

April 2025

## United Way of the Flint Hills Supports Growth in Children's & Substance Use Programming

CrossWinds extends its heartfelt thanks to United Way of the Flint Hills for its continued support of mental health services in our communities. Through a generous contribution of \$14,000, UWFH is helping ensure that critical programming for both children and individuals experiencing substance use disorders remains accessible and impactful across our service area.

This support enables CrossWinds to continue offering specialized children's group programs focused on social-emotional learning. These groups provide hands-on experiences that allow children to practice self-regulation, communication, and problem-solving in supportive settings.

Additionally, UWFH's investment strengthens CrossWinds' expanding substance use disorder service offerings. Recently acquired through an acquisition of Corner House, these services include drug and alcohol assessments, Level 1 outpatient treatment, Level 2 intensive outpatient programs, adolescent treatment, and employee assistance programs.

Thanks to United Way of the Flint Hills, children and families in our region are gaining access to comprehensive care that supports mental wellness and recovery.

CrossWinds is proud to partner with UWFH in building healthier futures and stronger communities!



Mark your calendars for Friday, May 2 as CrossWinds hosts "Celebrate CrossWinds: Stand Up to Stigma" at the Emporia Granada Theatre. Now in its third year, this special event aims to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health while raising essential funds to support services across our seven-county catchment area.

The evening's entertainment features comedian, magician, and pickpocket Mike Bliss who is renowned for his dynamic brand of performances. With over 30 years of stage experience, Bliss has captivated audiences across the United States, earning Branson's "Specialty Act of the Year" and "Best Stage Act" at the Midwest Magic Jubilee. You may also recognize him from his appearances on America's Got Talent and Penn and Teller: Fool Us.

Joining Mike are Kansas City-based comedians Jamie Campbell, Brett Alexander, and Tiffany Michelle. Campbell specializes in accessible humor that finds light, even in the darkest places. His debut comedy special, Big Dad Energy was named "Best Stand-Up Special" at last year's Laugh After Dark ComedyFest and is available for streaming on Amazon Prime Video. Alexander's comedic style can be described as a fun glimpse at life from the perspective of a midwestern stay at home dad. An established actor, you may have seen him in your favorite commercials for Gillette, QuickTrip, Huggies, Boulevard Brewery, Hallmark, and the Kansas City Royals. Michelle brings the comedic perspective of a native Texas gal. She is a member of the Bird Comedy Players, a Heartland Arts Fellow, and is an internationally published cover model for Selin Magazine.

To inquire about purchasing a table or tickets with cash or check, contact Cara Codney at [ccodney@croddwindssk.org](mailto:ccodney@croddwindssk.org) or call 620-208-3215. To purchase tickets online, visit our event page by scanning the QR code! We look forward to sharing this memorable evening with you as we come together to support mental wellness and stand up to stigma in our community!



# Meeting the Moment

Since its formation in June 2023, CrossWinds' Mobile Crisis Response (MCR) Team has become a lifeline for individuals experiencing mental health crises. Operating seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., the team of three full-time and one part-time case manager responded to 176 calls in 2024 alone. With a goal of providing 24/7 crisis response services in the near future, this team continues to build trust and relationships with those most in need.

MCR work centers on providing immediate care in the least restrictive environment possible. This means responding to homes, public spaces, or alongside community partners like law enforcement. Responses aim to support individuals in crisis through active listening, de-escalation strategies, collaborative problem solving, and the creation of personalized crisis plans. These efforts are helping to reduce emergency room visits, limit hospitalization, and connect individuals to ongoing support systems and resources that promote recovery and well-being.

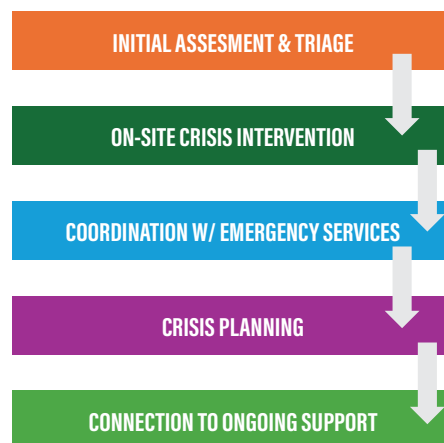
An example of this work came when the Emporia Police Department contacted the MCR team about an individual who had attempted suicide. Their planned method failed, and they shared with a spouse that they had taken it as a sign to reconsider. The MCR team arrived shortly after to provide in-the-moment support to both individuals, offering consistent follow-up in the days after. Their presence not only helped de-escalate the crisis but also strengthened the couple's connection to ongoing care and community resources.

In another instance, the National Mental Health Crisis Line (988) reached out to

CrossWinds for an in-person welfare check on an individual who had called them multiple times in distress. They had been the victim of an online scam and feared for their financial safety and identity. The MCR team arrived and spoke with this individual at length, helping them feel more grounded and less overwhelmed. By the next day, they had visited their bank, taken steps to report the fraud, and connected with support resources.

The team also recently supported an individual that was referred by another mental health agency. The individual had not bathed or changed clothes in over a month, had stopped eating properly, and had lost their job. The MCR team responded quickly, provided in-home support, and helped their family create a manageable plan for the evening. The next day, the individual came to CrossWinds for same-day access and enrolled in services.

As CrossWinds' MCR team continues its work, our vision for safer, more supportive, and better-connected rural communities is coming into sharper focus. Each call answered is a step closer to a future where no one has to navigate a crisis alone. CrossWinds' MCR team can be contacted by calling 620-343-2211. For more information on CrossWinds' range of Crisis Response services, visit [crosswindsks.org/crisis-management](https://crosswindsks.org/crisis-management).



## If Walls Could Talk: Council Grove

Morris County has long been a welcoming home for CrossWinds—built on strong partnerships and rooted in a community that truly cares. While our presence has been steady, limited space has made it challenging to meet the growing demand for mental health services in the area.

That's why we're thrilled to announce a new chapter for CrossWinds in Council Grove! We recently purchased a building just a block away from the local grade school, opening the door to expanded services and a more unified approach to care. This new space will allow our team to consolidate from two separate locations into one, enhancing collaboration and streamlining the services we offer.

Minimal renovations are planned, but the impact will be significant: added space for telehealth therapy, expanded room for in-person sessions, and a dedicated area for patient navigators who will support same-day intakes and access to care.

This expansion is a reflection of CrossWinds' ongoing commitment to meeting the needs of our communities. As we continue to grow to meet increasing demand, we remain focused on ensuring that all seven counties we serve have access to the mental health resources they need to thrive.

Together, we are building a stronger,

