

## Families of 500

### We have 46 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.

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## A message from our intern Bailey Gent:

I had the opportunity to travel from Denver, Colorado to Juneau, Alaska this July to intern with Family Promise for a couple of weeks. During my time with Family Promise, I was an overnight host for two full weeks and also worked at the Day Center and on development work for the organization with Executive Director, Shannon Fisher. In my time working with Family Promise I had the unique opportunity to invest in relationship with the families.



**I had a window into how difficult it can be to live with several other families in a shelter. How many complexities there are to having small children and no home during the day. How difficult it is to find a good job, safe affordable housing, etc.**

Homelessness and particularly homelessness with children in the picture is a deeply complex issue and the ways that many of us perceive those in these situations is very different from reality. I have found often in my work with homeless families in Denver that many of the situations that have caused these families to be homeless could have happened to anyone, the same was true in Juneau.

When you sit down and consider the situations that have led many of these families to points of crises, **many of the situations could happen to any of us if a few moving parts of our lives were unexpectedly shifted.** Some of the families had unexpected medical expenses or suffered the loss of a job that left them unable to pay other significant expenses and eventually put them out of house and home. Some of us are fortunate to have savings accounts, close family and friends, benefits packages that might include health care...all things that create a safety net that prevent us from losing the lives we know when something major goes wrong. This is its own form of privilege that many of us may not give full credit to, **the privilege of safety nets.**

My time in Juneau and with Family Promise proved to be incredibly fruitful. My time was full of connection, community, challenge of biases and assumptions for myself and others. **This internship and trip proved to allow time in the real and rich trenches of what happens when we open ourselves up to vulnerable relationships, community, new places and experiences and where we truly allow ourselves to grow.** May you serve, love, and extend your heart and mind to more richly understanding and embracing the world around you. You will grow, learn, connect, love and be loved, and change for the very best. After all life begins at the end of our comfort zones. With all the best - Bailey A. Gent

## 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

### Supporting

Juneau Unitarian  
Universalist Fellowship  
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  
Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp 2  
TMHS National Honor Society

Thank you to Eagle Wings  
Community Church for all your support and blessings on your next phase of ministry.  
Thanks also to Congregation Sukkat Shalom for your faithful service  
Prayers as Emmanuel Baptist considers signing on

## Spotlight on Congregational Coordinators Ruth Cunningham of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Auke Bay Ward)

Before Bishop Tingey asked me to fulfill the assignment to coordinate the Family Promise program for our congregation, I knew very little about the program. He explained that it was a joint venture of the churches in our area, to serve and help homeless families in our community to get back on their feet.

And of course I said yes, and then I went to the scriptures, the word of the Lord and also looked for and found some quotes from our church leaders for confirmation.

I found in Matthew 25:37-40 where the King told us what we should do!

“Lord, when saw we thee hungered, and fed thee? Or thirsty and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? Or naked and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

And this quote from President Monson, who was the past president of our church:

“What power, what tenderness, what compassion did our Master and exemplar... demonstrate. We too, can bless if we will follow His noble example. Opportunities are everywhere. Needed are eyes to see the pitiable plight, ears to hear the silent pleadings of a broken heart. Yes and a soul filled with compassion that we might communicate not only eye to eye or voice to ear, but in the majestic style of the Savior, even heart to heart.”

When Jesus came to the earth, He spent much of His ministry caring for the poor and needy. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and comforted the discouraged. And He urged those who would follow Him to do the same. He taught “By this shall all men know ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” John 13:35

This then is the motivation for my ministry with Family Promise, in helping our Heavenly Fathers less fortunate children in the work of the Lord and

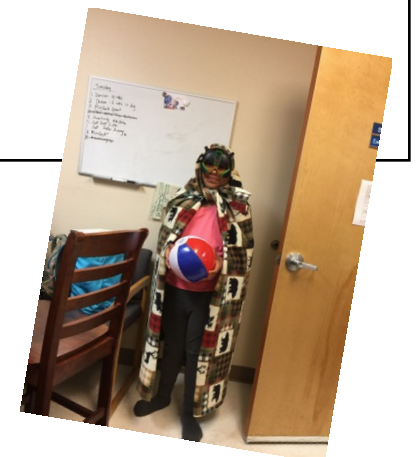
Savior as He set the example, and I believe most of our members feel the same as they begin to serve and teach their children by example to do their part! My desire is great, but I am limited in the technology it takes to inform and motivate our members (my main frustration) but we all love to serve the Lord and His children and wish to follow His example!

May God bless us all as we serve together, Ruth Cunningham

### Thank you Ruth for your 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](mailto:info@familypromisejuneau.org) for other volunteer opportunities.



**We requested a letter of support for a grant from one of our guests and she gave us permission to share it with everyone:**

Hello my name is Myrissa Gramlich.

My four children and I were a participant with Family Promise Juneau from November 1, 2017 til January 5, 2018. I would recommend Family promise for this grant because their hard work and dedication is such a valued service in our community. They help so many families who have nothing build a foundation to be successful in life. Their services not only provided us with food and shelter, but also love and support in a very hard time in our lives. The staff gave me the motivation and courage to restart my life and do better for my family. Through their ongoing support I was able to get a job with benefits and a brand new apartment. It was because of the way this program functions that we were able to get on our feet. They made sure we did not have to worry about diapers, where our next meal is coming from, or how we were going to get to job interviews or appointments. If we needed anything they made sure it happened or put us in contact with valued members of this community who could offer services or support. **I feel like it is because of this program that so many families succeed and don't just become another statistic in poverty. Without them I do not feel like I would be where I am today.**

Thank you,

*Myrissa Gramlich*

## Highlights:

- Fabulous Family Fun Festival: Nearly 300 folks joined us for a fantastic day of play. Thanks to all the volunteers and sponsors.
- Thanks to all our congregations and volunteers. Twenty-four people have moved into sustainable housing so far in 2018. You have helped provide the following:



May Bed Nights: 126	May Meals: 378	Total Bed Nights: 2,069
June Bed Nights: 92	June Meals: 279	Total Bed Nights: 2161
July Bed Nights: 403	July Meals: 1209	Total Bed Nights: 2564

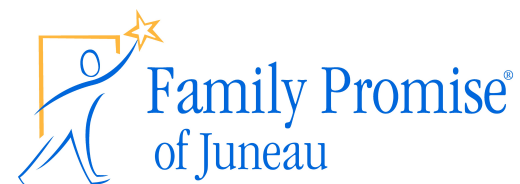
Currently serving three families, a total of 13 people, five of whom are under five years old.

## Needs:

**One more hosting congregation** and two more supporting organizations/ congregations for 2018/19

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

**Summer Service Teams:** We're looking for groups of 4-10 people to host over the summer of 2019. If you have friends out of state who have always wanted to visit and do good work, this is a great opportunity. Check out the information on Facebook.



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**Shannon Fisher, Executive Director**  
**907-500-3032**  
**director@familypromisejuneau.org**

### Upcoming Events

- Aug 30 Congregational Coordinator meeting 6:30-8:00 pm at Chapel
- Sep 6 Volunteer Training at St. Pauls 6:30-8:00 pm
- Sep 11 Mudrooms to benefit Family Promise (Pat McLearn and Pastor Tari will be storytellers) 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm at Northern Light United Church
- Oct 20 Taste of Promise and Choir Concert from 5:30-7:30 pm at Chapel by the Lake. Get ready to submit your favorite dish.

**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, Filipino Community, 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