

CREATING A COUNTY OF PROMISE FOR YOUTH

Debbie Barrier has worked as a Child Life Specialist at Jeannie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs for over twenty years. Debbie spoke to Club members about her current efforts for the Pottawattamie County Alliance for Youth to build communication networks within communities. The Alliance is striving for Pott. County to become a “County of Promise” that provides five promises to youth—caring adults, safe places, healthy start, marketable skills, and opportunities to serve. According to Debbie, Iowa is the first state to be designated as a ‘State of Promise.’ Debbie explained she is interviewing individuals about community concerns and issues especially with regard to youth. She is also cataloging existing efforts by community organizations that are directed to serving youth. Her work will be used by the Alliance to provide information and support to communities who strive to provide the promises to their youth.