



# Newsletter

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## Executive Director's Corner



*Cindy Wood*  
Executive Director

What do you want to be when you grow up? Well, let's come at this from another angle...What problem do you want to solve?

This question is more complicated, but the beauty of it is that it is mission focused. It leaves room for creativity and ingenuity as well! Thank you, Terry Gurno, for sharing this question in your Monday Mindset back in May.

I wanted to be a wife and mother when I grew up. I am very happy to be both. But my heart aches to connect with people and share hope. I don't do Family Promise because I want to be an Executive Director. Being an Executive Director is an avenue to strive to solve the problem of family homelessness. I do what I do because I want kids in crisis to be with their family. I want families to live in their own homes with confidence. I want to work with people of faith and groups to provide a simple way to transform lives.

I believe you want to make a difference in the lives of your community. I believe you have the resources to do this and I invite you to change the face of homelessness with me, our staff, our board and our congregations. No one can do it alone. It takes a community to raise a child. It takes a church to sustain a ministry. It takes all of Kootenai County to house homeless families.

Each week, a small group of committed individuals step up to support our mission of helping homeless families in crisis. In exchange for their efforts, they witness the appreciation of each guest family who receives this unconditional support during their time of extreme need. At the end of the day, you know you changed the world for these families, who will change the world for their families in return.

The average age of a homeless person in the U.S. is 9 years old.

SOURCE: [www.opendoormission.org/about-us/fast-facts/](http://www.opendoormission.org/about-us/fast-facts/)

Make this day the day you choose to change a life in your community? Contact Family Promise of North Idaho today and help us help you help others.

## **FAMILY PROMISE of North Idaho**

### **MAILING ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 3682  
Coeur d'Alene 83816

### **LOCATION**

501 E. Wallace Avenue  
Coeur d'Alene 83814

### **OFFICE HOURS**

9:00 am to 4:00 pm (M-F)

### **PHONE:**

208.777.4190

### **E-MAIL:**

[office@familypromiseni.org](mailto:office@familypromiseni.org)

**We're on the Web!**

*See us at:*

[www.familypromiseni.org](http://www.familypromiseni.org)

### **FPNI STAFF**

Cindy Wood

(Executive Director)

Stephanie Wood

(Program Coordinator)

Sandi Kroll

(Family Service Coordinator)

Romona Morris

(Volunteer Coordinator)



*Sandi Kroll*

*Family Services  
Manager*

## **FROM THE BOARD: President's Report**



*Teri Burch*

*Board President*

The FPNI board would like to welcome two new board members: Mary Ward and Peggy Miller. Mary is a retired United Methodist Minister with a variety of life experiences she brings to the board including roles as a PTA President, a Miss America pageant contestant and a member of an the Miss America USO Troop to Vietnam. She brings interests and skills in administration, policy development, personnel, grant writing, teaching and fundraising. Peggy Miller is owner of M&M Property Management LLC. She also has numerous life experiences that will be a gift to the FPNI board. She has been an office manager, administrative assistant, one of the founders and secretary/treasurer of Second Chance Pet Rescue, a leader in her church, and Worthy Grand Matron Idaho Jurisdiction of Easter Star. There is so much more to these women I am looking forward to knowing. We now have 11 board members but we are always taking applications for the future.

In July, we held a disc golf fundraiser at Corbin Park. FPNI earned \$353.00 and made new friends with the people who volunteered. Thank you to board members Mike Irwin and Evelyn Gaherty for heading this up.

The board is recreating a host church committee whose purpose will be to recruit new churches and support the churches in our network. Stephanie Wood will be the head of the committee.

FPNI is gathering a strategic planning committee to create a 5 year plan for Family Promise of North Idaho. Vice-President of the Board, Evelyn Gaherty is the chair. The initial meeting will be Tuesday, September 6 at 6 pm in the Allison Room at St. Luke's Episcopal Church 501 E. Wallace.

Keep in touch and let us know your thoughts and concerns and keep the board in your prayers. Feedback for the board can go through the staff or the Executive Officers of the board.

## **PRAISE REPORT**

When families are in crisis the last thing on their mind is adult education. Food, shelter and safety for their children are their immediate priorities. However, education many times is the key to lifting our families up and providing long term sustainability. During the first case meeting with a family, I ask the adults about their goals for the program and future goals for the next year and five years. Very rarely does completing or furthering their education factor into these goals, but getting a job or getting a


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# FEATURED EVENT

Family Promise  
of North Idaho

Cardboard Box City 2016

Sleep in a cardboard box for ONE Night



For those who sleep in one ever night.

Help End  
Homelessness

Enter drawing to  
win a  
Turbo Runner  
Drone

## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Cardboard Box City

FPNI’s Annual Cardboard Box City takes place on Friday Evening October 7 at the Community United Methodist Church 1470 W. Hanley Coeur d’Alene Idaho 83815. This is an overnight family friendly fundraiser and homeless awareness event.

To register, pick up a packet at the FPNI Day Center at 501 E. Wallace in Coeur d’Alene or download the forms from our webpage [www.familypromiseni.org](http://www.familypromiseni.org). Participants collect donations from family and friends in exchange for the privilege of sleeping in a cardboard box for one night. The event raises awareness of homelessness and supports the homeless children and their families who are guests of FPNI. Each group or individual participant will build a shelter from cardboard boxes they have collected. Prizes will be award-

ed for: most durable; most creative; people’s choice; and best overall. Prizes will also be awarded for most donations by an individual and most donations by a group. *Suggested* donations begin at \$125.00 per participant.

This year participants can be eligible to win one of four Turbo Runner Drones by registering early and by checking in. Participants must be there to win. Participants also will enjoy fire pits and s’mores; continental breakfast on Saturday; CBC t-shirts; and swag bags.

Sponsors will be recognized with a real street sign with their name as part of the city.

For a donation, the community is invited to come and visit cardboard box city Friday at 6:00pm. They are welcome to vote for their favorite house; have soup, homemade bread, and dessert, listen to music and purchase a cardboard box city t-shirt.

## OUR MISSION

The mission of Family Promise is to help homeless families with children achieve a sustainable independence through a community based response. You can be a part of that community based response by helping during a Kaleidoscope week. Kaleidoscope is when a network church with a small congregation needs help with meals, dinner hosting, and overnight hosting. Please contact Stephanie Wood at 777-4190 if you want to be a part of this outreach.

FPNI Board of Trustees					
Teri Burch	President	Bruce Berry	Member	Mike Irwin	Member
Evelyn Gahrety	Vice President	Melody Forsmann	Member	Kellie Peterson	Member
Andy Paroni	Secretary	Lindsey Hertwick	Member		
Kevin Garasky	Treasurer				

## INTRODUCING STEPHANIE WOOD



Stephani Wood, Program Coordinator

Stephanie joined Family Promise of North Idaho in October 2015 as the Program Coordinator. For the past 5 years Stephanie and her 2 boys have enjoyed serving as Family Promise overnight support volunteers. Stephanie has experienced firsthand the positive difference a homemade meal, welcoming host church, and friendly face can make to a family in need. And this keeps her coming back.

Prior to joining Family Promise, Stephanie focused her career in the non-profit arena in Fund and Program Development. More recently with Christian-Based Partners International, American Heart Assoc., St Jude Children's Research Hospital. "I have learned the best way to touch a life is to get involved. It is so satisfying to partner with dedicated church coordinators, volunteers, churches and our guest families"

We invite you to join our efforts at Family Promise please contact Stephanie to learn ways to help a family in need. Stephanie can be reached at 755.5142 or at [office@familypromiseni.org](mailto:office@familypromiseni.org).

## PRAISE REPORT *(continued)*

better job is always high on their list. I typically use the "job" discussion as a launch pad to explore what our guests would like to be doing for a career and what tools (education) are needed to achieve their goal.

Well, I am happy to report that these goal planning sessions have been encouraging several of our recent guests to focus on their education. A young woman who recently graduated from the program worked extremely hard during her time with FPNI and achieved her GED. Over a six-week period she tackled classes at NIC, waded through piles of homework and review textbooks and took a series of pretests and full exams all while staying in our shelter. This very talented and dedicated young woman plans to attend NIC in the winter to pursue a degree in graphic arts. Another past guest contacted us to share that the confidence she gained while in our shelter from staff and volunteer support gave her the motivation to study for and pass the first of two exams required to regain her CNA license, which had lapsed many years ago during a time of stress and struggle. Lastly one of the children in our program is heading off to her first year of college at NIC this fall to pursue a degree in education. While this bright young lady has received many scholarships to make attending college possible, without the support and assistance the FPNI network has provided, and will continue to provide her family, this major step forward in her life might have been put on hold while her family seeks a more sustainable future.

We don't always see the ways in which we touch the lives of our guest families, but with these three amazing ladies, I am confident that the educational opportunities they were able to pursue and achieve because of Family Promise of North Idaho will have a positive lifelong impact.