

# Family Promise of Skagit Valley

## We love our church partners!

Family Promise of Skagit Valley has been serving unhoused families for 8 years alongside our invaluable church communities.

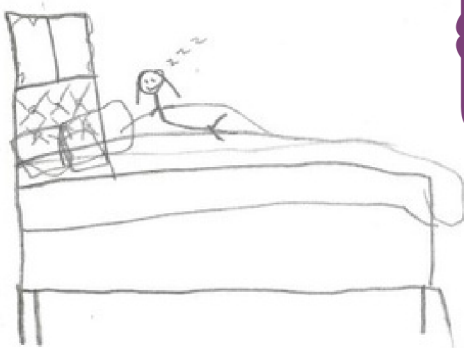
### You are a vital part of housing and stabilizing families in our valley.

Churches partner with us through your prayers, volunteerism, shelter hosting, donations, and event sponsorships. Churches provide our organization with much needed funding and resources in order to provide our guests with the relationships and quality services that they need in order to make positive changes in their lives.

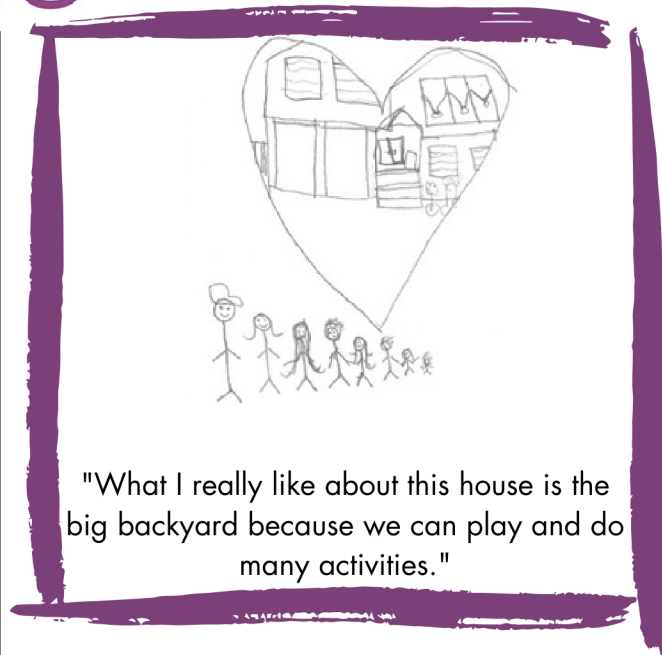
Current statistics show that there are over 600 homeless children of school age in Skagit Valley. This does not include children who haven't yet started school. There is a great need in our valley and we need your help to meet that need.

Working together we can continue to make a difference in our community. We are **EXTREMELY** grateful for the support we receive from our local churches.

### We literally could not do it without you!



"What I like about the new house is my new room because its really cozy and I love my bed."



"What I really like about this house is the big backyard because we can play and do many activities."

## Our Pressing Need

We are predicting a deficit for operating our shelter this year due to a reduction in participating churches. We are working on solutions (see pg 2). In the mean time we need your financial support.

Due to a reduction in church engagement we are needing to provide a minimum of one week a month to fill in gaps for the missing host church support. It takes approximately 90 staff hours to house our shelter guests for a week. We have 12 weeks a year that we need to use staff to support.

We are asking our church friends to help offset this cost to our operating budget.

This \$21,600 will help us keep up to 4 families off of the street or out of their cars for 12 weeks this year.

# WHAT'S NEW IN 2023

## Growing Church Engagement

We are working on restabilizing our shelter rotation model while recognizing that our partners are also working on restabilizing. Some of the ways that we are navigating back to a healthier normal is by regrowing our committees, finding new ways to re-engage volunteers and by surveying those we work with.

We also recognize how much you are the backbone of all we do. We want to work on better communication with our partners through newsletters, trainings and more community event outreach.

One of the committees that we feel will greatly help get us back on track is our newly forming Community Engagement committee. We are currently looking for more volunteers to join us and share their expertise, ideas, energy and time, brainstorming new ways we can grow our rotation model and spread the word about the great services we are providing.

While we can't function without the money that pays for our staff and guests' services, we also can't operate without you.

Please help spread the word, join a committee, come to events and share your ideas with us. We are community strong and have become who we are today only because of the many ways you have helped grow us.

### How you can help

- ~Share our news and events with your congregation
- ~Share volunteer opportunities with your members
- ~Partner with us as a host site or partner with a host site to provide meals or overnights.
- ~Invite us to your services or meetings to talk about our community impact.
- ~Make sure we have correct contact information

## IMPACT OF HELPING KIDS ON OUR FUTURE COMMUNITY

Every time a new family receives help through our agency, they also gain a partnership through relationships with our staff, our sponsors but most importantly **YOU**, our volunteers.

This builds a stronger community by growing relationship, reducing trauma and minimizing the long-term effects of homelessness on children.

### Together we help shape the future of our community by building up our children.

In 2023 together we can impact more lives and be more trauma-informed despite anything else going on in the world.



"Thank you! I like the house because we have a big kitchen so I can help my parent to cook. Thank you very much!" - Anonymous



### **We are SO THANKFUL for how you helped grow Family Promise in 2022!**

- **100+ families** were diverted from shelter
- **26 families** were served in shelter rotation.
- **21 families** were served through seasonal shelter.
- **402 children** were served
- **72 families** were placed or maintained into permanent housing
- **30+ families** can now be served at a time in programming

# ♥ Making Shelter Feel Like Home ♥



Our shelter rooms at Bethlehem Lutheran Church have been upgraded to be more trauma-informed! We have new paint to cover the old paneling and new flooring to really make the rooms feel more like home. Dresser and mattress donations from Fairfield Inn have made a big impact on guest comfort.



## What our guests have to say:

As my family and I set foot in the church, it was Thanksgiving, and we were welcomed with friendliness and care. Because of Family Promise, my family could eat warm, delicious food and have a roof over our heads. As we settled in, they provided for our needs such as diapers, blankets, and food.

When we went on rotation, we received generosity because of the fellowship we saw both in church members and the Skagit community.

We want to thank you, Family Promise, Skagit Valley community, and church congregations for your hospitality.

In the future, my family and I plan to volunteer to give back to the community.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Call any of our staff at (360) 854-0743 and we will help you use your talents and interests.

- **Van Drivers:** We need morning and evening van drivers to escort our guests between centers. (Everyday approx. 1 hr each shift)
- **Office:** Answer phones and general office support. (Fri-Sun 2-4 hours each day)
- **Data entry**
- **Guest education and mentoring**
- **Meals and overnight stays**
- **Community engagement**
- **Committee and board membership**







## UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2023

- Next bi-monthly Meet and Greet - Saturday, April 22 10am at Central United Methodist Church
- Tea at the Manor Saturday, May 20 1pm at Willowbrook Manor (limited seating)
- Night without a Bed (formerly Homeless for a Night) Saturday, October 21 time TBD at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church
- June Meet and Greet - Wednesday, June 21 5:30-6:30pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Plans are underway for our annual Tea at the Manor event. We have two local speakers lined up as well as hearing from guests and staff. Seating is limited so make sure you secure your tickets as soon as possible. Churches can purchase an entire table which reduces the per ticket cost.

Watch for ticket and sponsorship details soon!



Millie, Audrea & her mom, Katherine, Angie and Terri from Willowbrook enjoying tea and scones while planning the event.

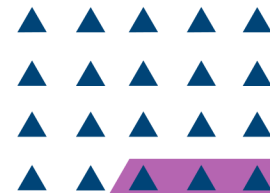
### "What is a Meet and Greet?"

We wanted to make it easier for you to invite new volunteers, donors and community members to engage with Family Promise. This year we have scheduled bi-monthly meet and greets at varied times and locations. Now you don't have to do hard asks or tell a story you don't feel comfortable with.

**Just tell people how much you love us and bring them with you to one of these events. We will do the rest!!!!**


1-360-854-0743

<p><i>Prevention</i></p> <p>Shelter Diversion</p> <p>Rental Assistance</p> <p>Transportation</p> 	<p><i>Shelter</i></p> <p>Hospitality</p> <p>Case Management</p> <p>Community Engagement</p> 	<p><i>Stabilization</i></p> <p>Housing</p> <p>Financial Capability</p> <p>Career Pathway</p> 
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*Ending Homelessness*

**ONE FAMILY AT A TIME!**

 360-854-0743

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