



WRAP MODEL

Embracing Resource Families and Surrounding Them with God's Love

Why WRAP?

The Need: Resource parents (foster, kinship, and adoptive) are often overwhelmed by meeting the needs of the children and families they minister to while navigating the child welfare and court systems. Half of new foster parents will give up in the first 12 months due to a lack of felt, sustained support. Sustained and practical support takes teamwork and intentionality. We believe the local church is the perfect place for resource families to find this kind of support. Is your church family willing to embrace resource families with the love of Christ? Are you ready to make a true difference in the lives of thousands of Oklahoma children and families? If so, we invite your church to WRAP around resource parents in your community.

What is WRAP?

Words of Encouragement – being intentional in giving written and verbal encouragement on a weekly basis.

Relief Care – ministering to resource families by providing short-term relief through parents' days out, informal caregiving, respite care or other organized events.

Acts of Service – showing and sharing the love of Christ through practical support by providing meals, services and goods to resource families on a regular and emergency basis.

Praying – praying without ceasing for the children from hard places, resource families and child welfare and agency staff.

What it Takes

A Church: A church that is willing to answer God's call (James 1:27) to serve the most vulnerable among us by becoming a church that C.A.R.E.S.

A church that C.A.R.E.S. is a church where:

- Everyone in the congregation is consistently reminded to care for the most vulnerable.
- Caring for vulnerable children is a part of church culture.
- Children from hard places can grow into the people God designed them to be.
- Resource families find encouragement and practical support.



A Ministry Champion: A WRAP Ministry Champion can take the ministry vision to a ministry reality. The Champion is someone who may have personal experience in foster care, adoption or child welfare and a heart for service to the most vulnerable.

A Core WRAP Team: A core start-up team may consist of, but it is not limited to the following:

- The Ministry Champion.
- Church Staff Member.
- School Teacher.
- Child Welfare Specialist.
- Foster Care Agency Representative.
- Therapist/Counselor.
- Community Service Provider.

Volunteers: A team of volunteers is needed for each family served. Teams ideally consist of 6-8 volunteers and a designated team leader. Not all volunteers should perform the same roles. Teams should ideally be multigenerational, allowing them to draw on their unique strengths and abilities and giving all age groups a chance to share in the ministry. Each volunteer makes a one-year commitment to serve on the WRAP Team. All volunteers must be properly vetted by the church.

Training/Equipping:

- Everyone on a WRAP Team will receive Serving Resource Families – 101 before serving resource families. All WRAP volunteers who will directly engage with resource families must receive trauma-informed training.
- Serving Resource Families – 101 can be provided by Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children (OBHC) Foster Care Ministries (FCM), Ministry Champions from established resource family ministries or other individuals with expertise in this area contracted through OBHC.
- Ongoing training can be provided by local and state experts and can be arranged through OBHC FCM. *E-learning opportunities are available to church staff, WRAP team members, and resource parents through our partnership with FaithBridgeU.*
- FaithBridgeU is an online learning center that provides 24-hour access to high-quality, scripture-based, professionally informed training. **OBHC FCM has arranged to provide this at no cost to individual participants.**

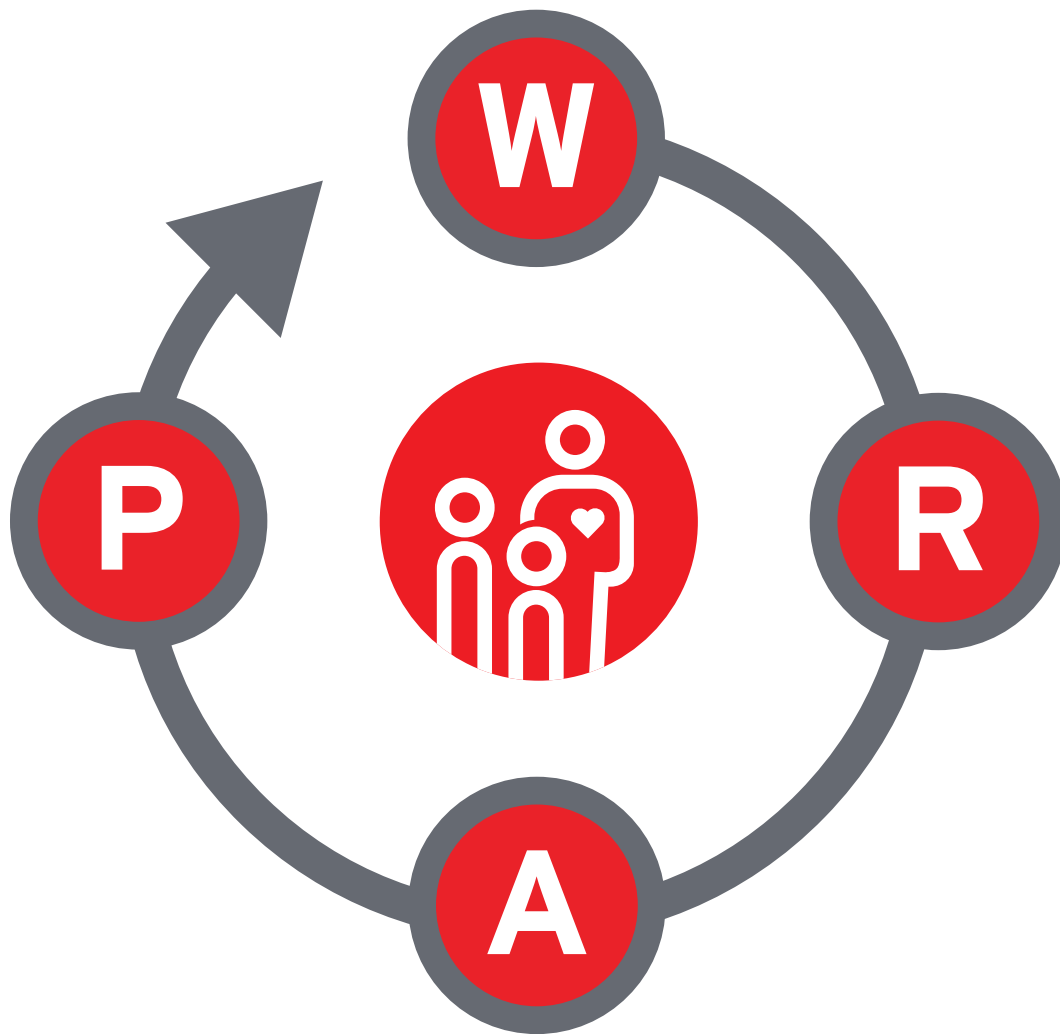


Foster Care Ministries

OBHC♥

obhc.org

Ongoing Support/Resources: OBHC FCM will provide ongoing support and resources including training coordination, resource materials, and assistance in the planning and organization of conferences and events designed to recruit, appreciate, or support resource parents and those who serve in the C.A.R.E.S. Ministry.



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