



Building community, strengthening lives.

Family Promise of the Palouse is a non-profit organization that will help homeless families with children gain independence in both housing and other life activities.

Family Promise will join Sojourners Alliance, the Hope Center, Alternatives to Violence on the Palouse, Habitat for Humanity and other agencies to address many complex and underlying causes of poverty. Family Promise of the Palouse will serve Moscow, Pullman, and nearby locations.

This service will support homeless families with children who are facing short-term problems that would probably lead to longer-term poverty and more family dysfunction. Homeless children are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population in the United States. Family Promise's aim is to help families be strong and resilient so that children will thrive in a healthy setting. Many local agencies are on the front lines of poverty issues; no other area program assists families with children who have emergency housing needs... and keeps the family together during the time of distress.

Family Promise brings faith communities together to help families who are temporarily distressed due to job loss, unexpected health costs, domestic violence, or a car accident that eliminates transportation or access to a job. "Host congregations" and "partner congregations" will provide shelter, food, and fellowship while a small professional staff

(over)

will coordinate services and volunteers. Congregations will provide service approximately four times a year.

Homeless families with children who qualify for Family Promise must submit to an extensive application and screening process. Participating families must agree to a set of expectations that will lead to an independent and sustainable life. Typical Family Promise programs serve 25-30 families and 100-120 people a year. Approximately 77% of families who commit to Family Promise move into their own housing within 9 weeks. Sojourners Alliance staff report that 10-12 families a week seek shelter assistance.

More than 20 congregations in Moscow/Pullman have committed to Family Promise and our congregational recruitment process continues. Host congregations include:

#### Moscow

- First Presbyterian
- Emmanuel Lutheran
- Nazarene
- St. Mary's Catholic
- Trinity Baptist
- St. Augustine's Catholic

#### Pullman

- Living Faith Fellowship
- Trinity Lutheran
- Restoration Church
- Pullman Presbyterian
- Community Congregational United Church of Christ

Family Promise of the Palouse has an enthusiastic board of directors from Moscow and Pullman and representatives from Protestant, Catholic, LDS, and the Jewish faith communities. Board members include Mike Bowman, Monte Walker, Lindsey Rinehart, Melissa Jeffery, Jeff Helbling, Martin Buehler, Kathy Pitman, Kirby Daily, and Mandy Fowler. If you would like more information, please contact Bruce Pitman, board president, at 208-882-8847 or [kbpitman@roadrunner.com](mailto:kbpitman@roadrunner.com).





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