

A woman with long brown hair is carrying a young child on her back. They are in a grassy field with trees in the background. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow and lens flare effects. The child is wearing a striped shirt and shorts. The woman is wearing a light-colored top and a dark skirt.

 Family Promise
of Greater Wichita

2021 Impact Report

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Letter from the Director

Dear Family Promise partner,

In early 2016, I sat at an informational meeting about Family Promise that led to my involvement as a volunteer as they opened their doors for the first time in the Greater Wichita community. During my time as a volunteer, I had a front row seat to the amazing families that took that courageous step to change the course of their lives. As I later came on board as a staff member, I moved from the front row to the field as a Case Manager, working closely with each family to address barriers and help them get back on their feet and into a stable home of their own. In both roles, I've been able to see firsthand how this program impacts the lives of families right here in the Wichita community.

At FPGW, we walk alongside families and provide a holistic approach to case management. This means that we not only work toward housing, but also look for solutions that will set families up for a lifetime of stability. We are building relationships with each family we serve, and continue that relationship even when the family is in housing of their own, because we know that getting and staying out of poverty is hard and it takes a support system.

I am beyond grateful for the support that we have received over our first five years. Through our growth, the FPGW community has remained passionate about this work and, just in 2021, enabled us to serve more than 500 individuals through our programs. I am looking forward to seeing our community's dreams continue to unfold for our future. Won't you join us?

With gratitude,

Dawn Epp

Executive Director



Our Mission

To empower families with children to overcome homelessness and housing insecurity through a **holistic approach, community involvement, and sustainable solutions.**

Our Values

Dignity • Relationship • Empowerment • Integrity • Versatility

Our Vision

We envision a stable home and bright future for every child in our community.

OUR Story



In 2016, Family Promise of Greater Wichita was started by a dedicated core team of individuals and congregations, led at the charge by Founding Board Chair, Carrie Corliss.

As Carrie met and built relationships with families in the community experiencing homelessness, she started asking, "How do we make this right?"

She did her research, called Family Promise's national offices, assembled a team of volunteers, and they got to work.

Their theme of this process was simple, but impactful:

"We're not going another winter with kids sleeping in cars."

As the FPGW network began to grow, local pastors saw an opportunity. As Cliff Loesch, local pastor and one of the original FPGW volunteers said, "We were created to be people who care and love and want to help others. We often just don't know how to help."

The Family Promise model offered something different - a model that could really make a difference in the lives of local families and, at the same time, give members of the community an opportunity to work together with a common focus.

At FPGW, everyone can play a part because every child deserves a home.



Celebrating Five Years



**We have accomplished
so much **together!****

10,000 bed nights of transitional housing

22,000 emergency shelter bed nights

68,000 meals

46,000 van rides

72% of graduates are still connected to FPGW

97% of graduates who have stayed connected to FPGW are still in stable housing

Nationwide Family Promise Network

Family Promise of Greater Wichita is proud to be a part of a nationwide network of FP Affiliates making the difference for families across the country. Collectively, these Affiliates make up the largest family shelter in the nation.



Family Promise was founded in 1986 by Karen Olson. Karen was rushing to a business meeting when she passed a woman experiencing homelessness on the street. On impulse, Karen bought this woman, Millie, a sandwich. Millie accepted the sandwich but asked for something more — a chance to be heard. Karen stayed with Millie and listened. What she heard made her understand that homelessness brought profound feelings of diminished self-worth and disconnection from society.

When Karen learned that homelessness was affecting families right in her own community in New Jersey, she knew she had to do something. But this was much more than giving sandwiches. She brought together people in need with those who wanted to help: existing community resources, volunteers, and the religious community. Her unique approach has grown into a nationwide network and community.

200+
Affiliates

43
States

9

Consecutive 4-Star ratings
from Charity Navigator

Family Promise celebrated 5 years in the Greater Wichita community and took time to reflect on an impactful beginning and dreams for the future!



Five FPGW families celebrated their graduation from the rotation program!

The FPGW Dream Big Fundraiser Gala was a beautiful event and an exciting night to #DreamBig! Pathway Church was named as the first annual Community Star award winner!



Governor Laura Kelly proclaimed October 24-31, 2021 as Family Promise Week across the State of Kansas!



FPGW Staff and Volunteers took one of the vans on the road for a Mobile Costume Event, visiting families to make sure that kids had just the costume they wanted for Halloween activities!

The community came out to support FPGW at a collaborative art show with local artist, Landen Blake Swearingen.



The FPGW family celebrated the birth of a healthy baby boy in the rotation program!

Milestone moments of 2021

2021 by the Numbers

578

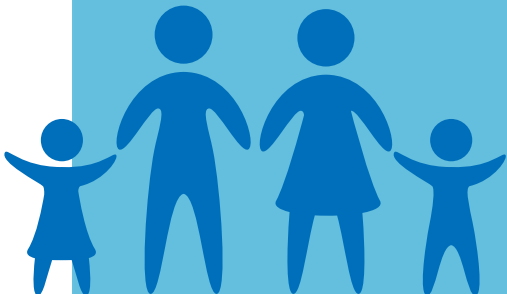
individuals served

388

children

160

families



42

families AVOIDED
SHELTER through rental
assistance

\$238

average cost per
child for shelter
prevention

26

families served
through
Graduation
Stabilization

45

skill building activities for FPGW children through
the newly launched BRIGHT FUTURES program

FPGW Programs & Services

We seek to offer a holistic approach, community involvement, and sustainable solutions through three main areas of service and additional support programs.



All visitors in need are met with personal case management, including problem solving, budgeting, connection, and assistance.



Guest families are hosted by faith congregations each night, provided with ongoing case management, and work toward goals to achieve their own stable housing and graduate.



Graduate families continue with ongoing support and have the opportunity to engage in the FPGW community through classes, volunteerism, and leadership.

Additional Support Programs



Every experience of homelessness brings its own unique challenges and hurdles to overcome. At FPGW, we have grown to meet more families where their needs are.



PET PROMISE

Pet fostering allows families to keep their pets while in rotation.



BRIGHT FUTURES

Life skills classes help ensure that children reach their potential.



KEYS TO SUCCESS

Donated vehicles offer families added stability through transportation.



ALMOST HOME

Transitional housing removes barriers and increases success rates.



“

If you are ready to change your life, this is the place to be.

- FPGW Graduate

THE IMPACT OF FPGW

In the first five years, Family Promise of Greater Wichita has grown and expanded services to meet the needs of more families every year. In 2021, the FPGW network empowered and assisted more than **500** individuals through our programs.

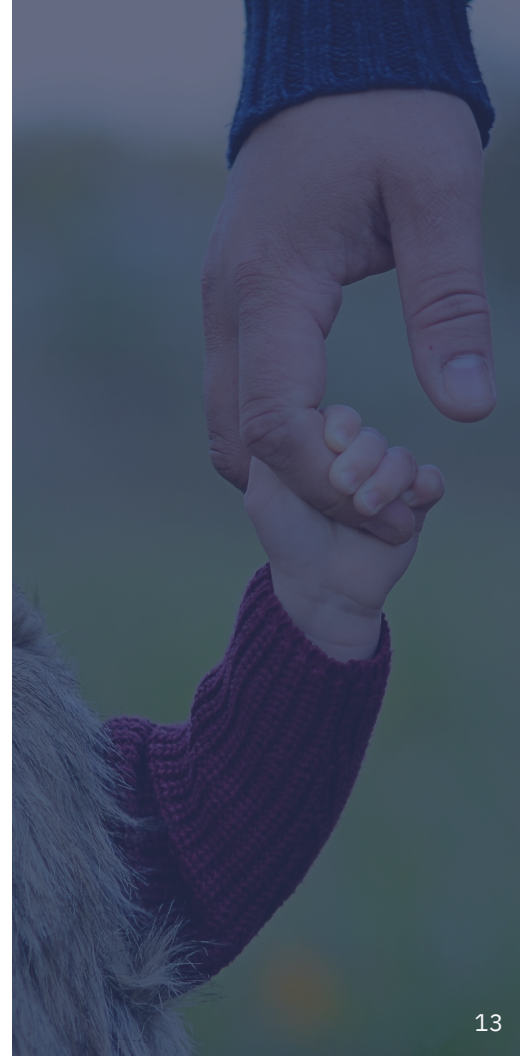
The FPGW team is committed to saying "yes." This means that every person who calls our phone number looking for help receives the opportunity to share their story and, even if they don't qualify for one of our programs, we commit to make a referral to a community partner that can help.

We know that hope changes the story and offering each individual the opportunity to be heard, seen, and met in their time of need offers hope even in the darkest of circumstances.

The need continues...and so does the work.

Based on the most recent data from the Kansas Department of Education, there are more than **1,500** children in the Greater Wichita area facing homelessness every year. These children and their families are often hidden from view (and in turn, reporting and accessibility to services) because they are couch surfing, staying in hotels, etc. Many children may not be included in these numbers due to the pandemic and online learning.

We are committed to the belief that every child deserves a home and continue the work of changing the story for children and their families.





A network built on Volunteers

Our volunteer network is one of the most **essential** parts of the Family Promise model. The FPGW network has a vast community of more than **2,000** volunteers and could not function without each and every one.

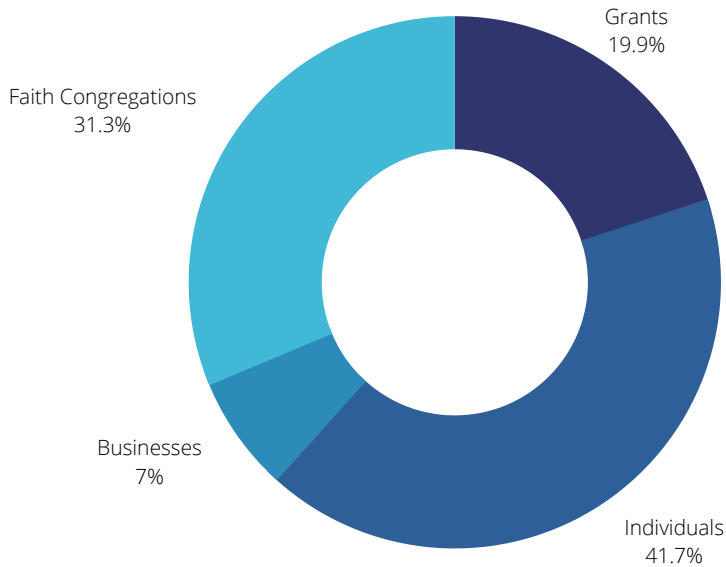
These generous people give of their time and talents to serve in a variety of ways throughout the year, ensuring that guest families are well taken care of and welcomed at each step of their journey with kindness, compassion, and safety. Our volunteer army provides shelter, food, and hospitality for the Rotation Program, as well as serving in many other areas.



Here are just a few ways that volunteers served in 2021:

- Cooked and provided meals (sometimes in snow!)
- Offered childcare during life skills classes
- Answered phones and tackled projects at the Day House
- Staffed the FPGW table at local community events
- Drove guests from churches to the Day House
- Slept overnight at host congregations
- Made repairs and equipped transitional houses for guests





In 2021, the Greater Wichita community pulled together to fund the mission of Family Promise. Faith congregations and individuals continued to be the backbone of FPGW with their volunteerism and financial gifts, while we built new relationships and fostered existing partnerships with businesses and foundations in the area.

Every penny makes a difference.

Every donation given to Family Promise of Greater Wichita is TRIPLED by in kind donations and volunteer hours. This means that every penny makes a difference and goes a long way in helping more families in the Greater Wichita community overcome homelessness and housing insecurity.

330

Financial Partners
in 2021



LOOKING Ahead

THE DREAM CONTINUES

The original founding team of Family Promise of Greater Wichita set out to accomplish big dreams.

These are just a few:

- *Every child would have a home.*
- *More families would gain housing and a safe, stable environment.*
- *Every person in our community would be aware of the issue of family homelessness and would participate in the solution.*
- *Churches, synagogues, and mosques in our community would open their doors as places of sanctuary for families.*

Five years later, the FPGW network is still dreaming big. We look forward to the ongoing partnership of so many to achieve these dreams and more as we seek to offer hope to even more families in the community.

Staff



DAWN EPP
Executive Director



ADAM MONAGHAN
Administrative Specialist



TYRA MILES
Case Manager



AABEL OWENS
Case Manager



TOYAN SIMS
AmeriCorps VISTA



SHAILYN MALSKY
Day House Assistant



TRISTA WILSON
Program Coordinator

Executive Board



DIXIE HARRIS
President



CONNOR CROSS
Vice President /
Human Resources



MARGARET SPAIN-CLARK
Treasurer



BETH SCHAFERS
Secretary /
PR - Communications

Board



BROOKE CARPENTER
At-Large Member



TAYLER MILES
Board Development



AARON MILLER
Ambassadors



DAVE MITCHELL
Almost Home
Transitional Housing



JANICE PENNER
Individual Donors



DEB SHIRKEY
Events



FR. AARON WARWICK
Congregational Care



OFFICER NATE SCHWIETHALE
WPD Homeless Outreach Team
Board Advisor



thank **you!**

More than anything, the Family Promise of Greater Wichita team is incredibly grateful for the support of the entire community as we seek to empower families with children to overcome homelessness and housing insecurity through a holistic approach, community involvement, and sustainable solutions.


Thank you for the part that you play in this mission and in helping achieve the vision of a stable home and bright future for every child in our community.


Contact Us

Be a part of the mission of Family Promise of Greater Wichita!

Use the information on the right to follow and share the FPGW mission, contact the team to volunteer, or donate to further our impact in the Greater Wichita community.


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 [@FamilyPromiseWichita](https://www.facebook.com/FamilyPromiseWichita)

 [@FPofGW](https://www.instagram.com/FPofGW)

 [Make a one time donation or join Club316](#)