

Homeward Bound

Family Promise secures own day center

Family Promise's dream of a permanent day center was realized on June 30 when the keys to 376 Wheeler were handed to Board President Lynn Brosy and Executive Director Elizabeth Dorway.

"Several generous donations including those from the Atlantis and IGT provided seed money to purchase our own day center while allowing us to provide the same services to our guests through our regular fundraising," said Brosy.

The central location of the new day center fits the needs of IHN guests by offering easy access to bus lines, schools, a park and the Washoe County Library.

"We saw a need for stability in our day center location," Dorway said. "Not only will we be avoiding rent increases, we will be ensuring the stability of our program to assist families for years to come."

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 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 families to work toward permanent housing and self-sufficiency.



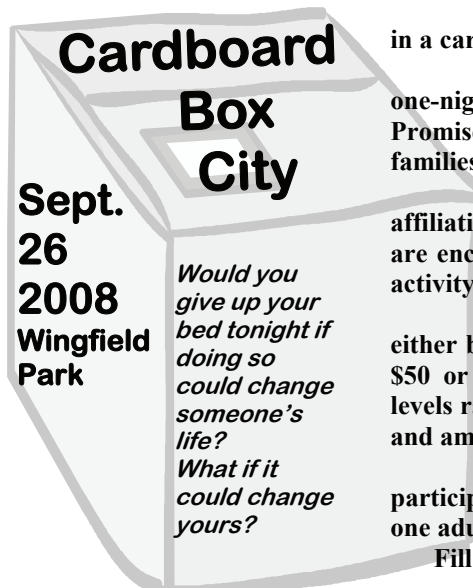
The new Family Promise Day Center location on 376 Wheeler St., Reno. The property includes other structures that allow future expansion to provide transitional housing for IHN guests.

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
- 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
- Holy Cross Lutheran
- Lord of Mercy Lutheran Church
- Northern Nevada Muslim Community
- Our Savior Lutheran Church
- Reno Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends
- 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



On Friday, Sept. 26, the public is invited to spend a night in a cardboard box to help the homeless.

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

Cardboard Box City is open to people of all ages and affiliations. Service clubs, school groups and youth organizations are encouraged to use the event as a learning and team-building activity.

Residents purchase a cardboard box and a light meal either by raising pledges or making an individual contribution of \$50 or more. "Virtual residents" may sleep at home. Pledge levels range from \$50 to \$1,500 and up. Box size is determined by and amount pledged.

Entertainment and activities will be family-friendly, and participants will sleep in a secured outdoor area. A minimum of one adult per five participants under the age of 18 is required.

Fill out the registration form on page three and mail in the enclosed envelope.



From the Executive Director

Often when I begin volunteer trainings I ask people to frame in their mind the image of a person who is ‘homeless.’ Most often the images that people share include those of a single man, maybe with a mental illness, maybe with a substance abuse problem. This man is usually asking for money, or sitting in front of a shopping cart on the corner of business or a street frequently passed by. Though the image of this individual is equally valuable – it misrepresents the most common picture of homelessness in our country and in our community. It is said that the average age of a homeless person is nine. Families with children are the fastest growing segment of those living without a home all over our country.

When I think of the ‘homeless’ man who most of us imagine – I think about the dreams that he had when he was a child. I doubt if he imagined that one day he would be residing in a tent, or begging for his survival. When I see that man, or that adult individual living without a home I wish more people would stand beside her/him and listen to the voice of the child that is within.

And, then I think about the kids that stay with us at Family Promise. I think about the dreams we give them a chance to achieve. Through helping the family unit to move into permanent housing we are assisting with the development of a firm foundation upon which dreams are built. On behalf of these children who are already beautifully shaping our future – thank you for the opportunity to strengthen families and make dreams happen.

Elizabeth Dorway, M.S.W., L.S.W.

Pianist Fuller to play second Family Promise benefit concert

Pianist Allen Fuller will play a second benefit concert on Nov. 6 at the 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 284-5566 for more information.

**You can feed the hungry.
You can provide disaster relief.
You can shelter refugees.**



Join the CROP Hunger Walk

**Sunday, October 19
2 p.m.**

**Snowflake Pavilion
Idlewild Park, Reno**

www.churchworldservice.org

Thank You to . . .

- Elizabeth Anderson from Dickson Realty who helped us find our perfect Day Center location.
- A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to all who helped paint, clean and organize the new Family Promise Day Center.
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints brought out a large group of volunteers and helped us move the Day Center in less than one hour.
- Faith Lutheran Church, First United Methodist Church, Trinity Episcopal Church & St. Paul’s Episcopal Church who opened their doors for us when we did not have another church in which to host our families.
- Thank you to Our Lady of Snows for picking up an extra hosting week this year.
- Welcome to Holy Cross Lutheran Church who has become a support congregation.
- An ongoing thank you to Reno Friends (Quaker Meeting House) for supplying essentials for the Day Center.
- Thank you to Erin Brosy for her work organizing Empty Bowls.
- Thank you to all who donated hygiene and clothing supplies to those staying in Tent City.

Eagle Scout Jeremy Packer (whose father is a coordinator for the support congregation Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints – Reno Stake) is



coordinating the landscaping for the new Family Promise Day Center. Once his project is approved he will be looking for volunteers to help with landscaping. If you would be interested, or for more information please call Elizabeth Dorway at 775-284-5566 or email ihndirector@sbcglobal.net.

Welcome to . . .

Tiera Moton – Bachelors of Social Work Intern

Tabor Volberding – Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) Intern



One year later, a graduate of Family Promise's Interfaith Hospitality Network talks about the road from a near brush with homelessness and losing her kids to being back on her feet and staying that way.

Christina Sanchez

Single mother Christina Sanchez recalls how close she came to losing her kids and being homeless when her money ran out.

"I called social services myself and told them that I had no money and couldn't provide for my kids," Christina said. "What money my daughter's father had given me helped with rent for awhile, but soon ran out. I had to stay with friends."

When the social worker heard Christina's story, she called Elizabeth Dorway, Executive Director of Family Promise's Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) and set up an immediate interview for Christina. It turned out that a family had just left IHN which opened an interim housing slot for five so Christina, her three children and nephew were screened and admitted to the program that same day. That was a year ago.

Christina recently relayed this story from her rented 4-bedroom apartment where she lives self sufficiently with her children and nephew. A product of a difficult upbringing herself—she had an absentee mother and a father who was beaten to death when she was 9—Christina shudders to think what would have happened if she had lost her own children.

"I would have had a nervous breakdown," Christina said. "I need my kids to keep me going."

Christina credits Family Promise with allowing her to get back on her feet and keep her children and guardianship of her nephew. The three oldest children are now attending local schools.

"Family Promise had rules and gave us the structure to get through the process," she said. "We still follow the same routines today. Ray (Family Promise stability counselor Ray Duffy) stressed saving money for a deposit, bus passes, etc., so I had the

money for an apartment deposit."

Christina knows that her children have had a hard start, but tells them that it doesn't matter—it's what happens from now that's important.

"I know what it's like without a high school diploma," Christina says. "Now my daughter has aspirations of college."

Christina is grateful for all of Family Promise/IHN's host and support congregation volunteers.

"All the volunteers were so nice," she adds. They made you feel comfortable. They didn't make you feel like you were living in a shelter. If I could stand outside with a street sign promoting Family Promise, I would."



The first annual Family Promise Golf Tournament in May raised about \$10,000. Many thanks to Golf Tournament Chair Cindy Becher and her volunteer team. Next year's tournament will be held at Washoe Golf Course on Saturday, May 30. Thanks to our generous sponsors and donors:

Complete Millwork Services, Morrey Distributing Company, Kohl's Department Store, Sierra Construction, Brody Family Dentistry, Digiprint, First Independent Bank, Magic 95.5, Erlach Computer Consulting, Washoe Golf Course, Odette's Catering, Resort at Red Hawk, Wildcreek Golf Course, Thunder Canyon Golf Course, ArrowCreek Golf Course, LakeRidge Golf Course, Wild West Electronics, Silverado Resort in Napa, Mt. Rose Ski, Bobo's Mogul Mouse, Peppermill Resort Casino, Clay Nichols, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Legends Tahoe Open, Vintage Wine Shop, Moana Florist, St. Ives Florist, UNR Wolf Pack Football, Sommersett Country Club, Devonwoods Florist, Gordon's Photo, Eldorado Casino, Eric Kroll, Model Dairy, Whispering Vine, Scraps, ImeMine, Utopia Day Spa, Atlantis Casino, Lavender Ridge, P.F. Chang's China Bistro, Rapscaillon Seafood House and Bar, Coldstone Creamery, Hit N Run Sports.



***I want to be involved with* Cardboard Box City Family Promise of Reno/Sparks, P.O. Box 20988, Reno, NV 89515**

I would like to: (check all that apply)

- Reside in Cardboard Box City
 - Individual
 - Family
 - Group

We will send additional information to help prepare for the event.

Or

Be a "Virtual Resident" (donate and sleep at home).

Donation Amount: \$ _____

I would like to assist with planning and/or coordination

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____

Phone _____

Group Affiliation (if applicable) _____

Method of Payment:

Will raise pledges (balance due by **September 24, 2008**)

If you check this box, we will mail you a pledge form and further instructions.

Check enclosed (payable to Family Promise of Reno/Sparks)

If you are paying by check, we will mail you a written acknowledgment of your tax-deductible contribution.



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

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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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Cutler—Van Drivers

Stephanie Rossi—Newsletter Editor

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

September 26
Cardboard Box City
Wingfield Park

October 19
Crop Walk

November 6
Alan Fuller Piano Concert

Printing services
donated by

digiprint

