



Helping Families Transition from Homelessness to Sustainability.



**Family Promise Graduates
The Mogavero Family**

Family Promise is North Idaho's (www.familypromiseni.org) premier organization helping families stay together while escaping the cycles of homelessness. Guest families that are enrolled in the Family Promise program usually spend between 12 and 28 weeks being coached, trained, supported and loved as they gather all the skills and resources necessary to transition to permanent housing and sustainable living. In the mean time they stay at churches throughout Kootenai County, staying with each congregation for a week at a time. There are no shelters, outside of Family Promise, available in the inland northwest that allow families to stay together as they transition away from homelessness. Without family promise adult men, teen boys, and women and young children all have to be housed separately.

Pastor Erickson's Family and Family Promise

One of the Pastor Matt Erickson three daughters' favorite things about being a part of the Church is that they get to help host with Family Promise. Whenever they get the opportunity, Pastor Matt and the entire Erickson Family has relished the chance to eat dinner alongside, enjoy deep conversations with, and of course play with families that are experiencing transformation as their lives move from homelessness to sustainability. Kids can easily imagine how hard it is for families to not have a home of their own and the Erickson girls find it easy to pray for the families they meet through family promise. More than that, they just love the chance to get to have fun playing with new friends. As a host family the Ericksons are responsible primarily for helping doors get unlocked and locked, helping with some basic serving and clean-up, and just being present with the gift of hospitality. For adults the hardest part is spending the night sleeping at the church on "roll-a-way" cots but of course for kids this is just part of the adventure and it feels like a sleep-over. Each guest family and the hosts get their own room to sleep in, but there is something deeply spiritual about sharing the same sleeping arrangements with a family that is homeless, even for just one night. It is an act of solidarity, and act of humility, an opportunity to grow. As a disciple of Jesus, Pastor Matt finds that the opportunities provided by serving as a Family Promise Host provide chances to grow spiritually in ways he never imagined. Whether you are a family with children, empty nesters, retirees, or even a single person you have the opportunity to experience the same growth. Family promise is a chance to be used by God to help others, but more than that it is a chance to let God change you.

Family Promise Sunday at Calvary Lutheran

What: Special Guests from Family Promise join us for Worship

When: November 15th - 9:00 a.m: Special Worship - 10:30 a.m: Host Training

Who: Please invite your friends and neighbors that are passionate about caring for families in need to join us for this special worship service.

Bring: New or gently-used twin sheet sets or twin sized blankets and comforters will be collected as part of a special offering.

Roles You Can Play when Calvary Hosts

Evening Hosts: Evening Hosts serve from 5:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. They unlock the building, help the guests set-up and serve dinner, eat dinner with the guests, and provide general hospitality. There are always two adults partnered for this role, children are welcome. **Host training is required.**

Overnight Hosts: Overnight Hosts serve from 8:00 p.m. to 7:15 a.m. the next morning. Two adults who are comfortable sharing a single private room partner together in this role and children are more than welcome. Overnight Hosts help make sure the building is secure at night and provide general hospitality. Kids love serving in this role and it is not uncommon for the same volunteers to serve as both Evening and Overnight Hosts on the same night, especially with kids, as it provides the most opportunity to interact with the guests and their children. **Host training is required.**

Set-Up & Clean-Up Crew: These folks help move the furniture and get the rooms set up for the guests. This takes both a somewhat physically able body and an eye towards hospitality. These roles take place either on Sunday afternoon or at 7:00 on Sunday Morning. This role does not involve directly interacting with guests so no host training is required.

Meal Cooks: Meal cooks prepare a full dinner for the guests and the hosts (up to 20 people), and drop the meal off at Calvary Lutheran Church the day that it will be served. Cooks are provided with any allergy information and the exact numbers of guests and there is some coordination done to make sure guests don't end up eating the same meal multiple nights in a row. This role does not involve directly interacting with guests so no host training is required.

Lunch, Breakfast, & Baby Shoppers: Families are able to move more quickly out of homelessness because we provide all their needs. Each hosting week we ask folks to help purchase lunch supplies, breakfast supplies, diapers and other baby necessities for the guest families. This role does not involve directly interacting with guests so no host training is required. We try to evenly divide these shopping responsibilities.

November 15th You Can Make a Big Difference

1. **Bring** a set of new or gently-used twin sheets (flat sheet, fitted sheet, & pillow case) that we can use repeatedly at Calvary every time we host Family Promise.
2. **Bring** a new or gently used twin sized comforter or blanket that we can use repeatedly at Calvary every time we host Family Promise.
3. **Get trained** to become a Family Promise host by attending the training session from 10:30 to 12:00 on November 15th. (Childcare will be available during this entire time.)
4. **Sign up** to be an Evening Host, Overnight Host, Meal Provider, Set-Up Crew, or Take-Down Crew volunteer during one of the four weeks that we hosting guests over the next 14 months.
5. **Give** a special financial gift to help us with some of the other costs associated with preparing to host families regularly in our building.

Our first opportunity to host at Calvary will be Nov. 29 – Dec. 6