

ANNUAL REPORT

FAMILY PROMISE OF
GREATER WASHINGTON
COUNTY

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info@fpgwc.org

20
23

INTRODUCTION

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

A LETTER FROM LANNDHESE TALICE, FPGWC

Dear Cherished Friend of Family Promise,

I am delighted to present the 2023 Impact Report for Family Promise of Greater Washington County. As we reflect on our 28-year journey since the inception of Family Promise in 1995 and the establishment of Family Promise of Beaverton in 2018, we are reminded of the incredible community-driven initiative that has become a beacon of hope and support for families in need.

From the early days of offering emergency relief, a warm meal, and a bed for the night to, our current focus on building permanent and sustainable supportive housing, our commitment to helping families with children reclaim their dignity and find a pathway towards personal wellbeing has remained unwavering. Today, as Family Promise of Greater Washington County, we stand as a testament to the power of community coming together to address the challenges of homelessness.

Over the years, our work has evolved, and so has public awareness and sentiment on homelessness. We recognize that we face new opportunities and challenges, but our mission remains steadfast – to equip families and vulnerable communities to end the cycle of homelessness. We do that through housing solutions, supportive services, connection to the community, and advocacy for equitable and just systems.

I am proud to share that, thanks to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and the unwavering support of our community, we have achieved remarkable results. A standout accomplishment is the 98% success rate of our clients who have been housed and have not returned to homelessness. This success speaks to the effectiveness of our holistic approach, the transformative impact of stable housing, and the continued support each client received through our Graduate Program. This program is designed specifically to ensure the long-term success of each family as they exit our shelter into permanent, sustainable housing.



As we navigate the complexities of our work, we acknowledge the barriers we face – systems that work against us, misconceptions about homelessness, and communities seeking quick solutions. However, we are heartened by the many individuals who stand with us, offering their time, talent, and treasure to contribute to our life-affirming work. To all our supporters, we extend our deepest gratitude.

In 2023, we invite you to renew your support for Family Promise of Greater Washington County. Join us in leveraging our events and activities to recommit yourself and your neighbors to our collective mission. Your participation and generosity are crucial to our ongoing success, and we envision a future where everyone has the dignity of a place to call home.

The road ahead is challenging, but with your continued support, we can overcome the barriers and make a lasting impact on the lives of those experiencing homelessness. Together, we have permanently housed hundreds of families in our communities, helping them regain stability and hope. Let us unite in the mission to bring our neighbors home.

Thank you for your commitment and support!

OUR HISTORY

TWO BECOME ONE



The Roots of Family Promise

Family Promise National began with a simple act of kindness in New York City in the 1980s. From there it grew into a national organization of affiliates serving unhoused families and individuals across the country—providing housing, housing stability services, and other supports for nearly four decades.

Planting Seeds—Family Promise of Washington County

In 1995, concerned community members in Washington County, Oregon came together to discuss family homelessness solutions. This meeting planted the seeds for what would become a local affiliate of Family Promise. Hillsboro United Methodist Church signed on as the first host site in 1996. In March of 1999, we opened our doors as the Western Washington County Interfaith Hospitality Network, and in 2012 we became Family Promise of Washington County helping families in Hillsboro, Forest Grove, Banks, and Cornelius, working to end family homelessness across our communities.

Putting Down Roots—Family Promise of Beaverton

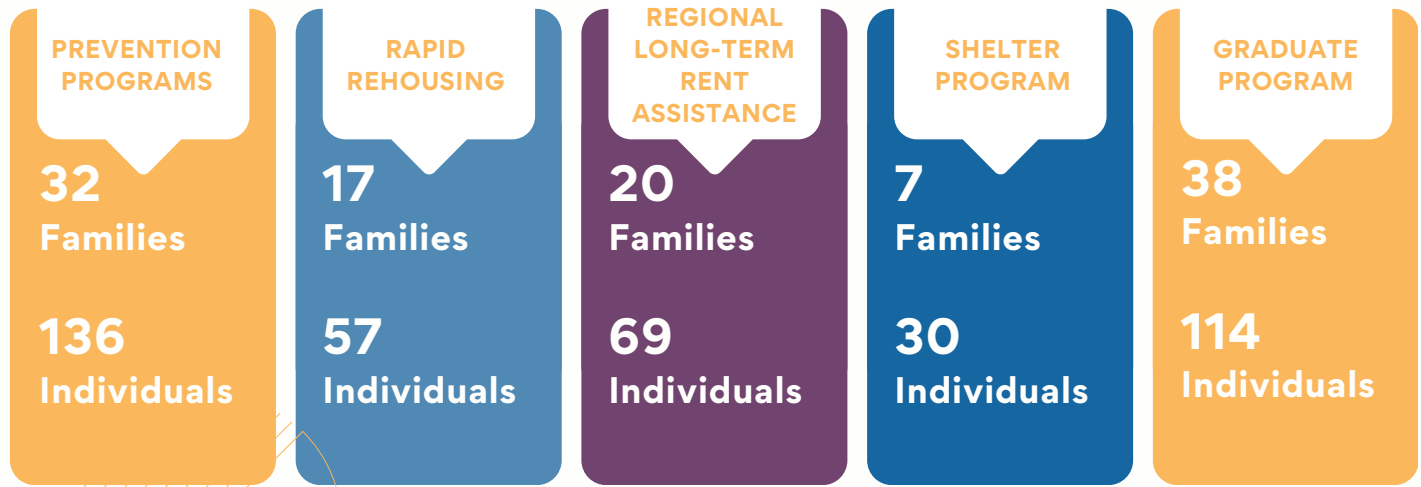
In 2016, Beaverton had 1,500 homeless children. The City of Beaverton pledged \$50,000 a year for three years to support safe transitional living arrangements for families. To accomplish this, we needed a Day Center, van, and at least 13 partner organizations to rotate providing night shelter. In April of 2018, we officially opened our doors—committed to providing case management, shelter, showers, laundry, and transportation for children and their families experiencing homelessness across Beaverton.

Becoming one Organization—Family Promise of Greater Washington County

In May 2021, Family Promise of Beaverton and Family Promise of Washington County merged—bringing together two strong and well-respected organizations to provide an even greater level of service to more unhoused children and their families. We work to provide families a safe place to go with their children—not to get a handout, but rather a hand up, so that children will never have to sleep in cars, couch surf, or sleep on the streets.

OUR PROGRAMS

PROVIDING DIRECT SERVICE TO FAMILIES



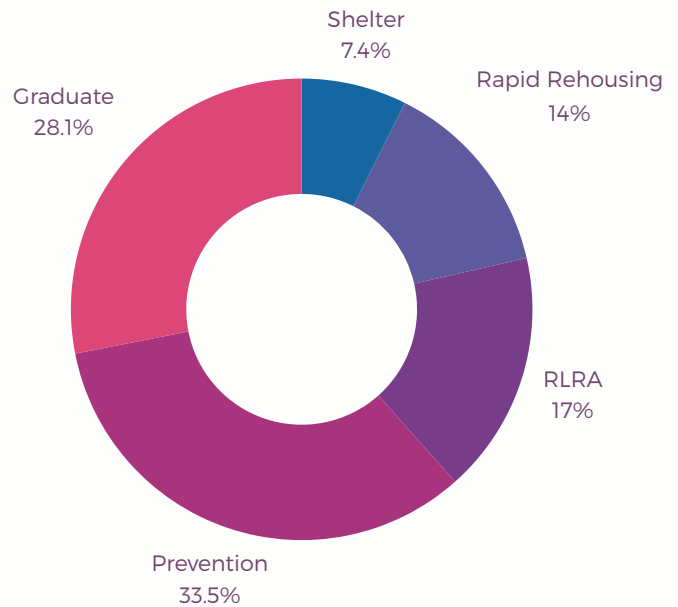
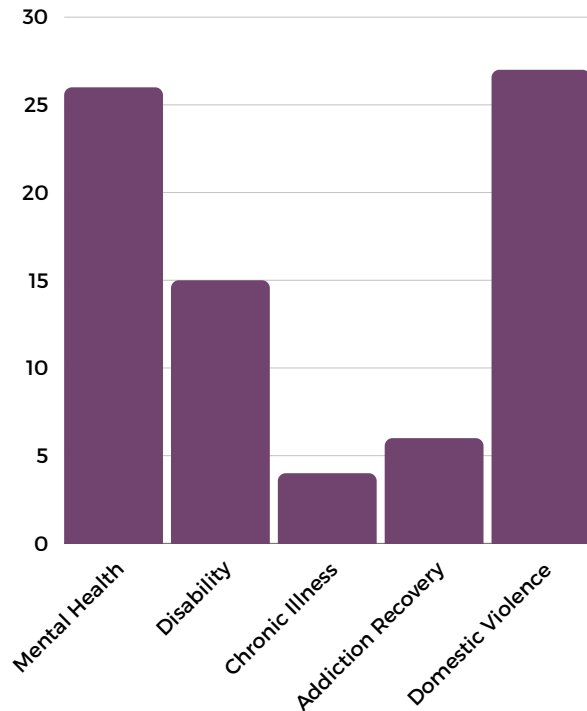
Program	Description
Prevention Services	We offer a variety of strategies to ensure families we serve do not fall into the cycle of housing instability which can devastate families and alter the course of children’s lives. These include our Beaverton Buddies Program, emergency hotel shelter, providing rental assistance, landlord mediation, and other community-based approaches.
Rapid Rehousing	Our Rapid Rehousing Program rapidly connects homeless families with various resources and case management to obtain permanent housing in the community. Families are eligible for up to 2 years.
Regional Long-Term Rental Assistance (RLRA)	Our Regional Long-Term Rental Assistance program provides assistance similar to other housing voucher programs. Homeless families who will need longer-term support (up to 10 years) for a variety of reasons, connect with various resources and case management to obtain permanent housing in the community.
Shelter Program	We operate two of our own shelter locations, one in Beaverton and one in Hillsboro. FPGWC is one of very few family shelters in Washington County. Our houses offer families a short-term (up to 3 months) safe place of respite to house and feed their kids while they get on their feet with the support of our case management staff.
Graduate Program	With the goal to not only get families in housing, but keep them in housing, our Graduate Program offers previous clients up to a year of ongoing support and case management to ensure they are set up for long-term success.



2023 BY THE NUMBERS

FPGWC 2023 DATA

During 2023, FPGWC served 114 families consisting of 400 individual parents and children in our various programs. Every family enrolled in our Shelter, Rapid Rehousing, RLRA, & Graduate Programs receives ongoing case management services, housing navigation, and assistance in addressing barriers to stable housing. In addition, we simultaneously work with many other families providing relief assistance through our Prevention Program to safeguard against becoming homeless in the first place..



BARRIERS TO HOUSING

The most significant barriers that our clients face to housing upon entry are ongoing health conditions, domestic violence, and financial instability. Many face a combination of these things at no fault of their own. This chart represents the number of our shelter and housing program clients in 2023 that faced these barriers. Our skilled case management professionals work with the clients to address these barriers long-term through helping connect them to relevant community resources, assistance programs, affordable healthcare, good paying stable job opportunities, affordable rental units, financial planning/education opportunities etc.

RITA'S STORY

SHELTER PROGRAM

SINGLE MOM FACING FAMILY LOSS

It's a situation many of us find ourselves in during sometime or another: Struggling to provide care for our children, our aging parents, and maintain stable employment that pays the bills.

In December 2022, Family Promise of Greater Washington County (FPGWC) received a referral for a client who had found herself in exactly these circumstances. Reta and her 16 year old daughter, Isabelle, were in need of shelter services at our Beaverton House. Prior to becoming homeless, Reta had been working full-time, Isabelle was attending high school with her peers, and they were living with Reta's aging mother, helping to care for her, pay the bills, and keep up the home. After a period of declining health and illness, Reta's mother passed away and with her went the ownership of the home in which they had all lived.

As Reta and Isabelle grieved the loss of their beloved mother and grandmother, they also faced the seemingly insurmountable reality that they were going to lose their home as well. Reta's name was not on the loan, there was no valid documentation identifying Reta as beneficiary, and they were not allowed to continue living there after her mother passed. With Reta unable to sustain full time work for a period of time due to caring for her mom, when they lost the home with no additional family or support in the area, they became homeless. It was at this point when Family Promise of Greater Washington County met Reta and Isabelle. They moved into the FPGWC Shelter in December and stayed as guests until March of 2023.



During this time, they were able to have their basic needs met (housing, utilities, & food) in addition to high quality case management services with our Case Managers at Family Promise of Greater Washington County while she got back on her feet. Reta was a helpful household member, often cleaning and cooking for all of the clients staying at the shelter. She was able to find another job, begin working toward her Bachelor's degree, have her car fixed, and even started her own taxi service on the side. Isabelle helped her mom around the house and continued going to school. Finally, Reta and Isabelle were able to find an apartment. FPGWC assisted with their security deposit, first month's rent, and utilities, to ensure a fresh and successful start in their new home.

Like most clients who come through our shelter program, this family's temporary circumstances were influenced by factors beyond their control. For them it was the loss of a family member, for others it may be job layoffs, domestic violence, or another form of family tragedy. It is in these moments when Family Promise of Greater Washington County steps in for a short period of time to help harness that family's unique strengths, help remove some of the barriers, and give a hand up to the families who need it.

RANDY & AMBER'S STORY

RAPID REHOUSING PROGRAM

Resilience and grit are two of the most important assets that our clients possess. Amber, Randy, and their two young children are the epitome of what it means to weather one storm after another and come out stronger on the other side.

Prior to experiencing homelessness, Randy became a single dad and widower when his previous partner tragically died giving birth to their infant son, Noah. After grieving the unimaginable loss and getting accustomed to life as a single dad, Randy met and fell in love with his current partner, Amber. Both Amber and Randy grew up in the foster care system with challenging family backgrounds, but between each other and young Noah they began to create a little family full of love and support.

For a period of time they lived with family, but after a while their living arrangement fell apart and the three of them became homeless, resorting to living out of Randy's pickup truck in the woods. By this time Amber was pregnant with their second son and unable to work. The family of three (with a fourth on the way) were referred to Family Promise of Greater Washington County (FPGWC) through our Rapid Rehousing Program, but after many empty promises from others, they were initially hesitant to trust our help. Our Case Managers worked tirelessly to build a positive and trusting relationship with them, advocating for the family at every turn. After a while, we were able to get them settled into a hotel for several weeks while we helped them search for apartments, mental health resources, prenatal care, and employment opportunities.



Finally, following two months of intensive searching and hard work by everyone involved, they were able to apply for, get accepted, and move into their new apartment just in time for the newest addition, baby Jasper, to be born.

Upon bringing their new baby boy home to a safe, clean, stable home, FPGWC staff worked together to surprise the new parents with all of their newborn essentials. Amber was able to focus on healing, Randy on securing employment and supporting the little family, and the whole bunch on settling into their new reality as a stably housed family of four that knows they can count on providing their next meal, access to healthcare, and other basic necessities. These days, the family's overall demeanor has totally shifted from when we first met them. They are able to be calm, clean, engaged, and use their resilience and grit to begin moving forward rather than simply making it through each day.

Our clients are some of the hardest working people we know. We are honored to be part of giving families like Randy and Amber's a chance to breathe; the opportunity to access resources, and a chance to build themselves a path forward.

LOOKING AHEAD

ORGANIZATIONAL
GOALS FOR 2024

JOURNEY TO 40

In 2024, FPGWC is committed to permanently and sustainably house 40 new families. Join us!

INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Project:** This project will refine organizational policies and procedures, strengthen programming, and increase FPGWC's financial sustainability through funding diversity.
- **Staff & Volunteers:** In 2024 we will increase staff capacity, volunteer support, and volunteer program expansion.
- **Hillsboro House Construction:** We are excited to progress in and ultimately complete our Hillsboro House renovation project in 2024!



Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| February | Valentines Giving Heart Fundraiser |
| April | Giving Day |
| October | Family Promise Week & Night Without a Bed Campaign |

SUPPORT OUR WORK

While the world seems to have gotten mostly back to normal over the last year or so, “normal” is still a very difficult time for children and families in need across Washington County—especially those currently experiencing homelessness. Currently, [current statistics about the unhoused situation nationally and in Washington County]. Your support enables Family Promise of Greater Washington County to continue to serve as a lifeline for families in crisis across our communities. In 2023 we have already helped more than 114 families through our various programs and are expecting need to grow in the year to come.

Our success is because of your commitment. Please send your most generous year-end gift today to help us with this work. Support our work helping families in need across Washington County with your gift today!

The work that we do at Family Promise of Greater Washington County has been life changing for hundreds of families this year. In 2023 we:

- Provided shelter services for 7 families with children
- Provided stable housing, rent relief, and case management to 44 families including a total of 91 children through our shelter and housing programs
- Provided intervention to 32 families at risk of losing housing or food instability
- Provided ongoing support for 38 families through our Graduate Program

With you by our side, we are providing crucial resources to children and families in crisis across Washington County.

You are a critical part of this work, and we need your continued support. Please send your most generous year-end gift today.

The need for the services and programming FPGWC provides will increase throughout 2024. Our success with families in need across Washington County is directly related to our ability to fund our programs.

Looking ahead to 2024, our staff and volunteers are laying the groundwork to:

- Increasing shelter capacity
- Improving practice in case management
- Establishing relationships with employers and community partners to better serve families in finding sustainable housing.
- Equipping families with the tools and resources to build long term self-sufficiency through life skills training.

We would love to continue to partner with you as we pursue our mission. I am humbled by your continued support, and I encourage you to make your donation today.

Best,

Lanndhese Talice
Executive Director



GET INVOLVED

● **Help a family move in**

● **Donate cans & bottles**

● **Volunteer at special events**

● **Join the shelter meal train**

● **Sponsor a family**

● **Participate in a fundraiser**

● **Teach a special skill**

● **Donate cash and gift cards**

● **Shelter cleanup**

● **Follow us on social media**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Community Leader

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Community Leader

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Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon Foundation

Interested in joining the board? Contact Lanndhese at Lanndhese@fpgwc.org

SPONSOR A FAMILY



\$100

Work Clothes
and
Back-to-School
essentials

\$25

Kitchen or bath
essentials for a
family of four.

\$50

A welcome gift
basket for
graduating families

\$250

Emergency
shelter and
case
management
for a night.

\$75

Two weeks worth of
diapers and formula
for babies & toddlers

Scan this QR code with your camera
to donate To family Promise



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS ARE THE BACKBONE TO ENDING FAMILY HOMELESSNESS.

All of the groups and organizations listed below have made a huge contribution in ending family homelessness through their partnership with Family Promise of Greater Washington County. These champions have taken the next step when getting involved as they have built bridges between their organizations and Family Promise families.

- Aloha 2nd Ward, Beaverton West, LDS Church
- Aloha United Methodist Church
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Aloha
- Calvary Lutheran Church – Hillsboro
- Cedar Hills United Church of Christ
- City of Beaverton
- David Hill Ward, Forest Grove, LDS Church
- Emanuel Lutheran Church – Cornelius
- Forest Grove United Church of Christ
- Forest Grove United Methodist Church
- Hillsboro First Congregational United Church of Christ
- Ikea
- Murray Hills Christian Church
- New Life Baptist Church – Hillsboro
- Orenco Presbyterian Church
- Parkside Fellowship
- Reedville Presbyterian Church
- Reedville Ward, Beaverton West, LDS Church
- St. Alexander Catholic Church – Cornelius
- St. Andrew Lutheran Church
- St. Cecilia Catholic Church
- St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Christian Church
- St. Juan Diego Catholic Church-Portland
- St. Pius School
- Sisters of St. Mary's of Oregon
- Southminster Presbyterian Church – Beaverton
- Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation
- Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Washington County
- Unitus Credit Union
- Westside Church of Christ – Beaverton
- Westside United Methodist Church



