

Family Promise of Albany County Spring 2018 Newsletter

Celebrating Success

Thank You for your interest in Family Promise of Albany County! As part of our efforts to communicate program updates and acknowledge our volunteers and other contributors, each month you should receive either a brief email update or our quarterly newsletter. More frequent updates are also posted on our Facebook page at facebook.com/familypromisealbanycountry (Facebook membership not required to view this site) and on our website at familypromiseofalbanycountry.org (particularly the "News & Events" section).

Trattoria Promessa

This was our first time planning and carrying out a fundraiser dinner, and we are very pleased with the results! Our tickets sold out five days before the event, and we raised about \$8,000 after expenses. Feedback has been positive, with guests enjoying the variety of musical entertainment, the classy and attractive silent auction, and the beautiful and eclectic table decorations.

We would like to highlight our key donors here:

The Eppson Center donated the event space.

Mike and Cathy Harokopis donated half of the wine.

Nancy Lick covered a wide variety of costs totaling over \$1,000.

Nicholas and Tangeman contributed funds that covered newspaper advertising and printing costs.

The Still donated half the wine and staffing and helped us attain a license to serve wine.

For more details, please read our blog post from February 13, which can be found in the "News and Events" section of our website.

We plan to repeat this even next year, likely at the Alice Hardy Stevens Center following its renovations. Stay tuned!



From left: Crystal DeBoer, Americorps VISTA member
Ava O'Hollearn, Executive Director

#GivingTuesday Campaign

In November of 2017, we ran a "Help Us Launch!" campaign in conjunction with the international #GivingTuesday day of generosity, held the Tuesday following Thanksgiving. Donors responded enthusiastically, contributing nearly \$16,000 between online and mailed donations. This surpassed our ambitious goal of \$15,000. We will repeat this effort in 2018, so look for our notices as we draw near to this year's #GivingTuesday on November 27.

Day Center Update

- Located within the United Presbyterian Church, 215 S. 11th St.
- Marshall Contracting renovated the space, with everything completed on March 23!
- Renovations included forming a family bathroom with large shower and converting a classroom into two offices and a conference/education area
- **Save the date!** Ribbon-cutting and Open House on Saturday, April 28th. Open to the Community!



Left: Ava stands in her soon-to-be office.
Right: A view of the future shower (this wall is now closed off)

Women of Courage Quilt Raffle



We are greatly indebted to Kathleen Bertoncelj and Linda Dunlap, who donated an exquisite and meaningful quilt to FPAC. Kathleen pieced the quilt over the course of a year, and Linda completed the quilting on a long arm machine. This Women of Courage quilt celebrates 15 notable women in history. It is 98 by 98 inches and is currently on display at First Interstate Bank in downtown Laramie, where tickets are available for purchase. Stay tuned for the next display locale! The drawing will be held during **National Family Promise Week**, which is **October 21-28** this year. For more information, additional pictures, or to purchase tickets online, please visit familypromiseofalbanycounty.org/quilt.

In Grateful Recognition

We would like to thank the following organizations for their donations and grants since our fall 2017 newsletter:

Emmaus Road Community Church for their donation of \$2,320.

Force of Altruism, a club at the UW Lab School, for its \$300 donation.

Knights of Pythias for their \$1,000 contribution.

Presbytery of Wyoming for a \$750 donation from their Peacemaking Offering.

Soroptimist of Laramie for awarding us a \$2,500 grant.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ for applying for and receiving a \$1,000 "Hands in the Dirt" grant from the Rocky Mountain Conference of the UCC to be spent on Day Center outfitting; the local congregation contributed an additional \$1,000.

The Unexpected Company for contributing a portion of the proceeds from their fall show.

United Presbyterian Church for donating the earnings of their Holiday Cookie Sale, totaling over \$1,500.

The Walmart Foundation for granting \$2,500 to FPAC.

PROGRAM UPDATE

FPAC welcomed its first family - a married couple with a young son - on March 18. This was the culmination of over two years of planning, recruiting, and fundraising. Ava and Crystal worked a staggering number of hours in their first six weeks with this organization to complete the final phase of preparation, collaboration, and volunteer training. The Board members were also very busy! Many thanks to all who contributed of their time and finances to make this program a reality.

And sincere gratitude to Laramie Christian Center and Emmaus Road Community Church, whose combined efforts led to a nearly flawless first week of hospitality, accommodations, and meals for our family. Ava reports that the parents have established concrete goals and are making remarkable progress toward a life they had not thought possible for their family just a few weeks ago.

This is a real victory for children and families in our county!



Ryan and Olivia Lorimer with Paula and Brandon Ahrenholtz; loading up for the first week!



FPAC guests at the Day Center: son learning to play chess from a very encouraging father.



Cozy accommodations for the first FPAC family.



Special Shoutout

Wyoming Community Foundation: \$5,000 Award

Family Promise recently learned that the Wyoming Community Foundation is awarding us \$5,000 from the Saylak Endowment Fund for the purpose of general operating. We are excited to have this flexibility as it ensures we will be able to continue serving families in our second year!

Staff & Board of Directors

We are pleased to introduce our Executive Director and Americorps VISTA member, both of whom began working for FPAC in late January.

Ava O'Hollearn is our Executive Director. Ava grew up in Casper and just moved back to Wyoming after running a successful small business in Florida with her husband, Daran, for over 17 years. She has held volunteer positions as Chairman of Disaster Volunteers and Chairman of Fundraising with a national charity.

Ava may be reached via email at ava.familypromise82070@gmail.com.

Crystal DeBoer, our VISTA member, holds a degree in Sociology from UW. She worked for three years in direct client support at a local nonprofit. Her main role with FPAC is capacity-building, which means she will help develop systems that will make FPAC viable.

Crystal is available at crystal.familypromise82070@gmail.com.

FPAC would also like to introduce our five new Board members!

Erin Irick is Assistant Professor of Design, Merchandising, and Textiles at UW. Her creative background will be perfect for helping with FP public relations and marketing. She's even willing to help with the website!

Alyssa McElwain is Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. She is a Certified Family Life Educator, which will provide valuable insight into parent-child relationships and family dynamics. She also volunteers for "She's a Runner Girl," so watch for her running her way around Laramie.

Blake McGee is Associate Professor of Clarinet at UW and runs Solstice Acre, a nonprofit that bakes bread and grows food for the Laramie community. This past summer, Blake and his family donated all the proceeds from their Thursday market sales to Feeding Laramie Valley.

Julie Schmidt is the Executive Vice President of Laramie Plains Credit Union. She brings with her years of nonprofit experience and numerous strengths that will help families with budgeting and financial literacy.

Eric Wodahl is a long-time member of the United Methodist Church and an Associate Professor of Criminal Justice. Besides several roles at his church, Eric currently serves on the Albany County Treatment Court Management Team.

Nathan Burleson is an Assistant Pastor with Laramie Christian Center who also works in the private sector for Martin Marietta. He enjoys serving and also plans and attends mission trips with God Given Ministry. He can be an asset to Family Promise with his love of planning, public speaking, and marketing. We believe he will be a real asset to our board.

Mike Harokopis a retired physician, is a Laramie native and his lived in Laramie for most of his life. He enjoys serving on boards and contributes in many ways including organizational skills and financial management. He enjoys working with people and also serves on the boards of Medicine Bow Technologies as their Treasurer and Laramie Bicycling Network (20 years). In the past, he has organized the Dead Dog Classic Memorial bike race and served on boards for Laramie Athletics Baseball and the historic Laramie Railroad Depot.

Notable Dates

March 5-31: Women of Courage quilt on display at First Interstate Bank

March 7: Community Partner presentation to City Council and County Commissioners (grant)

March 18: **OUR PROGRAM BEGINS.**

March 25, 2-4pm: Volunteer training at UPC

April 3, 5:30-7:30pm: Volunteer training at UPC

April 7, 11am-1pm: Volunteer training at UPC

April 16-May 7: Women of Courage quilt on display at UniWyo Federal Credit Union

April 28: Day Center Open House

President
Julie Edwards

Vice President
Linda Melcher

Treasurer
Sara Bursac

Secretary
Alan Buss

Members
Nathan Burleson
Mike Harokopis
Erin Irick
Alyssa McElwain
Blake McGee
Matthew Painter
Julie Schmidt
Eric Wodahl



FPAC DONOR LIST

March 2018

Up to \$99

Rosemarie Aridas
Nancy Arnold
Chicory Bechtel
Margaret Brown
Sara Bursac
Alan and Beccie Buss
Kathleen Chick
Gretl Class
Dona Coffey
Lois Collins
Penny Cutts
Cheryl and Milton Geiger
Shawn Graef
Carol Gunnerson
Michelle M. Harris
Kate Harrop
Ryan Hershey
Debra R. Hinkel
Jan and Sara Jamharian
Molly Krutkramelis
Laramie Christian Center
Andrea Loveland
Sharon K. Nethercott
Suzy Pelican
Kim Reahman
Eric and Sue Sandeen
Sara J. Saulcy
Kimberly Schweitzer and Ethan Dahl
Matthew and Angela Sholty
Art and Judy Snoke
Kailey Symes
Donna Thompson
The Utton Family
Reagan Vickich
Virginia Vincenti
Mary Kay Wardlaw
Nancy Weidel
Eric P. Whitfield

\$100-306

Anonymous
Paula Ahrenholtz
Margaret Arth
Laura and Brian Baker
Kathleen Bertoncej
Beta Sigma Phi Gamma
Born in a Barb
Austin Buckius, UW Billiards
Mary M. Burman
Barbara and Terry Deshler
Do Gooders
Lina Dunning
Mary M. Foster
Fraternal Order of Eagles
Megan Hayes and Reed Zars
Henry and Linda Haynes
Bernadette Horst
David and Lorrie Jacobsen
Laramie Burlesque Nonprofit
Robert Lick and Joanne Steane
Richard and Carol McDonald
Patti McMillan
Mindy Meuli
Siguna Mueller
Sandra Myers
Eric Nye and Carol FrostPEO Chapter AX
John Phillips
Susan S. Sandeen
Robert and Diana Seabeck
Security First Bank
Trinity Lutheran Church
The Unexpected Company
Universalist Unitarian Fellowship
UniWyo Federal Credit Union

Club 307 (\$307)

Maxine Chisholm
Donald Denham and Kenneth Ingram
Dan and Kandi Furphy
Jason Harshberger
Carole Hertz
Larry and Lois Irving
Maureen Magee King
Robert Leonard
Timothy Link
Richard Naumann
Michael and Julie Nutter
Mary Anne Purtzer
Terri Rittenburg
Rebecca Steele
Ruth Troyanek
UW Women's Club
Sue Walden
Bob and Leslie Zorko

Club 307+ \$308-999

Elizabeth Bear
Dave Berry
Charles DeWolf and Mary Burman
Thomas and Sally Edgar
Julie and Mitchell Edwards
Nancy Fillion
First Baptist Church
Sarah Gorin
Tom and Jenny Haas
Laramie GM Auto Center
Blake and Katrina McGee
Linda Melcher
Tom and Jan Nachtigal
Nicholas and Tangeman, LLC
Presbytery of Wyoming
Quality Electric of Cheyenne
Judy Scott-Mauk
Matthew and Jennifer Painter
Preston and Mary Prather
Tommy and Jane Raulston
Joseph Sery
Mason Shambach
Janice Shuster
Western States Bank

\$1000-2499

Anonymous
Connections Nazarene Church
Pauline M. Dunnuck
Emmaus Road Community Church
First Interstate Bank
Harvest Church
David and Mary Jones
Knights of Pythias
Nancy Lick
Third Street Shell
Elizabeth Williams

\$2500-4999

Clothing Cottage
Ned and Gaylene Feldbush
Mike and Cathy Harokopis
Donna Marburger
Soroptimist of Laramie
St. Matthew's Cathedral
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
United Way of Albany County
UW Lab School Force of Altruism
Walmart of Laramie

\$5000+

Anonymous
Guthrie Family Foundation
United Presbyterian Church

Club 307

Club 307 members are individuals committed to seeing children and families succeed in our county by supporting continuation of FPAC services. Members commit to contributing \$307 or more within a calendar year of their sign-up date. You may make a one-time payment (\$307 or more), four quarterly payment (\$76.75), or 12 monthly payments (\$25.58). To join, please sign up online at familypromiseofalbanycounty.org/club307 (options include one-time or automatic monthly payments) or mail your first contribution to Family Promise of Albany County, PO Box 1859, Laramie, WY 82073 and write "Club 307" in the memo line.