

Swinging at Curve Balls

- Brian Johnson, Executive Director



Sports has never been my thing. I made baskets in the wrong hoop, finished last, and always played right field. Just me and the dandelions. I thought I left baseball behind, but the families we serve constantly throw me curve balls.

Some surprises frustrate me like striking out:

- Linda started getting a little more child support... only to lose the child care assistance that enables her to keep a full time job.
- John got himself arrested after qualifying with his family for our program (and so didn't enter).

Some surprises break my heart like a dropped fly ball:

- Taking her child with her, Leah escaped an abusive dad only to be raped by another relative.
- Anna called again. Her mental health has deteriorated since the last time we talked.

Some surprises make my blood boil like a bad call:

- Erica's landlord had her paychecks deposited directly into his account.
- Jeff missed a day of work to care for a sick kid and lost his job.

And some surprises show me how to hit home runs:

- Becky and Chad got focused and landed great jobs, making more than my household income!
- Knowing I had a tough day, Richard appeared in my office door just to cheer me up (see picture).
- Tiffany, who graduated, is back. To volunteer.



Neither you nor I can control outcomes. God is running the scoreboard. But the old movie cliché is true. We have built it and they are coming. Thanks for picking me for this winning team, Family Promise.

Richard, our guest and one of the best dads I've ever met, being a "screwball" to cheer us up on a tough day.

Taking the Field

- Joan Higgins-Smith, Board of Directors

We are pleased to announce that St. Mary's Catholic Community has joined the Family Promise team, our 29th congregation! Rev. Richard Francesco tells us the parish "is joyful and energized to be part of Family Promise. We eagerly anticipate the arrival of guests who will make their home here; we have lifted them up in prayer as we have been busy making preparations for them. Our faith family is grateful for the assistance and counsel offered by Family Promise and its member communities. We anticipate a bright future of service and hospitality in fulfilling our mission as a people of faith." Welcome to the lineup!



Katie, age 9, is a very creative current guest.

Score Board

- Susan Duncan, Family Advocate

- ☆ **14** - months open
- ☆ **29** - local congregations participating
- ☆ **712** - trained volunteers
- ☆ **10** - guest families served
- ☆ **7** - successful family graduations
- ☆ **2.5 FTE**: Director, Driver, Family Advocate
- ☆ **6** - number of current guests aged 9-17
- ☆ **2** - Day Center bathrooms (up from 3/4)
- ☆ **2,196** - total shelter nights since opening

Volunteers: A Deep Bench

- Marcia Armstrong, Board President

Family Promise produces many things: temporary homes for families, interfaith collaboration, community advocacy for what our guests need, life skills training, long-term stability, and an environment to live out one's faith, to name just a few. We could do none of this without our volunteers. Currently, there are over 700 trained volunteers from 29 distinct religious congregations serving our guest families. And they bring more than dinner and clean sheets. Our volunteers share hope through the simple gifts of home-cooked meals and their presence. A special subset of our impressive volunteer team are the Volunteer Coordinators (VCs). These leaders (numbering 74 and growing!) take care of the details at each host site and partner congregation. To use a corporate analogy, our entire middle management staff volunteers their time. Show me another enterprise with a more committed team! All VCs share one qualification: a servant's heart. Please, seek them out in your congregation and thank them. Better yet, say "yes" when they call.



Volunteer Appreciation Night

Helena Brewers Home Game
August 21st 7 pm



Limited supply of free tickets,
unlimited supply of discounted
tickets. Call Brian at 465-9467.

All this giving adds up. Fully two thirds of our actual operating expenses are covered by volunteers who donate time, food, and congregations that donate space. I encourage you to consider sharing some of your time and talent. Be warned: you'll want to

keep doing it. Volunteer training sessions, led by our dynamic Director, Brian, are fun, fast-paced and informative. For upcoming trainings, check out our website www.familypromisehelena.org or call 465-9467.

As a small, but heartfelt, gesture of thanks from the Board of Directors to our volunteers, please join us for a Brewers game. We'll throw out the first pitch, root for the home team together, and, no matter how the game turns out, celebrate our winning team.

Home Run!

- Julie Flynn, Treasurer

It costs \$321 per day for us to meet our mission: sustainable independence for families in a homeless situation. Thank you so much to all of you who have sponsored a day of Family Promise operations through your contribution of \$321. If you would like to sponsor a day - a special birthday, anniversary, memorial, or just because - return your \$321 in the enclosed envelope and be sure to mark in the memo line what special day you want to sponsor.

321 Donors for 2012

Art and Bonnie Howell
Corrie Johnson
Curt & Mary Larsen
Dan and Marcy McLean
Daniel Jacques
Dwight & Joann Chambers
Episcopal Church Women
Episcopal Diocese, Montana
Eric Stimson

Jane Phillips
Jesse and Ruth Long
Jim & Marianne Flynn
Julie Flynn & Kyle Strode
Kevin & Lisa Mathews
Mike and Deb Lee
Mike DaSilva
Mike Denison & Sue O'Connell
Paul and Marie Stark

Ralph and Linda Nelson
Rick Pyfer
Sacred Heart League
Steve and Jackie Brehe
Su Debree
Tom and Mary Honzel
United Methodist Women
Valley Bank
Jack Ryan

The Line Up



President
Marcia Armstrong

Vice President
Randl Ockey

Treasurer
Julie Flynn

Secretary
Kathy Bushnell

Past President
Mary Larsen

Officers
Rev. Lon Bechtel
Pastor John Clark
Kelsi Gleason
Joan Higgins-Smith
Tom Hopgood



*Susan Duncan, our Family Advocate,
who joined the team June 1st, 2012.*

Executive Director
Brian Johnson
Transportation Coordinator
Jesse Garcia
Family Advocate
Susan Duncan

Are You a State Employee?
Our Charitable Giving
Campaign code is #3758.
We are proud to be a
United Way Agency!



Safe at Home

- Mary Larsen, Past President

In the last five years the entire Helena community has shown exceeding generosity in bringing Family Promise to life. A special group of donors, contractors, and volunteers helped us make our Day Center an inviting space for families, a place that communicates respect and dignity. Family Promise is safe at home in our Day Center for a long time to come. Thank you to everyone who has made our Day Center dreams a reality.

- ☆ AAA Travel
- ☆ American Federal Savings Bank
- ☆ B&C Cabinets, Bill & Cindy Schull
- ☆ Bardell Mangum
- ☆ Blair Krum
- ☆ Blue Cross Blue Shield Employees
- ☆ Bob Oldenberg
- ☆ Cathedral of St. Helena
- ☆ Columbia Paint
- ☆ Craig Linke
- ☆ Crescent Electric
- ☆ David Tillo Plumbing
- ☆ Debbie Esposito
- ☆ East Helena Rental, Patti Scott
- ☆ EEE Builders, Don Eblen
- ☆ Eileen Gallagher, Interior Design
- ☆ Electrical Solutions, Joe White
- ☆ Elkhorn Drywall, Peter Schmidt
- ☆ Finstad Flooring, Greg Gardner
- ☆ First Christian Church
- ☆ First Presbyterian Church
- ☆ Headwaters Covenant Church
- ☆ Helen Wirth, Home Staging
- ☆ Life Covenant Church
- ☆ Marykay Linke
- ☆ Moore Appraisal Firm
- ☆ Our Redeemers Lutheran Church
- ☆ Pro Build, Tim Roth
- ☆ St. Paul's UMC
- ☆ The Home Depot
- ☆ Treacy Foundation
- ☆ Tup Swaim

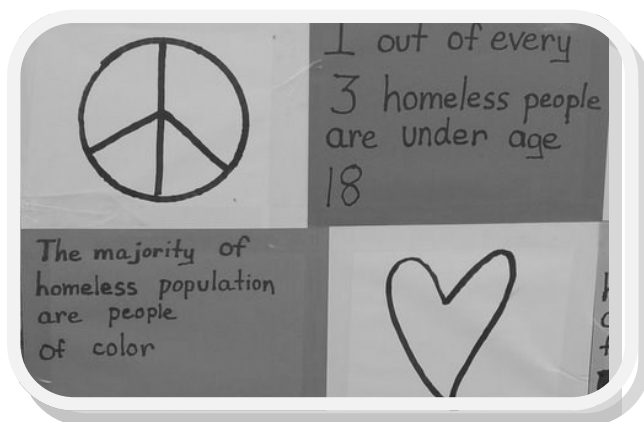


Katie, age 9, our resident artist at work in her "studio" - also known as our Day Center play and nap room.

Tent & Cardboard City

- Jeri Moon, Resource Committee

*Would you give up your bed for one night?
If doing so could change a life?
What if it could change yours?*



Survey results show that over the past six years an average of 387 people in Helena have been identified during the annual homeless survey. However, 2011 for Helena was higher than the average with 485 people identified. Not everyone identified by the survey sleeps outside, but many are at high risk of losing their homes, are doubled or tripled up in tiny apartments, living in their cars or in other unsuitable places.

What is that like? To live right... on... the ... edge...

On Friday September 14th, 2012 Memorial Park in Helena will become home to Cardboard & Tent City - a one night youth and family event to raise money and awareness for Family Promise.

Single participants will raise a minimum of \$50; families will raise \$75. They'll be asking family, friends, and congregations to sponsor their night at Cardboard & Tent City. All money raised supports the work of Family Promise of Greater Helena.

The experience includes dinner, breakfast, inspirational speakers, music, educational activities, fun, and fellowship. See you at the park!

YOU'RE INVITED
Tent & Cardboard City
Memorial Park
Sept. 14-15

www.familypromisehelena.org/tent_city
465-9467



Family Promise®
of Greater Helena

PO Box 939
Helena, MT 59624

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Helena, MT 59601
Permit #221



«AddressBlock»

Tent & Cardboard City Memorial Park

September 14-15 2012

A night outside to simulate urban homelessness. Educational with fun & games, too! Raises money for homeless families in Helena. Come join us!

www.familypromisehelena.org/tent_city
465-9467



Family Promise®
of Greater Helena

Our community comes alongside families in a homeless situation until they can regain sustainable independence. Your generosity goes a long way!

- ☆ \$ 321 pays for one day of operation
- ☆ \$ 100 fuels the agency van for 2 weeks
- ☆ \$ 40 gives a guest phone access for a month
- ☆ \$ 10 washes a car load of dirty laundry

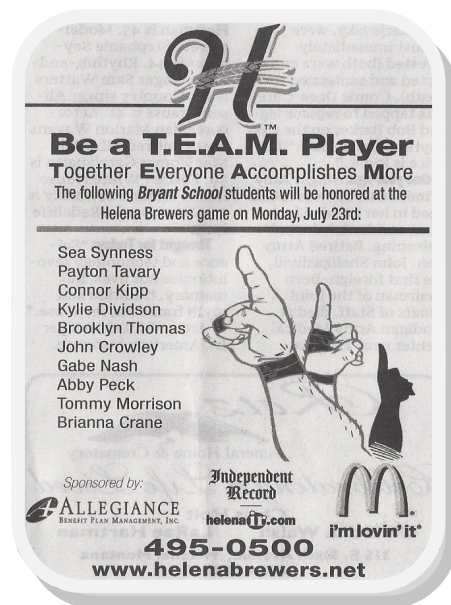
**Donate
Now**

www.familypromisehelena.org

Join Our Mailing List

Like us on
Facebook

Great Parents with Great Kids



One of our current guests, Tommy, was recently honored for being a T.E.A.M. player at his school. What a kid!