

Summary of the Faith Family Hospitality Program

Faith Family Hospitality (FFH) is the overnight housing program of the Family Housing Network (FHN), which supports families in Fort Collins who are experiencing homelessness with counseling and temporary shelter. FFH can accommodate up to four guest families at a time. This interfaith project unites diverse faith communities through a shared mission to reduce homelessness in Fort Collins. Each family who comes to a FFH host facility receives:

- a private family room in which to sleep and keep possessions secure
- warm, nutritious evening meals
- self-prepared breakfast each morning
- packed snacks and lunch to go if desired
- gracious hospitality and volunteer support from FFH member congregations

By housing four families each night, FFH has been able to double the family sheltering capacity of the City of Fort Collins and expand support needed for families to become stabilized and permanently housed. The expected stay for our guest families is generally up to three months, with some flexibility due to the varying needs of our families.

Fifteen host congregations, some supported by a partner congregation, rotate each week to welcome FFH guest families into their buildings. Each site coordinates a team of volunteers to host the guest families. There are several tasks that these volunteers perform, including:

- Set-up Crew cleans facilities and rearranges classrooms to become temporary bedrooms for each family.
- Evening Hosts welcome families to Plymouth, serve the evening meal, and clean up after eating.
- Meal Preparers cook a meal and bring it to Plymouth. Preparers may drop off the food or stay to serve the meal and dine with the families.
- Overnight Hosts stay in the building with the guests in their own temporary bedrooms. In the morning they prepare coffee and set out items for the guests to make their own breakfasts and bag lunches. Overnight Hosts clean up after the guests leave, then lock up the building.
- Take-down Crew packs up the temporary bedrooms and restores classrooms to original configuration. They also clean all facilities used by the guests.

Plymouth UCC partners with Heart of the Rockies Christian Church to host FFH families at Plymouth for one week about four times per year. In 2024 several host sites, including Plymouth, will host families twice a year for two continuous weeks at a time. We are trying to reduce the number of times families have to pack up and move.

The Family Housing Network's goal is to provide all FFH volunteers with training annually to make them aware of new policies and best practices for providing shelter to FFH families. FHN provides live monthly training sessions at their Day Center. On-line video training is also available. If you are a first-time volunteer this is a convenient introduction and orientation to the FFH program. If you would like to attend or view a training session, please return to the FFH home page and complete the contact form, entering "training" in the comments field.

For more information about the history of Faith Family Hospitality and its parent organization Family Housing Network, please go to <https://www.familyhousingnetwork.org>