but support Family Promise by bringing in treats and meals for our Rotational and Seasonal Shelter.

Team members are: Jean Pass, Becky Rosencrante, Shelly Bannister, Eva Greenwald, Norma Lisherness, Birgitt Felix, Margaret Arendse, and Sally Houghton.

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[www.familypromiseskagit.org](http://www.familypromiseskagit.org)



From the director:

*Audrea Woll*

### **What's Next: Impact Campaign**

**An impact campaign focuses strategic planning on how an agency can best impact their communities.**

In 2022 we prevented 83 families from becoming homeless and served 32 families through our housing programs.

With housing costs so high we must work fast to reduce the amount of homelessness for children and their families. We can do that by focusing on housing solutions in Skagit Valley.

Family Promise has plans for an impact campaign launch designed to **develop deep roots for an abundant future.**

If you are interested in being a part of this plan for the future of FPSV, our next meeting will be:

**Wednesday, June 14, 2023**  
**10:30 am via GoogleMeets.**

Thank you to our challenge & event sponsors:

**Janicki Industries**  
**Dawn Rowe**  
**Puget Sound Energy**  
**Stiles & Lehr, Inc. P.S.**  
**Hawthorne Funeral Home**  
**Willowbrook Manor**  
**All of our valued donors**

We raised \$35,000 and gained 22 new donors

**NEED: We still need \$15,000 to reach our event goal and help families find homes, heal, stabilize, and stay together.**

### **Upcoming events:**

June 21, 2023 at 5:30 pm      Meet & Greet  
October 21, 2023              Night Without a Bed

More pictures from the day.

