

Family Promise of Missoula  
<http://familypromisemissoula.net/>

Host Congregations

- ☺ St. Paul's 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 Congrega-  
tions
- ☺ First Christian (Disciples  
of Christ)
- ☺ Har Shalom
- ☺ Blessed Trinity
- ☺ Missoula Friends
- ☺ St. Ann's Catholic Church  
(Bonner)
- ☺ Our Savior's Lutheran (Bonner)
- ☺ Spirit of Peace
- ☺ Unitarian Universalist ☐  
Missoula Seventh  
Day Advent- ist
- ☺ Missoula Stake of LDS Church
- ☺ Missoula Alliance
- ☺ Emmaus Campus Ministry

*Save the date for the Third ANNUAL*

## No Room at the Inn



### A Festival of Crèches

#### Gala Opening

Friday, December 12, 6:00pm

#### Crèche Exhibit

Saturday and Sunday

December 13 and 14

11:30 am-4:00 pm

**Family Promise Makes WEEK  
magazine!!**

#### Charity of the week

For more than 25 years, **Family Promise** ([familypromise.org](http://familypromise.org)) has helped



low-income and homeless families achieve independence while targeting the underlying causes of poverty through advocacy and hands-on volunteer work. Its affiliated network of more than 160,000 volunteers in 41 states marshals local resources in order to provide meals and temporary shelter for homeless families as they work to get back on their feet. To date, Family Promise has served half a million people. One of its other programs, Family Mentoring, prevents homelessness by pairing at-risk families with trained advisers who provide both financial and family advice. After leaving the program, about 75 percent of clients are able to secure safe and affordable housing.

*Each charity we feature has earned a four-star overall rating from Charity Navigator, which rates not-for-profit organizations on the strength of their finances, their control of administrative and fundraising expenses, and the transparency of their operations. Four stars is the group's highest rating.*

THE WEEK June 6, 2014

page 36

Throughout the event, Fair Trade coffee and chocolate, goods from Diocese of Helena Guatemala mission, DeLaSalle Blackfeet School and raffle tickets for good and services from the Missoula community will be available.

### Blessed Trinity Catholic Community

**1475 Eaton St. ~ Missoula,  
MT**

**[www.blessedtrinitymissoula.org](http://www.blessedtrinitymissoula.org)**

#### SAVE THE DATE

Floridis Holiday Concert to Benefit Family Promise

John Floridis, a Montana talent who is a regular on Montana Public Radio, has generously offered his talents of voice and guitar again on behalf of Family Promise of Missoula. He will be presenting holiday music that is soothing, peaceful, and full of warmth on Dec. 21 at the First United Methodist Church in downtown Missoula. Starting at 7:00 p.m., this will be John's third holiday concert to benefit Family Promise of Missoula.

## From Glenn Combs, Family Coordinator:

Let me begin by saying, “thank you” to all of the volunteers, because without you we would not have one of the most successful programs in Missoula. You help homeless families with children to a stable life and restoring hope in their lives.

I looked back at the last sixteen families in the program. Four of those families did not finish our program. Out of the four families, I could only track one of the four families, a mother and daughter, and they were able to successfully find housing before they left the program. And now to the other twelve families.

Mother, daughter, and a son that was born while staying with us. The mother found a job and housing.

Mother, father and a son. The mother is now single with her son and has a full time job plus her own residence.

Mother, father, son, and two daughters. Both mother and father have jobs and own residence.

Mother and son, she is now working and they have their own residence.

Mother and a son and they have their own residence.

Mother, father, and a son who was born while residing with us. They also have permanent housing.

Mother, father, two sons and a daughter, they have permanent housing.

Mother and son. She has both a full time job and permanent housing.

Mother and daughter and they have permanent housing.

Mother two sons and (now volunteers for one of our churches as a host) has permanent employment and housing.

Mother, father and two sons. Both parents are employed and have permanent housing.

Mother, two daughters, one son and an unborn child. She is employed and is on the cusp for housing.

The four families that did not stay in the program had only a twenty five percent success rate. The families that stayed in the program had a seventy-five percent success rate. WOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Our families, despite all the hardships they face, are still able to accomplish things they need to become self sufficient even after losing all hope for the future. Many times this happens because they may not have been guided through life as children to learn how to handle hardships. But the hardest way of learning about life, is by “trial and error”. Some may have been abused sexually, mentally, and/or physically. Some of them have children that have gone through one or more of these issues and somehow they still keep going. In the time I have been involved with the Family Promise program, I have listened and heard all these things from various families. Through all this, they keep on going and pushing themselves. What I do is nothing compared to what these families have to do every day of their lives, because quitting is not an option.

When I started gathering up my thoughts about what we do, and what we’ve done in the last year, I was really amazed. I was amazed at all the generosity our volunteers and funders/donors have done for our community and families as a selfless act. I learned more about my faith in people, God, and what it means to help those without any expectations.. I do this not for myself ,I do this because this is what God wants of us. I use to go to church every Sunday and thought I was doing all the right things it took to be great in the eyes of God. Oh, how so wrong I was, it’s not only listening to his words but it is about living by his word.

## Thoughts From a Volunteer:

At the heart of every volunteer is some deep seated reason behind why they do what they do. I truly believe this, whether the person is aware of that reason or not is an entirely different story however. I was recently asked this question and realized that as much of a part of my life as volunteering has been, I’ve never really taken the time to truly ask myself why I do it.

I volunteer because I want to. I volunteer because I find incredible community amongst those I help and those I volunteer along side. I volunteer because there is so much to learn and so many perspectives to see this world through. I volunteer because I believe it’s my civil responsibility as a part of the human creation. I volunteer because every person counts. I volunteer because I want to be an agent of change. I volunteer because I can.

At the end of the day though I think the deepest rooted reason behind my volunteering is that I have been given so much in this world. So much more than I will ever fully understand, comprehend, or even deserve. Volunteering is one of the ways I’ve chosen to try and be responsible with the privilege I inevitably carry on a daily basis. So why do you volunteer?

Keenan Weatherford