

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer."

Harriet Tubman

Dream Big

Dear Family Promise friends,

December 2023

As the cold has come on us quickly, the battle to keep families in their housing rises. When I woke up to that first bitter frost this year, worry filled my heart. We just weren't ready.

The cost of housing is still on the rise making permanent housing seem out of reach even for our hard working, double income families. So what happens with our single parent families? What happens as these cold days and nights make homelessness life threatening?

"For Tina, a single mom of four, the days were long. She had to work 2-3 jobs at a time to keep food on the table and a roof over her kids' heads. That final rental increase pushed them out of their apartment.

They stayed with friends for a while, but with such a large family, very few of her friends could afford to put their own housing at risk. In a perfect storm, her main job also laid her off making it impossible to afford a hotel."

Thanks to general operations support from our fall fundraiser, we were able to get Tina into a motel until our seasonal shelter opened. This is just the beginning of Tina's road to stability. She has secured another full time job that has her working nights now.



She will need some long term guidance on how to choose the right career path that will reduce her need to work three jobs, she will need a mentor and financial coaching. Most families like Tina's need support in retraining for a new career which can take time.

Tina and her children need a place to call home, so that they can dream big for their futures. A place of stability, full of love and routine. A place to stay warm in these cold months.

Help us to ensure that housing is within reach for her. Help sponsor Tina or one of the other 25 families we will serve this quarter.


Just \$25 will help provide "basic needs" for a family that enters shelter

A gift of \$100 will offset the cost of gas while guests work to save for permanent housing


A gift of \$250 will help support a client while completing our financial literacy coaching program

A gift of \$500 will pay for new housing application fees and offset move-in costs

A substantial gift of \$1,200 will help provide rental assistance for a family for three months



**"Permanent housing is no longer
within our reach, I just can't afford it."**

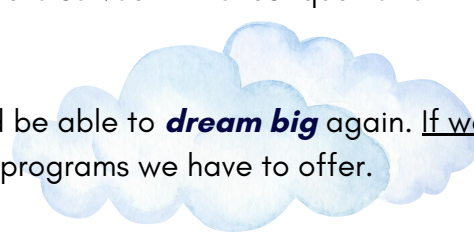


This year end, our theme is "Dream Big" and our goal is bigger than ever. In order to offset the rising costs of rent and to serve guests, we need to raise \$75,000 by the end of the year.

In 2022 it cost, on average, \$700 in direct client services to keep a family stable in permanent housing. Once a family enters shelter, the average cost rises to \$11,000 to get a family back to permanent housing.

Our goals this year are to ensure a minimum of 25 families are served in the last quarter of the year. **This goal will not be possible to meet without you.**

These families are relying on you to help them stabilize and be able to ***dream big*** again. If we don't meet our goal, more families will go unreached by the life changing programs we have to offer.



We know reaching this goal is on all our your hearts. One way of helping reach this goal is to share this letter, which is attached digitally on our webpage, with at least five friends and family members. Start a small drive at work, at your church, in your neighborhood or at a family dinner to collect needed items for the shelter such as paper towels, toilet paper, bath towels, and pillows.

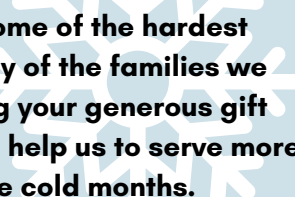
Your supporting gift and sharing of the needs of Family Promise of Skagit Valley will give houseless children in Skagit County a fighting chance to rebuild a new life in their own home.

Will you commit to supporting a family who is suffering this holiday season? Will you ensure the transformational work we do can continue uninterrupted in the new year? By answering the call, you enable families to dream big again, providing hope for the children of our valley and changing the future of a family.

With gratitude and appreciation,



Executive Director
Family Promise of Skagit Valley



P.S. Winter is some of the hardest months for many of the families we serve. Receiving your generous gift by Dec. 31st will help us to serve more families in these cold months.