

# Homeward Bound

## 2009 Governor's Points of Light

Congratulations to the 2009 *Governor's Points of Light* award recipient, **Catholic Community Services of Northern Nevada.**

Congratulations to *Point of Light* award nominees, **Family Promise of Las Vegas and Trauma Intervention Programs of Southern Nevada.**

The annual *Governor's Points of Light* award is hosted by Nevada Volunteers, an organization that creates countless opportunities to inspire, teach, train and recognize individuals, organizations, and businesses across Nevada to develop a legacy of service and citizenship. The Nevada Volunteers is the Governor's Commission that administers AmeriCorps programs.

### *Host Congregations*

Bishop Manogue High School  
Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Faith Lutheran Church  
First United Methodist Church  
Holy Cross Catholic Community  
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd  
Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church  
Saint John's Presbyterian Church  
Saint Paul's Episcopal Church  
Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church  
South Reno United Methodist Church  
Sparks United Methodist Church  
Temple Sinai--Reform  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Nevada

### *Support Congregations*

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (North Reno Stake)  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Reno Stake)  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Sparks Stake)  
Holy Cross Lutheran  
Lord of Mercy Lutheran Church  
Northern Nevada Muslim Community  
Our Lady of Wisdom Catholic Newman Community  
Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Reno Friends (Quaker) Meeting House  
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

## A Family Promise graduate shares her story

A family conflict resulted in Connie and her son being put out of their home, so she sought help from the Reno Housing Authority to find a place to live. She saw Family Promise's name on the list for temporary housing and filled out their application. Within a month she and her 2-year-old son Cody were accepted into the Family Promise program.

"Family Promise did a lot for us. They put a roof over our heads and food in our stomachs and gas in my car while I was looking for permanent housing," Connie recalls.

She and Cody were in the Family Promise program just over one month, a guest record for the shortest stay while transitioning to permanent housing.

"From the list of possible permanent housing that Family Promise gave me, I found a place within the first few weeks but had to wait for it to be cleaned out and re-carpeted," Connie said. She is now living self-sufficiently in that permanent housing.

Connie said she would like to give back to the Family Promise program and, in fact, already has. She's donated some of Cody's clothing for use by other Family Promise guests.

"Family Promise is a great program to help people. If it wasn't for them we'd be out in the street or living in my car," Connie said.

## Volunteer Spotlight



*Jeremy Packer  
Eagle Scout*

When Jeremy Packer needed to come up with his Eagle Scout project, he thought of Family Promise, an organization that he had previously volunteered for through his Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

"A landscaping project for the day center seemed like a good fit," Jeremy said. "If we could jazz this place up, we can brighten up the lives of those who stay here."

So Jeremy solicited help from family and friends and fellow church members who worked one afternoon to completely landscape Family Promise's new day center on Wheeler Ave.

Jeremy, a Wooster High School senior, had worked at Moana Lane Nursery during the summer where he learned planting techniques. He and his father Steve, a Family Promise coordinator for the LDS Reno Stake, designed the landscaping project for Family Promise's day center which included placing new sod on the north side of the property, plants, shrubs, trees, decomposed granite, and weed-inhibiting fabric.

Moana Lane Nursery donated many of the landscaping materials and Western Nevada Supply donated use of equipment.





*From the Executive Director*



This year Family Promise of Las Vegas was nominated for the Governor’s Points of Light Award. They along with Catholic Community Services of Northern Nevada and Trauma Intervention Programs of Southern Nevada were non-profit finalists for the award. The award is described in the literature as recognizing “individuals and organizations for their dedication, commitment, and determination in promoting and supporting volunteerism throughout Nevada. It is the highest honor bestowed by Nevada Volunteers and the state of Nevada with the purpose of inspiring individuals to make a positive impact in the lives of people who need it most and in places where it can make a difference.”

Because of our relationship to Family Promise of Las Vegas – and the sameness of the model we both use in assisting families who are without a stable place to live--the director of the Las Vegas Family Promise asked that I join her for the ceremony which was held in Reno.

As I was listening to the keynote speaker, and listening to the awards being given I was reflecting on phrase ‘points of light.’ At Family Promise of Reno/Sparks we are so lucky to have so many points of light, very visible along our journey. Our points of light include:

Our incredible board who guides and directs our program, and makes sure we have enough funding to continue the work we do; our tireless volunteer coordinators (volunteers themselves) who organize volunteers at our various host and support congregations; the volunteers who spend time purchasing and preparing nutritious food for our families to eat and enjoy; the volunteers who sit with our families during what is often their most challenging moment in life; the volunteers who spend the night in the host congregations to ensure the safety of all in our program through the late hours; the volunteers who come in and answer phones at our day center to help those who call us with needs we try hard guide them to meet; the UNR interns who, while they learn, help our families realize their goals and hopes, and then offer them the ability to make progress in pursuit of stability; corporate and community volunteers who come in and offer their time to teach our families life skills; the MANY community agencies we partner with daily to ensure the safety, wellbeing and success of all we serve; our staff who go above and beyond – donating many of their hours to the work at hand; and, finally our families who live through challenges that, to many of us, might seem insurmountable.

I want to take this moment to just say thank you to all of the points of life that guide me, and guide the lives of so many in our community and through our program. It is your efforts and your grace that offer hope to us all.

I also want to say congratulations to Family Promise of Las Vegas for the honor of being nominated for this award. And, congratulations to Catholic Community Services of Northern Nevada, one of the great agencies we work with, for being honored with a Governor’s Point of Light award for 2009.

*Thank You to . . .*

In an effort to help working families who are getting back on their feet after their stay in the Interfaith Hospitality Network program, Family Promise of Reno/Sparks engaged several local businesses and individuals in providing gifts for 17 families (51 people) this past holiday season. Following are a few of the groups who helped out:

- City of Sparks Employees**
- Keegan Low**
- Navelier Calculated Investing**
- Spanish Springs Presbyterian Church**
- Sparks Christian Fellowship**
- Temple Sinai - Reform**
- The law firm of Robison, Belaustegui, Sharp & Low**
- UNR - Faculty & Staff from:**
- Office of Medical Education & Medical School Admissions & Student Affairs**
- West Coast Contractors of Nevada**
- and, Several Anonymous Donors*



***Thank you to USBank for their generous grant.***

***Thank you to the donor of our new van.***

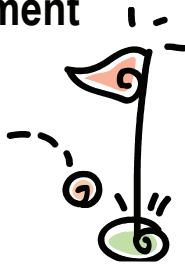
***Welcome back and thank you to Bishop Manogue and St. Thomas Aquinas who are hosting our families this month.***

***Thank you and congratulations to Tabor who served as our HDFS Intern and graduated in December.***

***Thank you and congratulations to Tiera who is our Social Work intern and graduated in May.***

# Let's End Homelessness One Chip At A Time

2nd Annual  
**Family Promise Golf Tournament**  
**Saturday, May 30, 2009**  
**Washoe Golf Course**  
**Registration: 7 a.m.**  
**Shotgun Start: 8 a.m.**



## GREAT FUN FOR ALL PLAYERS!

1st, 2nd, 3rd Place winners--Hole-In-One Prizes on all par 3's--  
 Long Drive Contest for men and women--Great Raffle Prizes and  
 Silent Auction--Barbecue and awards follow the tournament .

**ENTRY FEE: \$125.00**

Includes green fees, cart, tee prizes, BBQ and drinks--4-Person  
 Scramble (men, women and juniors)--\$65.00 is tax deductible  
**EVERYONE IS WELCOME--**Non-golfers and families are invited to  
 the BBQ--\$10 adults/ \$5 children.

**Proceeds go directly to Family Promise.**

For more information, "hole sponsorships" or donations for raffle or  
 silent auction please call Cindy Becher at 322-5853.

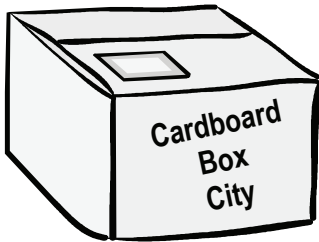
**THANK YOU!**

*Those who are unable to attend but would like to make a  
 donation can mail checks to: Family Promise of Reno/Sparks,  
 PO Box 20988, Reno, NV 89515*



**Macy's Community  
 Shopping Day**  
**Saturday, May 30**  
**Tickets available**  
 Call Elizabeth at 775-284-5566

Macy's Reno offers a community shopping day on Saturday May  
 30, 2009 that benefits local non-profit organizations. Family  
 Promise is selling \$10 tickets that provide 15 to 20 percent  
 discounts on most of Macy's merchandise on event day. Family  
 Promise retains 100 percent of the ticket sales and Macy's  
 donates an additional \$3 for each ticket stub deposited at the  
 store on May 30.



**Friday  
 September 25, 2009  
 Wingfield Park,  
 Reno**



## Cardboard Box City is night of homeless awareness; information sharing

**Question:** Among all industrialized nations in the world, where does  
 the United States rank in terms of the percentage of children living  
 below the median income?

**Answer:** Second-highest.

*Source: United National Children's Fund (UNICEF)*

Answers that Family Promise's Executive Director  
 Elizabeth Dorway gave to a quiz regarding economics and  
 poverty in the U.S. surprised returning Cardboard Box City  
 residents Dan and Nick Urruty.

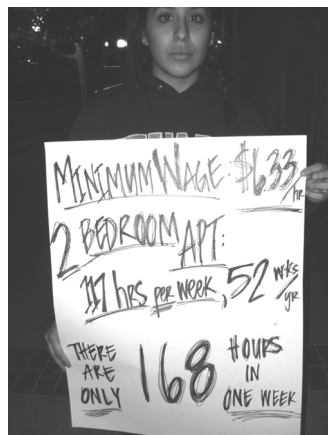
"I didn't know that in 49 U.S. states, child care costs  
 more than tuition at a public college," said Dan, a Bishop  
 Manogue junior. His brother Nick added that he was unaware  
 that only 1 percent of the nation's richest households account  
 for fifty percent of the nation's wealth.

Cardboard Box City 2008 was a lot about sharing  
 that kind of information. Posters stating "41% of Homeless  
 are Families" and other statistical information adorned  
 cardboard boxes serving as shelter for CBC residents and  
 accompanied vigil walkers on the night of September 26.

One of the most surprising statistics to those in  
 attendance is that the average age of a homeless person is  
 nine.

"Most of us have an image of the homeless as those  
 more visible," Dorway said. "But parents hide homelessness  
 so they don't lose their kids."

Cardboard Box City is an annual one-night event to  
 raise money and awareness for Family Promise of Reno/  
 Sparks, a community-wide program that supports homeless  
 families on their journey to a stable future. The event raised  
 about \$22,000.



---

## *Homeward Bound*

Family Promise of Reno/Sparks  
P.O. Box 20988  
Reno, NV 89515-0988  
Phone: (775) 284-5566  
Fax: (775) 746-0530  
www.familypromisereno.com

---

---

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Reno, NV  
Permit No. 394

---

*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.

---

---

### Board of Directors

Lynn Brosy —President  
Nick Frey—Vice President  
Judith Inskip—Secretary  
Christopher Campos—Treasurer

Cindy Becher  
Sharon Burnside-Ing  
Vanessa Conrad  
Shirley Ericson  
Rachel Gattuso  
Deedee Jenson  
Edmond Morgan  
Stephanie Rossi

### Staff

Elizabeth Dorway—Executive Director  
Ray Duffy—Stability Counselor  
Benjamin Becerra and Mike  
Cutler—Van Drivers

---

### 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

Garbage bags, disinfectant wipes, large-sized diapers, baby wipes, copy paper, coffee, gift cards for grocery stores and/or gas stations, bus passes.

---

Printing services  
donated by

**digiprint**



### Upcoming Events

**Family Promise Golf Tournament**  
Saturday, May 30

**Macy's Community Shopping Day**  
Saturday, May 30

**Cardboard Box City**  
Friday, September 25