



# The Chatbox

## Family Promise Begins First Full Year of Service

On September 7, 2021, Family Promise of the Flint Hills opened its doors to begin serving families experiencing homelessness in the Lyon County area. The Executive Director and Case Manager have been working hard to create meaningful partnerships with other area agencies and community members to create wrap-around services for the families we serve. As we move into our first full year of service, we are working on fine-tuning our current services to meet the needs of families and the community. We are also working on implementing additional services to allow more families to be served.

Family Promise offers a shelter program that provides safe shelter for families while they get back on their feet. Due to COVID, we had to change the model in which we operated under to keep our volunteers and families safe and healthy. In a traditional model, families would be sheltered in a different congregation for a week at a time. Currently, our families are being housed in a hotel while our host congregations deliver meals each night. Our shelter program is able to assist 5 families or 14 people, which ever happens first. The goal of our shelter program is to help families find the resources and connections to get back into their own safe, stable housing environment.

### FPFH Newsletter Highlights

FAMILY PROMISE BEGINS  
FIRST FULL YEAR OF  
SERVICE

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VOLUNTEER  
COORDINATOR  
SPOTLIGHT

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CHILDCARE CRISIS

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BOARD MEMBER  
SPOTLIGHT

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS:  
FPFH EVENTS THIS  
MONTH

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IN THE NEWS

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S  
NOTES

# Volunteer Coordinator Spotlight

## Meet Sara Bashaw!

She is the Volunteer Coordinator for First United Methodist Church in Emporia.

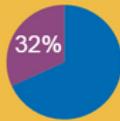
"I decided to volunteer to be a Family Promise coordinator because I wanted a tangible way to support this important ministry that significantly improves the lives of children and their families. I have enjoyed working with my fellow church members to provide meals to very gracious and appreciative families."



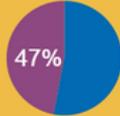
## The Reality for Working Parents

The average annual cost of childcare in the United States is \$9,589 for one child.

Two parents working full-time at federal minimum wage make \$30,160. Childcare for one child is 32% of their income.



The poverty level for a family of 3 is \$20,420. Childcare for one child accounts for 47% of that income.

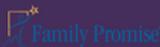


\$9,589

Childcare in 33 states costs more than the national average of in-state college tuition.



\$9,410



## Childcare Crisis

One of the biggest barriers we see with families entering the Family Promise program is the lack of adequate childcare. Families are being put on very long wait list when they need to return to work. According to Hoff and Kaplan, "51% of Americans live in a childcare desert, where the number of children outnumber licensed care slots at least three to one." When there is a lack of affordable and adequate childcare, parents are unable to obtain and maintain employment which causes a financial strain on the family.

SOURCE: <https://www.businessinsider.com/childcare-deserts-labor-shortage-infrastructure-affordable-childcare-working-parents-2021->

## Board Member Spotlight

### Kristi Roemer

Profession: Accounting Supervisor, Hopkins Manufacturing

Board Member: 3 years

Children face many barriers when they are homeless which can impact their school success and mental health. I wanted to be involved with the mission of helping these children and their families. Family Promise is a valuable resource in our community because families work with a case manager to develop and achieve goals while being in a safe environment.



# Mark Your Calendars



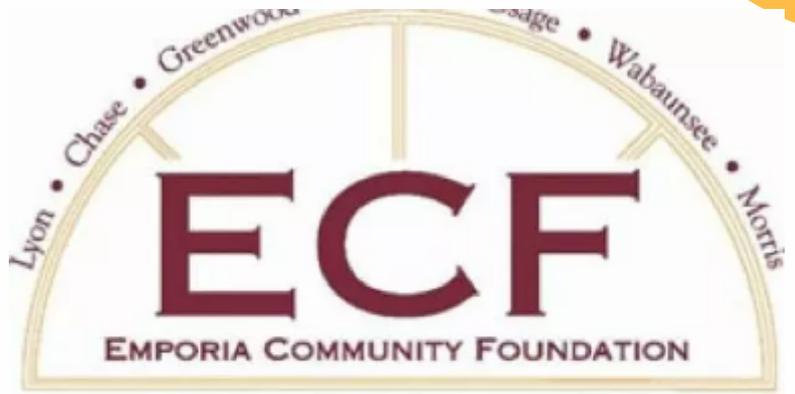
March 26th: 5K Fun Run  
(more information to follow)

## In the News



### Rotary Club donates more than \$4,000 to Family Promise of the Flint Hills

The Rotary Club of Emporia presented a check totaling more than \$4,000 to Family Promise of the Flint Hills Tuesday afternoon.



### Grant checks to help picnics, housing, learning

The Emporia Gazette

## A Message from the Executive Director

As we begin our first full year of services, I'm excited to see where Family Promise goes. We have certainly come a long ways since opening in September and still have a lot to accomplish. We would not be where we are without the help we've received from our volunteers, donors, and partnering agencies.

