

CIRCLE CONVERSATIONS

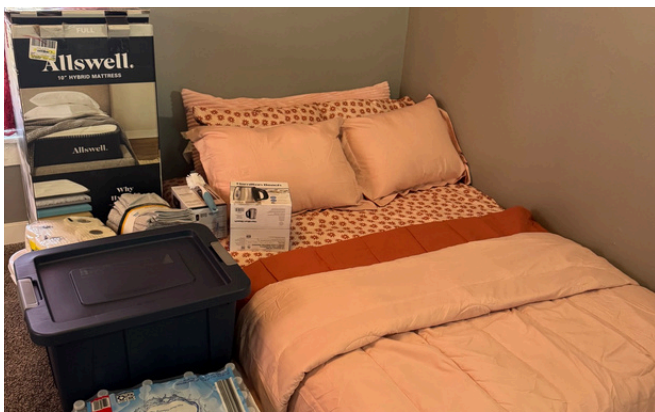
In 2024, the RJB Women's Health Fund proudly supported Safehouse Crisis Center's Ready, Set, Home! grant initiative. Located in Pittsburg, Safehouse provides a haven for individuals experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. During their stay, clients receive compassionate support from staff who work with them to break the cycle of abuse and set meaningful goals for a safe, healthy reintegration into the community.

One of the primary goals is helping clients secure stable, affordable housing. Many arrive at the shelter with little more than a suitcase, having left everything behind. For most, this is one of the most difficult aspects of leaving—starting over with virtually nothing and limited financial resources to rebuild. While clients feel a sense of accomplishment as they progress toward independence, they also face the overwhelming challenge of obtaining basic household essentials such as furniture, cookware, and other necessities.

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Coming Up

- **August:** CFSEK Nonprofit Media Relations Workshop and Match Day Announcement
- **September:** Coffee and Conversations for Breast Cancer Awareness Month (Sep. 24th @ CHC) + WHF Grant Applications Available + Annual contributions due
- **October:** Grant Review Meeting, Oct. 21st
- **November:** Grant Celebration + New Circle Conversations



Grants In Action

"If it wasn't for the talk you gave me on my third day in shelter and your unwavering support, I don't think I would've made it to this point. My son and I are very happy." -Safehouse Client

July 2025

The The Ready, Set, Home! grant helps ease that transition by relieving some of the financial burden associated with setting up a new household. So far, eight clients have benefited from the program, receiving an average of \$400 each in essential household items. The program specifically supports clients identified by staff as both in greatest need and most prepared to take the next step toward independence.

“The Ready, Set, Home project made a powerful difference in the lives of the survivors we serve as they transitioned from shelter into their own residences,” said Safehouse Executive Director Brooke Powell. “We provided basic household essentials, which many of us take for granted, to help the survivors feel comfortable in their new spaces. We are so grateful for the funding that made this project possible and its impact on the survivors we serve in Southeast Kansas!”

One recent client, a mother of a three-year-old son, moved into her own home after a 60-day stay at Safehouse. She was thrilled to secure housing but overwhelmed by the long list of items she needed to make her space livable. When staff invited her to create a wish list, she was overjoyed. Grant funds were used to purchase cleaning supplies, a small dresser, a child’s play table, and a modest couch—items that brought both comfort and dignity to her fresh start.

Another client shared a photo (featured on the front page) of the bed she was able to purchase through the program, along with other much-needed essentials, turning her new house into a home.

-Cassie Bicknell



Robin Mussa cracks a joke at the WHF Coffee in May

The WHF May coffee event was held at TOAST with great conversations and a presentation from Diana Polston of Angels Among Us. Diana talked about the services the Angels provide for cancer patients in need.

Don't Forget!

Annual dues are due to the CFSEK office by Tuesday, September 30th!

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The Rita J. Bicknell Women's Health Fund is a part of the
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100 S. Broadway St., Ste. 100 • P.O. Box 1448
Pittsburg, KS 66762 • (620) 231-8897
SoutheastKansas.org