

Guests on Friday included Tiffany Smith, who is checking out the club, and Olivia Johnson who was the guest of Shannon Johnson. Also, our speaker for the morning, Felicia Burg of Family Promise.

#### Announcements:

Board meeting is set for Monday, March 9. Next Friday will be a business meeting, so no guests please.

Terry Cory announced that the NAIA tourney is one sponsor short and he was looking for 2 or 3 people who would like to join him in sponsoring about \$100 each to provide meals for the tournament. You would receive tickets for a fun night for you and your family. If you're interested, contact Terry. The tournament is scheduled the weekend of March 18.

Elections for BEC Board and leadership positions will take place April 3. The first round of nominations was Friday, and the only nomination made was Chris Kosine for the Foundation position (nominated by Huff). There are 3 Board positions up for election, Pres-Elect, and Secretary, as well as the Foundation position. If you're interested in serving, don't be shy! Nominations will continue through the month.

Kelly Elletson announced that the Book of Golden Deeds Committee is accepting nominations until March 15. If you know anyone in the community deserving of the honor, please submit an application for your candidate with the committee.

Q announced that the Bobcats were playing Boise this weekend. Judge your own interest in that announcement.

Damian Forrester, on behalf of the Billings Realtor Association, is looking for a couple more dealers for their annual Casino Night on April 21. The money raised this year will go to Big Brothers and Sisters of Yellowstone County. If anyone has interest, please contact Damian at 406-697-3282.

#### Program:

Felicia Burg of Family Promise of Yellowstone Valley spoke today. The mission of that organization is to help homeless families achieve and sustain independence through a community response to homelessness. They accomplish that with the help of 30 faith-based congregations in the community, and with the help of 56-59 volunteers per week. The Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) is the core of their program, where the volunteers and congregations come together to provide food and shelter for families 365 days per year. Because of the community response to homelessness, they can operate at 1/3 of the cost of a traditional shelter. In 2019, FPYV had a 92% long-term success rate. Approximately 2,500 families were served in 2019, a 51% increase from 2018. The average age of a guest in the

program is 9 years. 34% of those helped in the year 2018 were single fathers and 20% were two-parent families.

In addition to the IHN, 6 other programs contribute to the mission of FPYV:

1. Transitional Housing where participating families are given the opportunity to rent 2-3 bedroom apartments at \$300-\$350 per month on a 1-year lease.
2. After Care Program which is for families who have gone through the transitional housing program and wish to continue with FPYV. It is a support system for maintaining life skills as children grow.
3. Wrap Around and Break the Cycle of Poverty Program, which assists in teaching good parenting skills.
4. Community Diaper Bag Program. Anyone who needs assistance will receive diapers up to 3 times in a 6-month period. After the third time, in order to receive continued assistance, they are required to meet with a social worker to see if they wish to continue with other programs or if there is any other way FPYV can help them. This service donates 5,000-7,000 diapers to the community per month.
5. Make This House a Home Program. Donations are collected to help participating families furnish their homes, fill their pantry, etc. 17 homes were furnished last year. Half of the children helped had never previously had their own bed.
6. Partners in Housing Program. This program takes families from homeless to homeowners in 18-24 months. FPYV looks for affordable housing in the mobile home market for families to purchase outright which teaches and implements the importance of hard work, goal setting, budgeting and determination to a family. The average cost for lot rent is \$250-\$350 per month. 7 families in the past 2 years have obtained home ownership, which inspires other families to work for that goal.

FPYV receives no government funding. 1/3 of its funding comes from its own fund raisers (usually 2 per year, but there are 3 this year), which includes a golf tournament in Sept.; 1/3 comes from grants; and 1/3 comes from individual foundations.

There are 3 things that will disqualify a person from participating in FPYV programs:

1. Active drug addiction - participants are subject to random UAs.
2. They do not have custody of their children, or they must be working toward reunification with CPS.
3. A record of sexual or violent offenses.

How can you help?

- "Like" Family Promise Yellowstone Valley on Facebook and share its posts
- Volunteer - anything helps
- Donate Diapers - sizes 4, 5, & 6 are needed the most

- Donate household items - they do not have to be perfect. You can arrange a pick-up by FPYV once per month.
- Become a Board member of FPYV
- Sponsor events