

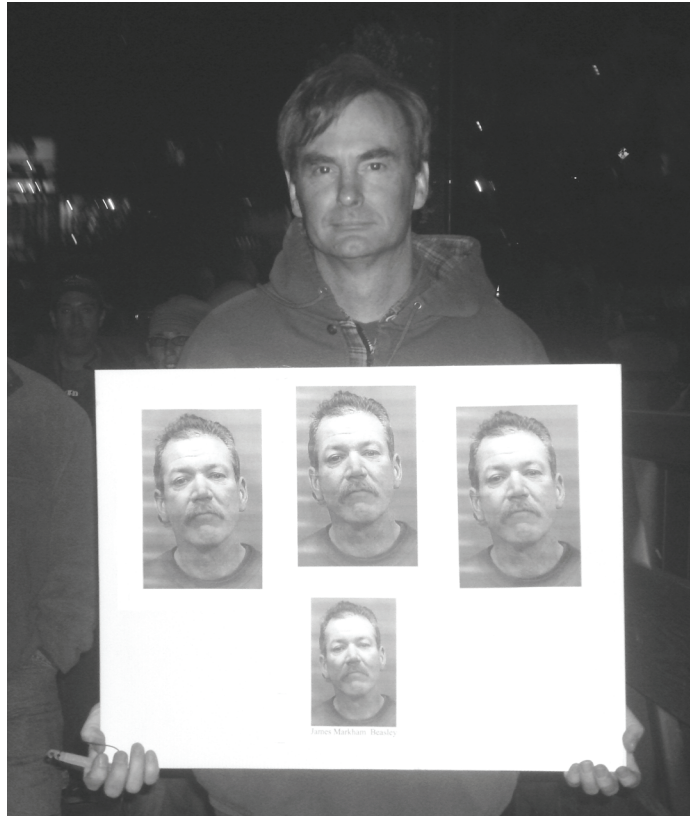
Homeward Bound

Host Congregations

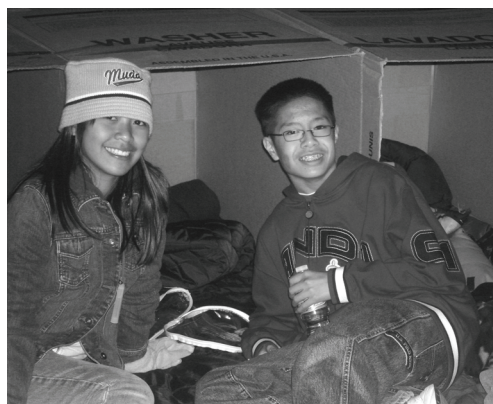
Faith Lutheran Church
First United Methodist Church
Holy Cross Catholic Community
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church
Our Lady of Wisdom Catholic Newman Community
Saint John's Presbyterian Church
Saint Paul's Episcopal Church
Sparks United Methodist Church
South Reno United Methodist Church
Temple Sinai--Reform
Trinity Episcopal Church
Unitarian Universalists Fellowship of Northern Nevada

Support Congregations

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints—North Reno, Reno and Sparks Stakes
Lord of Mercy Lutheran Church
Northern Nevada Muslim Community
Our Savior Lutheran Church
Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church
Saint Luke's Lutheran Church
Saint Paul's United Methodist Church
Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church
Spanish Springs Presbyterian Church
Temple Emanu-El



Cardboard Box City vigil walker Jeff Carlton holds a poster with photos of James Markham Beasley, a homeless man who was killed in Reno.



Erika Vicente and Noel Tsuchiya set up boxes in Wingfield Park. They were joined by about 150 other residents in Cardboard Box City.

Residents of Cardboard Box City face harsh weather to raise funds

Residents of this year's Cardboard Box City (CBC) not only experienced what it's like to spend a night outside as a homeless person, but they learned that cardboard boxes don't hold up well against harsh elements.

Suffering wind, rain, sleet, and cold temperatures during the second annual event on Sept. 28, many had to cover their boxes with tarps or whatever they could find to prevent them from collapsing. The boxes may have dampened, but not spirits.

"I look forward to this night," said CBC resident Noel Tsuchiya, who heard about the event through his church of Holy Cross Catholic Community. "I can actually show that I care. It's my way of helping the homeless in our community."

Tsuchiya, a Spanish Springs High School student, was joined by friends Jacob Roberts and Erika Vicente, also members of Holy Cross's high school youth ministry.

"I like raising awareness about homelessness," said Vicente. "It's a good way to help. We raised \$1,100 for this event at a church fundraiser."

The evening included live music by local artists, and a vigil walk to honor homeless people who have died.

Cardboard Box City is a one-night event to raise money and awareness for Family Promise, Reno's only support agency that allows homeless families to stay together.

This year's event raised over \$30,000.

Family Promise of Reno/Sparks thanks our generous donors:

John Farahi
The Atlantis Casino Resort Spa
\$50,000 donation

International Game Technology
\$10,000 donation

Anonymous
\$40,000 donation



From the Executive Director

An open door communicates welcome extended, permission given, opportunity offered – acceptance, freedom, trust. “Come in and join me,” says the voice on the other side. “We can enjoy each other’s company; we have much to learn from one another.” – Caroline Westerhoff from Good Fences

A couple of years ago our organization underwent a name change. What many people remember as the Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Truckee Meadows became Family Promise of Reno/Sparks. The purpose of this change was to expand the scope of services we provide. Now in addition to providing interim housing for families through the Interfaith Hospitality Network, we also provide advocacy (Interfaith Advocacy Network) and Education (Just Neighbors Program). However, almost daily I am encouraged to reflect on our former name, the name of our current interim housing program, the *Interfaith Hospitality Network*.

For our program, communities of faith come together to host our families one week at a time, several times a year. Each week our families experience the generosity and kindness present in our community through the hospitality extended by local congregations and by the numerous volunteers who prepare food for, play games with, and offer a listening ear to them. Each congregation opens their spiritual home to offer our families a safe place to regroup. It’s this hospitality that makes our program unique.

And, at this time of year, in particular, I think the interfaith element of *Interfaith Hospitality Network* is so beautifully exemplified. All year we have interfaith participation in our program, but, this time of year we really see this in action. For several years, during the Christmas holiday Temple Sinai--Reform has opened their synagogue to our families. And, for several years congregation members from Temple Sinai have worked closely with members of the Northern Nevada Muslim Community and Temple Emanu-El to make the week go by without a hitch. That’s right – each Christmas (a Christian holiday) two Jewish synagogues come together with the Muslim community to put their faith into action and extend hospitality to our families. This year, as Temple Sinai undergoes a wonderful renovation, these three congregations will come together and offer this hospitality under the roof of a local Christian Church.

It is such an honor to be able to work with a program that engages communities of different faith traditions as we all come together with the purpose of welcoming families who have hit a rough spot into our spiritual homes, offering them the hospitality they need along their journey. So much more than food and shelter is extended through this interaction – a feeling that we don’t need to go through our rough spots alone, and a hope that the children welcomed will know nothing less than a stable and sheltered future.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Dorway

M.S.W., L.S.W.



Lynn Brosy

Lynn Brosy has been named as President of Family Promise Reno/Sparks. Lynn is a Reno dentist in practice with her husband Paul and has two college-aged daughters. She is a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Lynn is a native Nevadan, and has lived in the Reno area for almost 20 years.

Piano concert benefits Family Promise



Pianist Allan Fuller will play a benefit concert for Family Promise of Reno/Sparks on Thursday, March 20, 2008 at 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 209 W. First St., Reno.

Mr. Fuller is a classical pianist whose recitals have been well received both locally, and internationally. Learn more and hear him play at www.allanfullerpiano.com. Call (775) 284-5566 for more information.

Thank You to...

Our Cardboard Box City Sponsors:

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Family Promise launches capital campaign

Family Promise of Reno/Sparks is launching a capital campaign to purchase a Day Center of its own.

The Family Promise Day Center is the hub of operations for the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) shelter program and provides showers, washer and dryer, a computer for school work and job searches, an address for our guests to put on important applications, a place from which children can enroll in school, and parents can receive case management services. It is a safe place for our families to work toward permanent housing and self sufficiency.

For more information on our capital campaign and how you can be a part of our new vision, please call 284-5566.



Sparks United Methodist Church

A REAL LEAP OF FAITH

The conversation didn't get off to a good start.

Sparks United Methodist Church had been an Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) support congregation for a while. But when Elizabeth Dorway, Executive Director of Family Promise of Reno/Sparks told SUMC outreach coordinator Bob Lathrop that they've done a great job and should consider becoming a host congregation, Bob's response was, "No way! We have an old facility with old bathrooms, no showers, no elevator. We can't do it."

Bob had second thoughts. He called Elizabeth back and said, "Maybe we'll give it a shot; but this will be a real leap of faith."

SUMC Pastor Tom Butler says, "Bob knows how to sell a leap of faith to a congregation. He's positive and enthusiastic. He sees 'challenges' as 'opportunities,' and enlists people to help realize his vision."

Pr. Butler also credits Elizabeth with a calm, positive, and patient spirit that makes the difference. "She met with our Church Council and patiently answered every question, responded to every concern," he adds. "After a unanimous vote in favor of becoming an IHN Host Congregation, one council member said, 'Isn't this what churches are supposed to do?'"

Bob Lathrop certainly thinks so. And he is convinced that SUMC's hosting, in addition to helping IHN families, has benefited the congregation in several ways. Bob wasn't sure that his church, in a time of transition and direction-setting, had the will to take on such a task. But he has been shocked by people's response, and reports, "Hosting has shown us we can do more than we thought, and do it well."

Bob also believes that ministries like hosting can be an opportunity for a church to attract new people. A first-time visitor to SUMC heard Bob announce the need for volunteers for their first hosting week. After worship she said, "That is exactly why I came to this church today!"

Bob stresses the importance of interaction between church members and IHN guests. "Walls come down when we know them as people," he says. "Once you get out of the 'writing a check' mode of involvement and get personally involved, it changes you and is its own reward."

Even the church's children have gotten "personally involved." Sherry Beard's 4th and 5th grade Sunday school class planned to serve dinner to the guests one evening of that first hosting week. Over a four-week period, the children collected \$182 in coin from home, went to KFC to purchase the food for about \$90, and served the meal. They plan to purchase and serve another meal during SUMC's next hosting week.

At the Annual Conference of the California/Nevada District of the UMC, a 10-year-old girl from Beard's class described for the assembly how she had been personally involved in caring for homeless children. Her junior-high-aged sister told how participating in a 30-hour famine and sleeping in a cardboard box had changed her life.

Tom Butler speaks from a pastor's perspective: "IHN hosting gives kids an opportunity to see themselves as disciples of Jesus Christ, and that changes their understanding of who they are and what faith is," he says. "It's better than a year of classes!"

Sparks UMC is just the latest congregation to discover the joy and growth that accompany the real work of serving as a host congregation. If you think your congregation might be up to the challenge or, better yet, if you think it might be too much for your congregation – call Elizabeth Dorway.



Mom Amber and Kadence

In August Family Promise welcomed a new baby into the world, Kadence, who was born to mom Amber. Amber had been a FP guest since spring, working until she took maternity leave. Two weeks after giving birth Amber and Kadence moved into an apartment. Amber now has a job, and is going back to school through the Truckee Meadows Community College's re-entry program.

"We feel so lucky to have been able to provide interim housing and support for Amber while she was preparing to welcome Kadence into the world, then to have been at the hospital on the day Kadence was born," says Family Promise's Executive Director Elizabeth Dorway. "It was such a special time to spend with such a wonderful family."

Between July and November 2007 Family Promise provided interim housing to 13 families. Of those 13 families 9 moved directly into permanent housing and 4 remain in the program (that's 100% of the families who left the program for permanent housing!)

Homeward Bound

Family Promise of Reno/Sparks
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Family Promise is a faith-based community-wide program that provides transitional shelter and comprehensive assistance for homeless families in Reno/Sparks in a manner that offers hope, preserves dignity, and promotes self-sufficiency.

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

Family Promise of Reno/Sparks has an ongoing need for financial support that is directed toward general program operations. These contributions help us fulfill our mission of providing transitional shelter and comprehensive assistance for homeless families in a manner that offers hope, preserves dignity and promotes self-sufficiency.

Financial contributions can be sent to: (A return envelope is provided in this newsletter)

Family Promise of Reno/Sparks
P.O. Box 20988
Reno, NV 89515-0988

Wish List

LAUNDRY DETERGENT, TOILET PAPER, fabric softener, dishwasher detergent, socks (adult and child), white office paper, bottled water.

Upcoming Events

March 20
Benefit Piano Concert by Allan Fuller
First United Methodist Church

May 30
Family Promise Golf Tournament
Washoe Golf Course

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