

MONTANA INITIATIVE



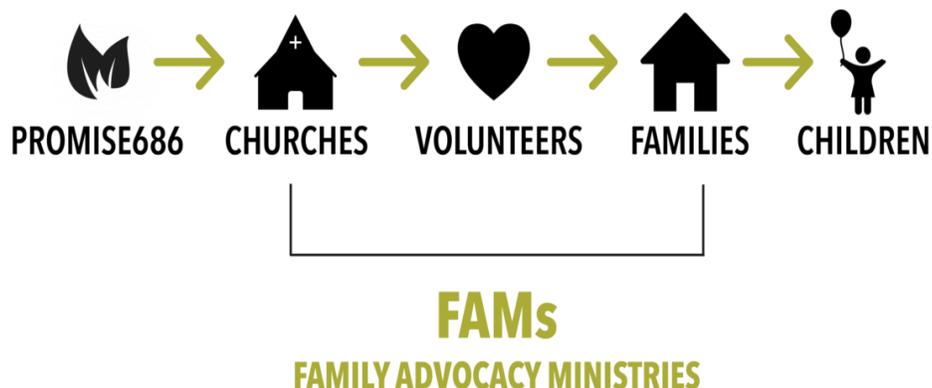
A Partnership Designed to Serve

Working in collaboration to serve vulnerable children through partnerships with child welfare agencies, school districts, and family strengthening organizations. The Promise686 Montana Initiative is here to help mobilize local church communities across Montana to serve vulnerable children and families in crisis. Below is a brief plan that summarizes key areas of focus and provides a simple overview of the tools we will use to help strengthen families and children.

Purpose: Children and families in the foster care system often experience one crisis after another; making it difficult to find stability, the provisions they need, or even maintain healthy relationships with people. This is a struggle that every social worker sees daily and a unique burden many carry the weight of; but it does not have to be carried alone. We know many people in the community are unaware of the child welfare struggles that are all too common for Child and Family Service professionals. We also know when people become aware, they many times would like to get involved *but aren't sure where to start*. That's where a partnership with Promise686 comes in as we come alongside the Child and Family Service Department's team and hard work, to serve children and strengthen families.

Model: Promise686 will equip and mobilize local church communities across the state who are ready to serve through what we call - Family Advocacy Ministries (FAMs). Think of a FAM as a *vehicle, capable of hauling all sorts of resources to the aid of vulnerable children*. Promise686 provides the training and guidance needed to empower churches to set up and maintain successful FAMs.

The children who are in, or at-risk of entering foster care stand to gain the most when local churches step up to provide support via resources and volunteers. Additionally, their families (biological, foster, kinship, or adoptive) will gain strength through the relational support and connections that come from those willing to serve through their churches FAM.

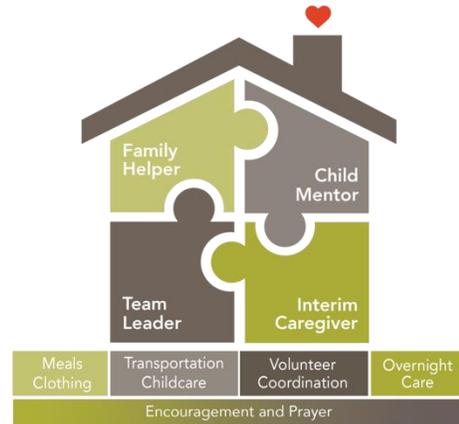


How it Works

Promise686 is leading the way in mobilizing people: Family Advocacy Ministries will leverage the amazing technological platform of CarePortal and/or the complete wrap around support of the Care Communities to serve their community. We plan to establish FAMs in 10 percent of Montana churches to help serve children and strengthen families.

Care Communities: Create an opportunity to serve foster/kinship families who are caring for vulnerable children. Strong families need community and need to be surrounded by a healthy support network as they care for a child.

Volunteers commit to supporting a family in practical ways, whether it is a family who just received a placement or a family striving to reunite with their child. Parents who have Care Communities know they will be well supported as they care for the child in their home.



CarePortal: Promise686 implements CarePortal in Montana to help churches care for vulnerable children by meeting the needs of families in crisis. CarePortal is a technological platform that has already served 962 children in 5 Montana counties (Custer, Flathead Lake, Lincoln, and Yellowstone). Via a simple email request, CarePortal provides entry-level opportunities to connect a network of caring people in churches to physical needs of children and families. Requests submitted to CarePortal are meant to improve the well-being of a child by meeting basic safety or educational needs or assist in efforts to stabilize the family. The intention behind CarePortal is empower and strengthen families.

