

Families of 500

We have 51 Families of 500!
Please pledge now to get us to 60 families in honor of our second anniversary!

Board

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

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We give thanks for outgoing members Jennifer Carson and Willie Anderson

A message from Executive Director Shannon Fisher:

On April 30th we will celebrate two years walking with families in Juneau. I recently attended the Family Promise national conference with 200+ other affiliates. We shared stories of both challenges and successes. Usually those were one in the same. My biggest take away is this: we are on the right track. It is an uncomfortable process walking with anyone. We want to build rules, policies, signs with bullet points (which are all good!) but for all of us, growth happens through the consistent presence of those around us reminding us who we are: beloved children of God. Thank you for blessing families with warm meals, a safe place to tuck their kids in, and the consistency of presence.

Welcome Kate Wolfe

Greetings, I would like to introduce myself, my name is Kate Wolfe and I am the new Family Promise Care Navigator. I have spent my entire career in service to families and individuals, the past 31 years in this community. After a year of retirement, I was delighted to find an opportunity to be a part of the Family Promise team and mission. Family is a core value for me. My strength comes from my relationship with my husband, my 2 sons, a spectacular 2.5 year old granddaughter, family and my dear friends who hold my hand and my heart in my life journey.



Family Promise offers me the chance to partner with congregations, organizations and individual volunteers to support families in their unique journey. Individual family centered plans which are tailored to circumstance is one of my deepest areas of commitment and belief. The success and accomplishment will always belong to the family, I am here as a companion, partner and guide to support them in achieving their dreams.

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
St. Brendan's
Emmanuel Baptist

Supporting

Juneau Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship
Auke Bay Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints
Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp 2
TMHS National Honor Society

Circle of 500

Congregation Sukkat Shalom
Shepherd of the Valley
Chapel by the Lake
Holy Trinity
Bishop Segher's Council #1760
Bishop Crimont Assembly
NLUC Community of Christian Women
Northern Light United Church
Filipino Community, Inc.

Spotlight on Congregational Coordinators: Barbara Shore



Shortly before FPJ opened, a trainer from the National Office was sent to meet with the Board and volunteers from all the participating congregations of Juneau. This trainer imparted organization, knowledge, skills, and wisdom. She challenged and encouraged us. Towards the end of our training, she asked the large group to go around the room and explain why each of us wanted to be involved. While everyone could have given the expected socially acceptable answers an astonishing percentage confessed that they wished to volunteer because they themselves, at some point in their lives, had once been homeless. They wished to step in and walk alongside our guests during such a trying time in their lives. How easy it is to think in terms of "us and them" rather than how we are all in this together, how we each have struggles, and how we all need help during various seasons of our lives.

Volunteering with FPJ affords me the opportunity to help protect the lives of vulnerable children and their caregivers. It allows me to help disrupt the downward spiral of the cycle of poverty. It enables me to be able to make a tangible difference in the seemingly overwhelming issue of homelessness in America. Yet apart from those obvious responses, lie less tangible factors. So often when someone is labeled "homeless" there is an insidious tendency to ascribe the reason behind their dilemma as being caused by bad choices or perhaps some form of personality defect or unsavory character flaw. While admittedly, at times that may be the case, just as often it is not. Bad things happen and, as much as we would like to think differently, we cannot always control our circumstances. Some Individuals lack the internal and external resources to prevent the cascade of events

and navigate the complexities of their life situation. In the face of this, volunteering with FPJ affords me the opportunity to help people see that they are accepted, worthy, cared about and respected. My presence and words declare that "they matter." I have the privilege of offering those who may feel discouraged, depressed, hopeless, and beaten down my own hope and faith until theirs is restored. As one person in a cadre of volunteers, I can assist FPJ in providing security, support, and empowerment for permanent change.

As any staff or coordinator will attest, Family Promise can be messy, challenging, rewarding, joyful, wacky and a whole lot of wonderful. This program has given me the opportunity to meet such amazing people from a wide variety of backgrounds and beliefs. What an honor to meet, befriend, and be mentored by those with such incredible hearts of service, humility, and dedication. I am constantly learning and growing. I am deeply appreciative and blessed by all who allow me to express my faith and commitment in such a life-transformative manner.

Thank you Barbara for all your work and faithfulness!

Lives touched:

Total bed nights since opening: 4578, meals 13,734

Average stay at FPJ: 69 days

We have served 18 families in two years. That's a total of 66 individuals.

14 have graduated into housing, three have not, one is still with us.

23 trainings for volunteers

Family Promise of Juneau is grateful for a successful fundraiser!

The annual Halibut Dinner and silent auction fundraiser for Family Promise of Juneau was a wonderful success raising \$19,396. Guests enjoyed a delicious halibut meal, with side dishes courtesy of Breeze In, served to them by the fabulous Thunder Mountain H. S. National Honor Society and 9th grade health class students while listening to a very talented trio of TMHS musicians.

The Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall was the perfect setting

for the event and we are most appreciative of staff for their kind assistance and to the Tlingit and Haida Office of the President. The hall was decorated beautifully by Michelle Strickler and each table made inviting by the lovely centerpieces donated by Martha's Flowers.

Both the dessert and silent auctions were successful thanks to all the generous bidders who were rewarded with delicious confections and awesome items and adventures that were bountifully donated by a small army of supporters including Alaska Airlines, Wings Airways, Orsi Organic Produce and Shrine of St. Therese.

The Richard L. and Diane Block Foundation offered a grant if funds raised from local businesses for this event were able to match it. The goal was achieved because the Juneau business community responded generously: State Farm Insurance Reuben Willis, Dr. Tingey, DMD, Goldbelt Inc., Coeur Alaska Inc., Stellar Financial Services, Marine Exchange, Alaska Seaplanes, Merrill Lynch, Shattuck & Grummett Insurance, and Chiropractic First.

Thank you to all the volunteers, coordinators, and donors who helped make a significant difference in families and our community.

Family Fun/d Race:

Mark your calendars now for our first Family Fun/d Race 5K or mile on **July 13**. More information coming. If you would like to help organize this event please call Tari at 789-4093.

Second Anniversary Celebration

Thanks to David Reed for producing a video highlighting the stories of families, volunteers, and leaders who have been changed by their involvement with Family Promise of Juneau. Stay tuned for its release on YouTube and be ready to share it with your community.



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Upcoming Events

April 25	Coordinator Meeting at Cathedral 6:30-8:00 pm
May 2	Volunteer Training at Northern Light United Church 6:30-8:00
July 13	5K/1Mile Fun/d Run
April 28-May 5	Volunteers needed for dinners and overnight
May 19-26	Volunteers needed for dinners and overnight
	Please call 500-3032 if you are able to help

Thanks to our sponsors: Rasmuson Foundation, Richard and Diane L. Block Foundation, Benito and Frances C Gaguine Foundation, Coeur Alaska, SEALASKA, Southeast Mining Supply, Tingey Orthodontics, American Seafood Community Advisory Board, Shattuck & Grummett, Rainforest Custom, LLC, True North Federal Credit Union, The Anderson Heidersdorf Kohan Group Merrill Lynch, Thrivent Financial, Alaska Airlines, Alaska Seaplanes, Wings Airways, Juneau Interiors, Southeast Alaska Board of Realtors, Juneau Community Foundation, Juneau Gastineau Rotary Club, Doggie Dos, Sportsmen's Warehouse, Marine Exchange, Goldbelt, Chiropractic First, State Farm Insurance Reuben Willis, Stellar Financial Services, Tlingit and Haida Office of the President, Platinum Real Estate Group