

2009 Board of Directors

Ray Ross, President
Retired Air Force Officer
13750 Lone Bear Rd.
Bozeman, MT 59715
586-7208; 600-8367
3rd year - 1st term

Roxanne Klingensmith, Past President
Clergy, St. James Episcopal Church
5 West Olive
586-9093 x3 (work)
580-4748 (cell)
3rd year – 2nd term

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Owner, Fifth Street Design
65 West Kimberly Court
Bozeman, MT 59718-9182
586-2341; 510-414-8035
2nd year – 2nd term

Buzz Tarlow, Secretary
Attorney, Tarlow, Stonecipher & Steele
PLLC
1705 W. College St.
Bozeman, MT 59715
587-5160 (home)
586-9715 (work)
1st year - 1st term

Bruce Gerlach, Treasurer
Executive Vice President, First Security
Bank
2435 Fairway Drive
Bozeman, MT 59715
624-6297 (home)
585-3915 (work)
3rd year – 2nd term

Marcella Babineaux
Office Manager,
16 Lancelot Lane
Bozeman, MT 59718
451-9998
3rd year - 1st term

Aimee Gerharter
Owner, Wild Joe's Coffee
18 West Main
Bozeman, MT 59715
586-1212
3rd year - 1st term

Orville Erlenbush
ERA Landmark Real Estate
1805 West Dickerson #1
Bozeman, MT 59715
586-1321
3rd year - 1st term

Mission

To provide shelter for homeless families with children in the Gallatin Valley, while assisting them to find and implement lasting solutions to their unique situations.

Family Promise of Gallatin Valley Host Churches

Bozeman United Methodist Church
Christ the King Lutheran Church
Church of Christ
First Baptist Church of Bozeman
First Lutheran Church
First Presbyterian Church
Hope Lutheran Church
Mt. Ellis Seventh Day Adventist Church (at Mt. Ellis and at 1st Presbyterian)
Pilgrim Congregational Church
St. James Episcopal Church

Family Promise of Gallatin Valley Partner Churches

Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints (Belgrade Ward)
Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints (Bozeman Ward)
Congregation Beth Shalom
Holy Rosary Catholic Church
Journey Church
Mt. Ellis Seventh Day Adventist Church
Peace Lutheran Church (Belgrade)
Saint Anthony Orthodox Church
Society of Friends
Unitarian Universalists Fellowship

Family Promise of Gallatin Valley Staff

Executive Director: Gloria Edwards
Family Case Manager: Donna Krause
VISTA Volunteer Development Coordinator: Bridget Pitman
Sunday Coordinator: Larry King
Saturday Campus Corps Volunteer: Sarah Sproul

2009 Goals and Accomplishments

- ❖ Provided shelter and opportunities to 54 people. This included 13 separate families, 37 children and 17 adults. We hosted 6 babies 0-2 years, 5 preschoolers 3-5 years, 21 children ages 6-12 and 5 teens.
- ❖ 10 Host Congregations and 10 Partner Congregations are active participants. All congregations have at least 1 skilled volunteer coordinator and have actively recruited and organized volunteers to help provide 24 hour services.
- ❖ 850 volunteers completed the 3 hour Family Promise training necessary before providing direct guest services.
- ❖ These volunteers contributed 10,120 hours of direct service! Over 300 days of home-cooked dinners, healthy breakfasts and sack lunches were provided to our guests.
- ❖ The Family Day Center at 209 South Tracy is full of warm, comfortable furnishings, and is a safe haven for families during the day and on the weekends. It is professionally staffed 6 days a week from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. and open from 10 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on Saturdays.
- ❖ A full-time Family Case Manager was hired in November 2007. Both the Executive Director and Family Case Manager are experience professional social workers. Together they assisted families in regaining their independence. Of the 11 families who left the program, 7 secured permanent housing – a 64% success rate overall, and an 86% success rate for those who completed the program.
- ❖ Social service agencies are aware of Family Promise and making appropriate referrals to our agency. We are actively working together to coordinate service delivery and not duplicate services.
- ❖ A local continuum of care is working together monthly to address homelessness In the Gallatin Valley. Family Promise of Gallatin Valley has taken a leading role in this team effort, and our VISTA volunteer will serve as the coordinator in 2009.
- ❖ The population at large has an increasing awareness of homelessness in the Gallatin Valley. Over 30% of Family Promise's funding is from local individual contributors.

Family Promise of Gallatin Valley, Inc. Program Results

All of the families entering our services were homeless, even though 4 of the 13 families had employment upon entering Family Promise of Gallatin Valley. 17 adults and 37 children, including 11 children ages five and under, were served. 10 of the 13 families served were from Gallatin County and many had attended high school here. 38 of our guests were Caucasian, 7 were Native American, 7 were Latino and 2 were of mixed descent. The average length of stay was 49 days. During this stay, all of the guests were required to secure employment and save an average of 80% of their earnings. This savings was then used for down payments on housing and utility costs. No one was on public assistance upon exiting the program. Of the 11 families who left the program, 7 families secured permanent housing at exit. Three families chose not to stay with the program, and one single mother with a toddler and pregnant, decided living with friends was her best option.

Family Promise of Gallatin Valley was blessed with a full-time Volunteer in Service To America (VISTA) volunteer, who served as a Volunteer Development Coordinator. Accomplishments of this position included the following: formalized communication and meetings with Volunteer Coordinators, developed specialized volunteers including a core group of Saturday and Transportation Volunteers, instituted regular monthly training sessions, helped plan fundraisers, and developed relationships with the University community.

As a non-profit organization, Family Promise of Gallatin Valley has taken a leading role in the local continuum of care. This team includes many service providers and meets monthly to address homelessness in the Gallatin Valley. The first Project Homeless Connect was held July 12th and served 98 homeless consumers (54 family members in 17 families and 44 individuals). Services provided included dental care, health check-ups, immunizations, haircuts, food and entertainment, and information about local services. 83 community volunteers participated and our VISTA volunteer served as the lead organizer for the event. All services were free and were held at the First Presbyterian Church, our latest church to enlist as a host.

Our community has an increasing awareness of Family Promise and of homelessness in the Gallatin Valley, evidenced by over 30% of our funding coming from local individual contributors. Our second annual Cardboard Box City held in September drew over 100 participants and raised over \$12,000. Supportive major articles have appeared in our local media and there is increasing interest in homeless services in the tough economic times we find ourselves in.

Looking Toward the Future

Although we have been highly successful in our first 3 years of operations, the future holds many challenges. Bozeman continues to have the highest cost of living in the state of Montana; construction jobs have diminished; finding any job has become difficult; wages have lowered at fast food restaurants and for other unskilled labor; transitional housing is almost nonexistent, and social services are seeing demand for services at an all time high. With the economy at the worst point since the depression, the need for continued and expanding services for homeless families is vital.

Family Promise of Gallatin Valley is dedicated to our mission of providing shelter to homeless families with children and assisting them to develop and implement lasting solutions to their unique situations. We are constantly seeking to improve guest services. We now have a full-time family case manager on staff who not only helps the family attain their goals of employment and permanent housing, but is also available for follow-up services once the family leaves the program. Because of this level of commitment from staff and volunteers, two of our past guests have completed our training and are now volunteering to help other homeless families!

Other goals include expanding our hosts congregations from ten to twelve, and expanding our partner congregations from ten to thirteen or more. This will prevent burn-out of present congregations and ensure their continuing participation. A second pastor appreciation luncheon will be held to improve communication and express our gratitude to participating congregations.

A third full-time VISTA Volunteer was secured and is continuing the volunteer development activities. Additionally, she is actively involved in the local Continuum of Care and is working earnestly to coordinate local service delivery including a second "Project Homeless Connect" event for all homeless persons in our community. Working together, service providers can address long-standing obstacles (e.g. lack of transitional housing) and generate possible solutions.

Additionally, the Cardboard Box City has become an annual event and efforts at fundraising will be enhanced in the future. Due to the generosity of St. James Episcopal Church, the building we are using as a Family Day Center continues rent-free until November 2009. In many ways we have already outgrown this facility and look at this timely challenge as a unique opportunity for growth.

Our goals and challenges at Family Promise of Gallatin Valley are far-reaching: so is our commitment to assisting homeless families with children. Through the dedication of volunteers, staff, congregations and others, the mission of Family Promise of Gallatin Valley will be realized, and we will be able to end homelessness one family at a time.

Your help – your donation - is crucial to keep Family Promise helping our homeless families.