

Keeping Our Promise

2025

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



**Together, we are  
celebrating Year 10 at  
Family Promise of  
Greater Wichita.**

**Because when a  
community keeps its  
promise, children and  
families find stability.**

# the promise we share.

Letter from the Executive Director

## If you walked into Family Promise on any day in 2025, you would see something powerful.

You would see parents carrying uncertainty and children carrying backpacks, toys, and stuffed animals. You would see volunteers setting tables. Staff leaning into hard conversations. Community partners answering calls.

## You would see a promise being kept.

This year, **500 families received support from Family Promise**, more than ever before, but the amount of families seeking help is still great. The need in our community continues to grow more complex. Housing is harder to secure. Stability takes longer to build. But because of you, **families did not walk that road alone.**

- 75% of families exiting shelter moved into stable housing.
- 50 families avoided entering shelter by moving straight into housing.
- \$202,000 was invested in rental assistance to keep families housed, alongside the \$86,000 families invested themselves.
- \$600,000+ in volunteer time powered this work.
- 14 partner organizations collaborated to remove housing barriers families could not overcome alone.

In 2025, we expanded our team, strengthened trauma-informed care, improved family empowerment feedback, and entered the public phase of our comprehensive campaign - because **keeping our promise requires building capacity and sustainability for the next decade.**

As we walk through Year 10, we do so with clarity: our promise is not to do everything. It is to do what we do best: **go deep with families with children, stay when things are difficult, and to build stability that lasts.**

Thank you for being part of that promise.



**Dawn Epp**  
Executive Director



# Keeping Our PROMISE

to work until every child in our community has a safe and stable place to call home.

## 500 families. 500 moments of “We’ll walk with you.”

In 2025, families continued to reach a moment when they needed someone to answer the phone, sit at the table, and say, “We’re in this with you.”

## Because of you, someone was there.



- 500 families served
  - 1,248 kids
- 4,355 services delivered
  - 456 Bright Futures / child services
- 75% shelter exits to stable housing
- 50 shelter diversions - families housed directly from homelessness

“Staff at Family Promise has shown nothing but love and support for me and my family through these life challenges , with setting goals, reminding me that I have purpose , educational classes and family outings. Also helping me get back on track to supporting my family. I don’t know what I would do without them.”

- FPGW Dad

### A Key, A New Beginning

This key belongs to a hardworking single dad who, after months of perseverance, moved into a new home with his two teenage children.

Through determination, this family is continuing to work toward stability with continued support as they build their next chapter and move closer to sustainable independence.

**Sometimes, keeping a promise looks like handing someone a key.**



### From the Sidelines to the Field

These cleats belong to a teenager who thought entering shelter meant giving up football.

All summer he showed up for practice, but quietly sat on the sidelines because he didn't have the gear he needed. That changed through the Bright Futures Scholarship Fund, and he was back on the field, doing what he loves.

**Sometimes a small step forward starts with a pair of cleats.**



### A Bike that Brought Freedom

This bike belongs to a teenager whose family was temporarily at the FPGW shelter.

Thanks to a partnership with Wichita Public Schools, he gained a reliable way to get to school and something even better: the freedom to just be a kid. On the day he got it, he rode up and down the sidewalk with the biggest grin, even in the rain.

**Sometimes stability looks like a kid on a bike.**



The promise we keep

# TOGETHER

Staying when the ending isn't easy.

## Sustainability is as hard as it looks.

Some families leave shelter before they are fully ready. Some roads are longer than any of us wish. Walking with families in crisis means carrying stories that are heavy and complex.

## But we stay. And we do this work together.

Keeping a promise means showing up  
- even when it's complicated.

### **This is our community at its best:**

- 150 new volunteers trained
- \$600,000 + volunteer time invested
- Laps for Love & Star Gala bringing the community together
- Holiday celebrations & graduations
- Community partnerships protecting families at vulnerable moments
- 20 churches creating space where families feel safe and seen

"Our little drop in the bucket can make a difference..."  
- Rev. Jacob Cloud





The promise to

# LEAD

Innovation, Collaboration, & Courage

## In 2025, Family Promise didn't just serve families directly.

We helped lead conversations and drive lasting change to work toward a brighter future for our community.

**Together.**



- Hosted Regional Family Promise meeting
- Collaborated with 80+ community partners
- Convened partner meetings and housing collaboration initiatives
- Participated in local and state housing conferences
- Hosted UnCharitable screening to foster dialogue about nonprofit systems
- Featured in local podcasts, news programming, and journalism collective coverage
- Honored in *Wichita Business Journal's* Innovation Awards
- Voted 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Nonprofit in Wichita

"The problem with the world is that we draw the circle of our family too small." - Mother Theresa

"What you're doing at Family Promise is making the circle bigger." - Shane Claiborne

# The Promise is Stewarded Well

Leadership. Governance. Partnership.

**Leadership & Staff: Carrying the daily work and driving vision.**

Dawn Epp, *Executive Director*

Kate Faris, *Network Support Coordinator*

Sara Froese, *Facilities Coordinator*

Cecelia Long, *Director of Programs*

Irene Mendez, *Family Advocate*

Adam Monaghan, *Operations Manager*

Jaraya Reynolds, *Family Advocate*

Beth Schafers, *Director of Development & Community Engagement*

Lesly Velasco, *Family Advocate*

Christine Wells, *Workforce Alliance SCSEP Worker*

Sobenna Worrill, *Community Engagement Coordinator*

**2025 Board of Directors: Guiding strategy and accountability.**

Heather Petty, *President*

Alan Corliss, *Vice President*

David Bates, *Treasurer*

Camera McCafferty, *Secretary*

Ofc. Alex Avendano

Christina Beaird

Clemente Bobadilla-Reyes

Stephenie Higgins

Tiara Metan

Jessica Timm

Ofc. Nate Schwiethale, *Advisor*

**Campaign Leadership: Championing the next chapter of our promise.**

Cheryl Gilliam, *Campaign Cabinet Chair*

Janis Cox, *Cabinet Co-Chair*

Alan Corliss

Kelli Emrick

Kathy Randall

Taylor Miles, *Public Campaign Chair*

Jessica Johnson

Aaron Miller

Jana Mullen

**Faith Community Partners: Embodying the promise in action.**

Aldersgate UMC

Central Community Church

Chapel Hill UMC

Crossroads Friends Church

East Heights UMC

Grace Presbyterian Church

Haysville Christian Church

Hope Mennonite Church

Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church

New Life Covenant Church

North Heights Christian Church

Northridge Friends Church

Pathway Church

Ridgepoint Church

Riverside Christian Church

Riverwalk Church of Christ

St. George Orthodox Cathedral

St. Mary Orthodox Christian Church

University Friends Church

West Heights UMC

West Ridge Community Church

The promise to

# SUSTAIN

Building for the next 10 years

## 2025 was a year of strengthening what holds families up.

We are committed to sustainable futures for the families we partner with **and** to be here as an organization when our neighbors need us.

## The foundation is strong. The next decade requires even more.



- Expanded and strengthened staff team across core programs:
  - Prevention / Diversion
  - Shelter
  - Stabilization
- Increased trauma-informed practices
- Improved family feedback scores
  - **9 out 10** families would positively promise Family Promise to friends and family members
- Launched the public phase of our comprehensive campaign

"I have never in my life been impacted by someone like the way that I was with Family Promise. Not before and not after and I don't think I'll ever come close."

-FPGW Graduate

# Keeping Our Promise

A Campaign for Sustainable Futures



## A Campaign for Sustainable Futures

For nearly a decade, our community has come together to keep a promise to families with children experiencing housing instability. The Keeping Our Promise campaign will strengthen the foundation for the next ten years: expanding prevention, shelter, and stabilization efforts so that more children can grow up with stability and opportunity.

Learn more at:  
[www.familypromisewichita.org/keeping-our-promise](http://www.familypromisewichita.org/keeping-our-promise)

## Faithful Stewardship

Keeping our promise requires responsible stewardship of every dollar entrusted to us.

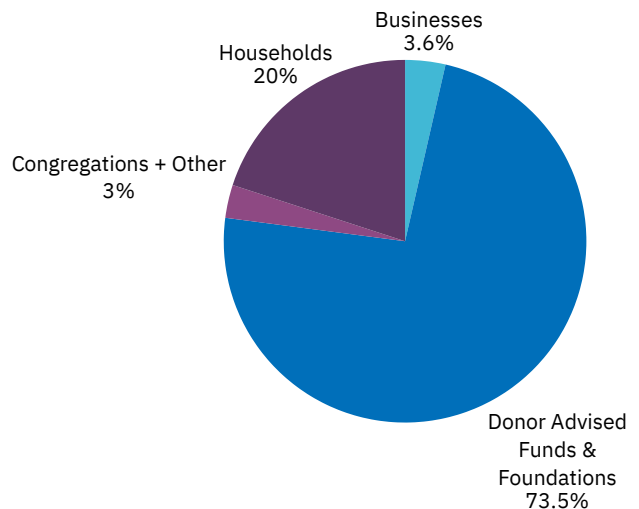
In 2025, your generosity allowed us to deepen services, strengthen infrastructure, and prepare for the next decade of impact.

### Impact Snapshot:

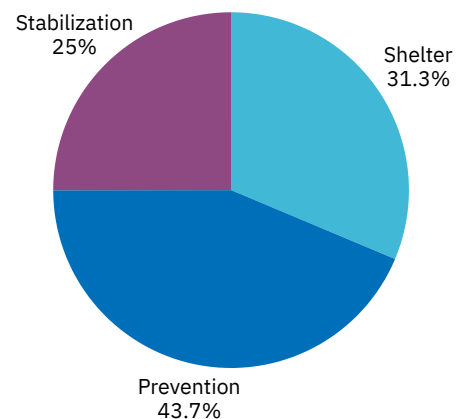
- \$202,000 in rental assistance
- \$600,000+ volunteer time donated
- Maintenance & assistance/support reserves strengthened
- Investments secured for 2026 building and program expansion

**Financial strength is part of how we keep our promise.**

Revenue: \$2,033,483



Expenses: \$1,157,377









## The promise you made to kids like me.

A letter from Ellie Promise

Hi, My name is **Ellie**.

I'm 9 years old, and I'll be **turning 10 on October 23, 2026** - the same day Family Promise of Greater Wichita turns 10, too!

You won't see my face in this report, but in a way, **this whole report is about kids like me.**

At Family Promise, "Ellie" stands for kids whose lives change because of what adults do when things get really hard and when they choose to help.

In 2025, **500 families got help from Family Promise**. That means a lot of kids had someone show up when things felt scary or uncertain. Someone helped their parents figure out what to do next. Someone made sure they had a safe place to sleep, a way to get to school, or the chance to keep doing things that make them feel like themselves.

Sometimes that promise looks like a key to a new home.  
Sometimes it looks like football cleats or a bike to ride to school.  
Sometimes it's just someone bringing dinner and smiling.

But to kids like me, it all means the same thing:  
**Someone cared about our family and didn't give up on us.**

In 2026, Family Promise is turning 10. That's 10 years of people showing up, helping each other, and making sure kids have a safe place to grow up.

All the stories in this report are different. But they have one thing in common: **people kept their promise.**

Thank you for being one of those people - and for helping families like mine keep going.

*Ellie Promise*



## MISSION

Family Promise of Greater Wichita empowers families with children to overcome homelessness and housing insecurity through a holistic approach, community involvement, and sustainable solutions.

## VISION

A stable home and bright future for every child in our community.

## VALUES

In every step we take and decision we make, Family Promise of Greater Wichita will prioritize the following values:

**Dignity + Relationship + Empowerment + Integrity + Versatility**



## WHO WE ARE

Family Promise of Greater Wichita has been serving local families since 2016, providing shelter, support, and solutions to end family homelessness.

As part of a nationwide network of Family Promise affiliates, we are connected to the nation's foremost organization addressing the crisis of family homelessness.

Through prevention, shelter, and stabilization programs, we walk alongside families on their journey to lasting stability—because every child deserves a home and a future filled with hope.

We are a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and our work is made possible through the generosity of our community.

For nearly a decade, our community has kept a promise to families with children facing homelessness and housing insecurity.

A promise that when life becomes uncertain, no one has to face it alone.

A promise that children deserve stability, safety, and the chance to simply be kids.

A promise that we will each bring what we can and work until every child has a safe and stable place to call home.

The promise holds.  
The work continues.

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