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Submitted photo

Jim Boehm took over as executive director at Father Carr's Place2B earlier this year.

## Father Carr's director refocuses shelter goals

By Cheryl Hentz  
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

If you've been around Oshkosh for any length of time, you are no doubt familiar with Father Carr's Place2B on the eastern frontage road of Interstate 41. Originally started in May 1974 by the Rev. Martin Carr in St. Peter's Catholic Church basement, and relocated to the 1900 block of North Main Street, Father Carr's has been on the city's west side for most of its nearly 50-year existence.

What started as a youth center – a safe, supervised place for teens to hang out, play games and be themselves – the Place2B eventually expanded to become a

homeless shelter. As the needs of residents and families grew, so did Carr's dream to fill those needs.

He eventually purchased more property and opened a free clinic, a dining facility where people could get a free meal three times a day and have fellowship with others, a chapel for weekly Mass, and a food bank.

Though Carr died on Father's Day in 2007 due to complications related to diabetes, his dream to serve the community lived on. With so many dedicated volunteers who shared Carr's devotion to help-

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## Hospital, hotel plans advanced

### Plan Commission backs riverfront medical center

By Kaitlyn Scoville  
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Plan Commission paved the way for two development projects, including a new hospital with a partnership between ThedaCare and Froedtert Health and an additional hotel near Oshkosh Corp. headquarters.

At a previous commission workshop, group members discussed the 58,000-square-foot medical campus development at the former Morgan Door Co. site, situated on the northwest corner of 6th Avenue and Oregon Street.

The Morgan District is identified as a 36-acre blighted area that was previously set to become apartment buildings. After those plans fell through, ThedaCare and Froedtert came forward with intentions to build a third hospital in the city.

The project is expected to have emergency care and inpatient beds, including a retail pharmacy, three operating rooms and an onsite medical office for primary care and specialty needs. It is proposed to take up about 21 acres of the district.

The applicant has noted that the proposed location was chosen to deal with needs for urgent care within the core areas of Oshkosh. The new 24-hour hospital will provide local access to acute treatments, including emergency calls within the city's central district.

Staff and commissioners were supportive of the development as it aligns with the Imagine Oshkosh center city investment plan introduced by Houseal Lavigne in the 2010s.

Commissioner Kathy Propp noted her

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## Acute child care needs spark education initiative

### FVTC program seeks to answer demand

By Kaitlyn Scoville  
OSHKOSH HERALD

The need for child care has resumed to pre-COVID referral request numbers. Parents who worked from home during COVID are now returning to the office. Parents tried watching their children while working from home in some cases because their child care program closed temporarily but have found that is no longer a suitable option.

Grandparents or other relatives who stepped in to help with child care during COVID are finding it to be too much work and are seeking child care for their grandchildren. As the children become toddlers and are more active, grandparents have a challenging time caring for them.

According to a Winnebago County Family Child Care survey from March, 65% of children up to 24 months old are on a waiting list for child care.

The survey, conducted by Fox Valley Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR), also noted that 20% or more of Winnebago County residents have experienced four or more adverse childhood experiences, whereas the state average is 14%.

Eleven percent of Winnebago County's 170,000-person population are ages 0-9, according to Census Reporter, an independent organization unaffiliated with the U.S. Census Bureau that



Olson

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Photo from FVTC

FVTC's Early Childhood Education department will add an apprenticeship program starting next year.