

#### **Summer 2020**

Newsletter

PO Box 32775 Juneau, AK 99803 907-500-3032

www.familypromisejuneau.org

#### **Board**

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

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Kayla Wisner

Alaska Native Consultant

Deanna Komar

Rapid Rehousing
Kate Wolfe 500-2740

Office Administrator
Jen Pegues

### A message from Executive Director, Katti Carlson:

First off, I want to take a second to THANK JUNEAU for your continued support. Our Night Without a Bed fundraiser was a great success, and we raised over \$20,000.00. In this past month, Family Promise has brought two families into shelter, and we are excited to once again be serving families in Juneau. I am sure many of you are wondering what this might be like with the current health concerns looming overhead.



Our families have been housed in a motel over the past month, and FPJ is transitioning to sheltering in place at Chapel by the Lake this month. We worked diligently on a plan to continue to serve in the safest way possible. Chapel by the Lake has graciously allowed us to use two more rooms to host families in place at their location through the end of September. With some rearranging, we now have the ability to social distance in office space and within our family's spaces. The expansion and reorganization of our rooms will now allow us to serve a maximum of two families safely with the support of one overnight volunteer. That being said we are actively searching for a core group of regular overnight volunteers that can host our families. If you are interested in being an overnight volunteer for Family Promise of Juneau please give us a call at 907-500-3032.

In the process of moving forward Family Promise Board and Staff are working on a plan that will embrace all that is important to us and our operations for the long term.

Blessings, Katti

# Welcome to our new board member Kayla Wisner!

We are excited to welcome Kayla to the board. Kayla has a Master in Accountancy and works for the state as a comptroller. She is volunteering her time to be the new Family Promise bookkeeper. A huge thank you to Anna Blackwell who worked with us for several years!

# An Official Welcome to Kate Wolfe as Rapid Rehousing Coordinator!

Kate Wolfe was the interim coordinator and has agreed to take the job full-time. Kate has done amazing work with households and landlords to try and keep people safely housed. The model of Rapid Rehousing includes more than funding for struggling households. A large component is case-management support and education to help households achieve long term stability. This is achieved by up to a year of case-management provided to the household. The case-manager works with families to make sure they are accessing all of the community resources they can, completing paperwork, maintaining a budget, tracking spending, communicating needs, and working on other goals a family might have.

This program also supports a connection with homeowners and apartment managers. This connection provides for supports before households receive eviction notices. With FPJ in contact with landlords and apartment managers, they are able to provide a referral when approached with the inability to pay rent. This connection also allows landlords and apartment managers to know FPJ and how we work within our community. So far, 12 households have participated in the program and \$13,611 has been used to sustain housing. Thank you Kate and thanks to Alaska Mental Health Trust for the grant!

### Thank you Russ for delivering food boxes!

We aren't transporting families right now, but we are supporting our graduates through the food box program. Russ, our driver, transports a food box every other week to FPJ graduates.

## Care Navigator needed.

Kate was serving as our care navigator before taking on Rapid Rehousing full-time. We are looking for a part-time care navigator to work with families in the sheltering program. Please call Katti at 500-3032 for more information.

# Thank you to all our sponsors and Families of 500.

Rasmuson Foundation, Richard and Diane L. Block Foundation, Benito and Frances C Gaguine Foundation, Coeur Alaska, SEALASKA, SEARHC, 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, Sportsman's Warehouse, Marine Exchange, Chiropractic First, State Farm Insurance Reuben Willis, Stellar Financial Services, Tlingit and Haida Office of the President, Platinum Real Estate Group, Alaska Vision, Behrens Mechanical, Christine Moleski DMD, CMI, First Bank Juneau, First Bank Ketchikan, Haight & Associates, Latitude 58 Real Estate Group, Malia Hayward State Farm Insurance Agency, Residential Mortgage, Shaw Dental, The Yoga Path, 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, Aldersgate Methodist and Goldbelt.

## Thank you Sportsman's Warehouse!

Nearly \$60,000 worth of supplies and clothes were donated to Family Promise. This generous donation was shared with Polaris House as well as many of our graduates and rapid rehousing families.

## 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

## A Night Without a Bed

Thank you for helping us raise \$20,335! Fundraising has gone virtual and the National Family Promise hosted an event called "A Night Without a Bed" where leaders were encouraged to spend a night outside their comfy bed in exchange for sponsors. Most of our board participated and a huge thank you to Senator Jesse Kiehl for also participating. Here are some of their thoughts:

**Pat McLear:** I considered sleeping in the back of my car, but I am a woman of a certain age and I get up to use the bathroom at least twice a night. Plus, what if I did go back and forth from the car to the house and forgot to lock the car doors? Bears in this neighborhood are clever.

I considered sleeping on the couch, but which one? The two person couch would be the least comfortable, but sleeping on either one would be miserable because the old, cranky cat would insist that I respond to her every meow. Then, in the morning I would be Cranky (the capital C is deliberate). Given either scenario, I would have taken a long nap later in the day, in my bed, behind a closed door (no meows). So for A Night Without a Bed I slept in my own bed. I had options and I made a decision. I am most grateful that I was able to make a choice that was safe, and comfortable. Not all are that fortunate and that's why Family Promise of Juneau is a critical component in our community's social services net. We provide safe and comfortable shelter with meals and services for children and their families who are experiencing homelessness so they don't have to suffer the indignities of having to endure nights without a bed.

Lisa Lindeman: I slept on the floor on an air mattress, and I was nice and warm. I missed my comfy bed, but I was thankful for the roof over my head and a warm place to sleep, even if it was on the floor.

**Kelly Reed**: On solstice this year Alden slept in his own room for the first time and I slept in the back of our truck. I slept ok that night but I woke up a few times as it was getting brighter out and when my side started to ache from laying that way too long. I also didn't have my cell that night because I left it somewhere. Luckily I didn't need to call anyone! I was a little nervous about people and bears. It made me realize how much I take my own safe bed, home and lifestyle for granted.



Tari Stage-Harvey: I spent a night all by myself up at Dan Moller cabin and I was only a little scared. One of the things I forget about homelessness is how terrifying it is. The constant worry for safety and security is compounded by how vulnerable families are when they are couch surfing, camping or staying in their car.

# What happens next for Family Promise of Juneau?

The Family Promise board is doing some long range planning with the assumption that this virus will impact the next year. Part of that plan is moving to a "shelter in place" at Chapel by the Lake so we are not rotating churches for the time being. The long range plan involves developing our own space where we can incorporate a sustainable funding source, a low barrier shelter for families, and possibly a new day center. We are in the information gathering phase right now, but we know that change is on the way.



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# Family Promise is still serving families

Thank you to the many sponsors and volunteers who have journeyed through these wild times with us. Since Day 1 - April 30, 2017:

Bed Nights:	6,494
Meals Served:	19,482
Average Days in our Program	68
Families Served	29
Families Graduated into Housing:	19
Adults Housed	46
Kids Housed	55
Active Supporting/Host Organizations:	16
Active Volunteers:	466
Rapid Rehousing	.12 Households
Total Committed: \$31,500.00	
Total Paid: \$13,611.00	
Rental Assistance	7 Households
Total Paid Out: \$8 227 48	

Total Paid Out: \$8,227.48

There are still ways to volunteer! A virtual volunteer training is available on the Family Promise website or call 500-3032 for more information.