



After moving to Cleveland, I worked with the Cleveland Mediation Center on their hallmark program using mediation and conflict resolution as a diversion program to keep people from becoming homeless. In my private practice, I worked with families to develop parenting plans and talk through difficult financial decisions as part of separation or divorce agreements.

When our family moved to Juneau in 2014, I looked for opportunities to continue this work in conflict resolution and to support families in transition. I feel lucky to be part of a few wonderful organizations that do just that in Juneau, including the Juneau Youth Court, as a Board Member of The Glory Hole Emergency Shelter &

Soup Kitchen, but especially as the Family Services and Operational Coordinator for Family Promise.

Congregations & Organizations

Hosting

Chapel by the Lake
Northern Light United Church
Shepherd of the Valley
Holy Trinity
The Salvation Army
Church of the Nazarene
Church of Christ
St. Paul's
Cathedral of the Nativity
Resurrection Lutheran

Supporting

Juneau Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship
Congregation Sukkat Shalom
Eagle Wings Community Church
Auke Bay Ward of the Church of
Jesus Christ of the Latter
Day Saints
Mt. Juneau Ward of the Church of
Jesus Christ of the Latter
Day Saints
Nugget Falls Ward of of the Church
of Jesus Christ of the Latter
Day Saints
Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp 2
Thunder Mountain High School
National Honor Society

A note from a volunteer:

I have been volunteering for Family Promise of Juneau for the last few months as a volunteer driver. It has been a great experience. Every day of the week, a volunteer picks up the van at Chapel by the Lake in Auke Bay. Morning shifts begin at 6:30 am and Evenings at 5 pm. In addition to taking the volunteer training I had to provide some basic information, and copy of my driver's license; but the process was quick and easy. Family Promise has set up an app called Signup Genius that makes it easy to log on from any computer or mobile device and sign up for shifts. You can also use the app to sign up as a day center volunteer, those are always needed as well. Since I work close by, it's very convenient for me to drive on weekdays.

It has been really gratifying to do this work. The families I have met have all really touched me. It's humbling to see a young family facing such hardship with grace, parents treating their children and each other with kindness and love. They never forget to thank me and I feel so appreciated, even though it is really no big deal to spend a half hour driving someone around town.

I would encourage any of you to sign up for a shift or two as a driver or day center volunteer. Hours are short and flexible and it is easy to do. You won't regret it.

Tom Heutte

We'll miss you Tom. Thanks for your faithfulness and best wishes on your move.

A message from our director Shannon Fisher:

I have a virus. I won't share the symptoms. It is never helpful to blame, but the two-year-old who loves to be tossed in the air can't read.

We have reached seven months of serving families without housing. While I know that the child without stable housing is far more vulnerable than our volunteers, I think many of us have felt that sense of emotional and physical exposure that serving in Family Promise can bring. It is my faith that it is in this process that something special happens, some of us would call it holy. When imperfect people, with imperfect buildings, share imperfect meals with imperfect guests we have the opportunity to be transformed into better versions of ourselves participating in the healing of the world.

As I sit here at my desk reflecting on what we have accomplished in seven months, I know that lives have changed, relationships have been built, and people have felt love and joy. And that each of these are true for both volunteers and guests. Thank you. I'm going to hug the two-year-old again, because, as Brene Brown says, "Vulnerability sounds like truth and feels like courage. Truth and courage aren't always comfortable, but they're never weakness."



We welcome Jennifer Lanz as Family Service and Operations Coordinator

Greetings! My name is Jenn and I am so happy to be part of the Family Promise team here in Juneau.

I began my career in Washington, DC as an attorney with the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, providing assistance to other countries trying to improve their legal systems or access to justice. One of the many initiatives our office supported was the development of alternative dispute resolution programs. Inspired by what these conflict resolution philosophies could mean to people experiencing conflict in their lives, I trained as a mediator.

Families of 500

We have 41 Families of 500! Thank you for your commitment to support Family Promise of Juneau with \$500 for the next three years. Our goal is 60 so we are almost there.

Board

Please feel free to contact any of the board members below.

Board Chair

Tari Stage-Harvey

Secretary

Pat McLear

Treasurers

Willie Anderson

Jennifer Carson

Members

Joe Orsi

Matt Martin

We welcome the following new members:

Lisa Lindeman

Barbara Frank

Kelly Hansen

A big thank you to Chuck Van Kirk and Bridget Weiss for their service.

If you belong to a local faith community that is hosting or supporting, talk with your leader to see how you can help in your congregation.

Also feel free to call us at 500-3032 or email info@familypromisejuneau.org for other volunteer opportunities.

Day Center Volunteers:

The Day Center is at Chapel by the Lake. The Day Center will be the place where families get ready for their day and some will spend their day at the center doing the things one would normally do at home.

Van Driver Volunteers:

Volunteers drive families from host congregation to Day Center at 7 am and then return at 5:30 pm

Families of 500:

Consider being a sustaining member of Family Promise of Juneau by giving \$500 each year for the next three years.



Highlights:

- We completed seven months accompanying families!
- Three families have graduated.
- Volunteers have provided 994 bed nights and 2982 meals

•The "Taste of Promise" raised over \$5000 along with the quilt raffle. Thank you to everyone who submitted an entry and participated in the event. Dan Corson won first place for entree, Joe Orsi for side dish, and Lisa Wallace for dessert. Congratulations to Stephanie Hoag for winning the quilt and thanks to Barb Kreher for donating the beautiful quilts.

- Block Foundation has awarded a \$15,000 matching grant for new donors to Family Promise of Juneau. Stay tuned to learn more.

Needs:

One more hosting congregation and two more supporting organizations/ congregations for 2018

Nineteen more "Families of 500." These families create a steady supply of funding so we can focus on the work that needs to be done.



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Upcoming Events

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|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Thursday, January 25 | Congregational Coordinator Meeting |
| Sunday, January 28 | Board Retreat |
| Friday, March 9 | Halibut Dinner Fundraiser |

Annual meeting for congregations and volunteers will be held in February pending our regional coordinator's travel plans.

The following congregations will be serving over the next couple of months: Salvation Army, Eagle Wings, JUUF, Church of the Nazarene, Church of Christ, Shepherd of the Valley, Cathedral of the Nativity, Chapel by the Lake, and St. Paul's