

Patience is not always a virtue

We had our first meeting to organize Family Promise at St. Paul's in September 2014. I was away on sabbatical, but a healthy band of

folks got to work and we've been working, cajoling, begging, and waiting since then. I've learned that nothing happens fast in faith communities.



Families of 500

We have 25 **Families of 500** who have pledged \$500 each year for three years. Our goal is 40 families before we open.

Finances

We received our non-profit tax exempt status and opened our own bank account. Our current balance is \$37,000. We need \$55,000 before we can open.

Congregations

We are excited to include the following hosting and supporting congregations:

- Chapel by the Lake
- Northern Light United Church
- Shepherd of the Valley
- Holy Trinity
- Salvation Army
- Church of the Nazarene
- St. Paul's
- Cathedral of the Nativity
- Juneau Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
- Congregation Sukkot Shalom
- Eagle Wings Community Church
- Auke Bay Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints

A couple of months ago, opening our doors looked impossible.

We weren't getting any closer with hosting congregations and we thought one of our largest communities would pull out. After two years of attending council/vestry/board meetings, we weren't any closer to getting congregations to make the leap.

I've gotten impatient at times. I have vented great frustration at the excuses, but I understand. It is a huge risk and faith communities are tired.

And one morning I gave up. In my prayers, I told God I was done. Maybe that prayer changed the way I was approaching communities. I can be bossy and overwhelming. Maybe it broke open hearts and possibilities, but within two weeks we had four congregations sign on.

We still need two more congregations, but that seems doable. Pieces are falling into place and I'm incredibly thankful for all those who remind me to be patient and kind. I'm also thankful for those who remind me this is urgent.

It is hard for me to sympathize when folks have lovely underused buildings and other folks are couch surfing or sleeping in their cars.

Family Promise is an effective model for using underutilized resources in a safe way to walk with families who are experiencing homelessness. It is a risk, but it's time to be bold and walk with those who are most vulnerable among us.

Peace, Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey



Board formation

A huge thanks to the organizing team for Family Promise:

Tari Stage-Harvey
 Chuck VanKirk
 Jennifer Carson
 Michelle Strickler
 Willie Anderson
 Linda Landvik
 Sherry Lanz
 Pat McLear
 Randy Coleman
 Soapy & Jill Lingle
 Linda McCargar
 Melody Millard
 Daniel Hall
 Jean Ann Alter
 Bridget Weiss

The board is nearly complete, but we are looking for two more members.

Update:

Financial

We have 25 Families of 500. A huge thanks to those who have donated \$500 for 2016. If you have not, please take a moment to send a check to Family Promise, PO Box 32775, Juneau 99803. Statements will be sent out for tax purposes in early January, but feel free to contact us and check on your giving.

We still need \$18,000 to open (half of our first year budget of \$110,000).

How we hope to get there:

Remaining 2016 pledges	\$3500
Lutheran Resource	\$5000
Congregational support	\$6000
Individual donations	\$3500

Day Center

We have entered into an agreement with Chapel by the Lake to host the day center. The day center is a place where families can take showers, receive case management and look for housing and jobs. A huge thanks to their community and willingness to assist.

Transportation and Cots

Soapy Lingle is currently working on identifying the best bedding and transportation for the program.

Executive Director

The position has posted and the committee will start reviewing applications. We hope to have an executive director hired by mid-December with training from our regional director in January.

Congregations

We still need at least two congregations to sign on as hosting sites. Training for congregational coordinators is tentatively scheduled for around January 22. Our goal is to start receiving families on March 1.

Social Media: Like us on Facebook and look up our webpage www.familypromisejuneau.com to donate or get more information about the Executive Director position.



December 2016

PO Box 32775
Juneau, AK 99803

Family Promise is a community response to families experiencing homelessness by providing hospitality in area churches. Guests receive hospitality and three meals a day from church members and volunteers. Family Promise case managers work with guest parents to ensure they can regain their self-sufficiency.

The interfaith hospitality network program began in Union County, New Jersey, in 1986, in response to the growing number of homeless families seeking shelter and support services. Successful non-profit programs for families experiencing homelessness have been implemented by a number of communities based on this model for the past thirty years throughout the nation including Wasilla.

Timeline

- December 6 Applications for Executive Director are reviewed
- December 15 Hire Executive Director
Governing board is formalized
Congregational coordinators are identified
- January 3 Tentative start for Executive Director
Two more hosting sites are recruited
- January 20-24 Our regional coordinator arrives to train the executive director and congregational volunteers.
Transportation and cots are purchased
- February Day center is prepared
Fundraiser/publicity event for opening
Executive Director networks with agencies and community resources
Congregational Hosting Calendar is finalized for the year
- March 1 OPEN FOR FAMILIES!

