

Introducing Bill Nelson, President

Bill Nelson's smile is a window into the attitude with which he approaches the work of Family Promise. In July, Bill became the third president of Family Promise of Missoula. He brings enthusiasm and the expertise of a career in business, both in software and insurance, to the work of our organization.

Leaders in FPM first met Bill when he approached the Board of Directors about 18 months ago with the possibility of moving the Day Center to a property owned by First Lutheran Church. Those many months ago, it was apparent that Bill has a "heart for the homeless" and would be a good friend to Family Promise. The Day Center is now located at "The House of Grace," the property that the church wished to dedicate to the work of hospitality. It provides a comfortable space for guests and a worthy location for the staff office of Family Promise.

Bill grew up in Bozeman, lived for over 20 years in the Champagne, IL, area raising his family and working in a software company that he helped found. He and his family moved to Missoula 15 years ago where he pursued another career as the Executive Vice President of Operations for Western States Insurance Company. He is now retired but advises his Midwestern company, has served as President of the Board of First Lutheran Church and serves with his wife, Phyllis, in several different capacities in his congregation.

A "heart for the homeless" is the phrase with which Bill characterizes those who presently are Board members and those he visits with daily to promote our work. For a long time, he has been aware of his sister's work with a similar program, Pathfinders, in Reno, NV, and would participate when he visited her. Hearing about Family Promise in Missoula may have been an "aha" moment for Bill, thinking that he could contribute to such a program here.

A visit with Bill reveals great enthusiasm and many ideas for the financial stability and success of Family Promise of Missoula. We look forward to continuing the development of this significant mission of the religious congregations of Missoula with Bill Nelson's leadership. Welcome, Bill!

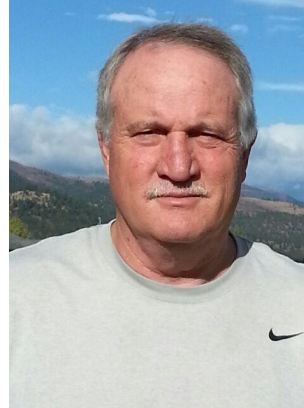
Fund Raising:

Over 80 Family Promise volunteers gathered at Blessed Trinity on Sept. 11, to celebrate their work together and to receive certificates honoring that work. It was a great evening of meeting one another, good food and sharing positive energy. It was the first such gathering since shortly after our opening in the summer of 2012.

The evening also became a small, spontaneous fundraiser as Terry Burke, past president, wrote the first \$50 check and challenged others to join him in order to meet an immediate shortfall. Over \$1,600 was raised during that dinner, reminding all of us once again of the tremendous generosity of the Missoula faith community that has made Family Promise a reality for all of us.

As we continue to move towards financial stability, plans are developing for "official" fundraisers to come. As was reported in the last issue of this newsletter, Family Promise funding comes first of all from the generosity of individual donors, secondly from the congregations who belong to the Family Promise network and thirdly from various grants. Currently, we are in line to receive the second of a three-year grant of \$15,000 from Oro y Plata, a Montana foundation. We have also received a grant of \$3400 from Garden City Funeral Homes. The Washington Foundation has also provided a three-year grant and we will be finishing that grant next calendar year.

The Board has begun to work toward the second annual golf fundraiser, planned again at the Ranch Club on May 21. Many individual congregations also host fundraisers through the year. Next month's newsletter will include specific highlights of these ongoing projects. Interested volunteers are always welcome to join the fundraising efforts of our organization. Please contact any Board member to express interest; members' names are available on the website, www.familypromisemissoula.net.



Host Congregations

- St. Paul Lutheran
- First United Methodist
- St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church
- Immanuel Lutheran
- St. Anthony Catholic Church
- University Congregational Church
- Grace United Methodist
- Atonement Lutheran
- Garden City Church
- Christ the King Catholic Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- Sovereign Hope Church

Support Congregations

- First Christian (Disciples of Christ)
- Har Shalom
- Blessed Trinity Catholic Community
- Missoula Friends (Quakers)
- St. Ann Catholic Church (Bonner)
- Our Savior's Lutheran (Bonner)
- Spirit of Peace
- Unitarian Universalist
- Missoula Seventh Day Adventist
- Missoula Stake of LDS Church
- Missoula Alliance
- Emmaus Campus Ministry
- Holy Spirit Episcopal

Beverly Guest

BSW Practicum Student at FPM

I have gained an understanding of the role of a social worker at Family Promise of Missoula (FPM) and have come to a better understanding of the meaning of professionalism. Carole and I identified tasks/ activities that I would complete relative to each of the suggested activities. I recorded daily activities or tasks that I completed on my own and that Carole assigned to me.

I was a case manager for Crystal Hernandez and Uziel (son) for the duration of her stay at FPM. She has accomplished goals that she had set for herself to move forward to positively sustaining her and Uziel. She has permanent housing, day care, and has enrolled at Missoula College in the nursing program, to name a few. I also interact with the other families at FPM on a daily basis and have observed a change in their lives (in many aspects) also towards improving their future. This has been an interesting, challenging, and priceless experience of what I will be facing as a social worker. This is the first-semester in my practicum at FPM and looking forward to the opportunity and challenges in my second-semester



Why I Volunteer

Last year, after having taught kindergarten for a number of years, I retired. During the same period of time, our beloved coordinator of Family Promise at St. Anthony Church, Barbara Marxer, reluctantly resigned her role due to health issues. Barbara's commitment to the program was inspirational. I couldn't refuse when she asked if I would help coordinate our program along with Maureen O'Malley and Peggy Korona. (It takes three of us to do what she did!)

As a former educator, I view my volunteer work with Family Promise work as an extension of my career working with children and families. As a teacher, I worked within the school system to support children in all areas of development. Each year I had children within my class who struggled academically and or emotionally. Often these children were from homes that were financially stressed and lacked stability. Although I now work as a volunteer, I feel that my involvement with Family Promise is every bit as valuable as when I was a paid professional. Whether I am preparing rooms for our guests, organizing volunteers, cooking a meal, acting as an evening or overnight host, I know that I can still make a difference in the lives of children.

The benefits of volunteering are rich. I carry many memories of the guests I have met and am humbled by the courage they show. I am in awe of the dedication of Carole and Glenn who work tirelessly for the program. I have new relationships with old friends and awesome volunteers from our parish. I look forward to making many more friends with new volunteers from St. Anthony and our partner parish, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. Needless to say, my role as a volunteer helps fill the luxurious days of retirement and provides me with continued fulfilling work for the good of families and the Missoula Community as a whole. Thank you Family Promise for the opportunity to be doing God's work.

Denise



The annual budget of any *Family Promise* affiliate reflects individual contributions, congregational contributions, proceeds from fund-raisers and grant receipts. *Family Promise of Missoula* reflects exactly the same configurations. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!