

THE Porch Light

**Children's
Home
Society**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Shelter for Family Safety

113 N St. Paul Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57103
Phone: 605.338.0116
chssd.org/shelter



One Year. And Hundreds of Special Moments

November 15, 2022, was a carefully planned and orchestrated day in the history of Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety.

- Twenty-two employees and volunteers were on hand to make the historic move to our new facility.
- Portions of the day's events were timed down to the minute. For example, when the crisis hotline was shut off at 409 N. Western Ave., it was turned on at 113 N. St. Paul Ave., ensuring there were no interruptions in service.
- Thirty-nine guests were carefully transported from Children's Inn to the new Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety. Once there, guests were greeted by staff and volunteers and shown around the new facility.

In the year that has since passed, staff and clients alike have settled in, making the new building feel like home. Our employee count is now 75, with additional people added on the Facilities and Crisis teams to manage the now larger footprint occupied by Shelter.



Moving to the new Shelter for Family Safety. Shown here with the SAME HEART for their NEW HOME are Staci, Kate, Emily (back row); Jaelynn and Taryn (front row).

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Increasing Numbers

With the move, the capacity of Shelter for Family Safety increased from 40 to 96 guests per day. However, the old facility had been operating over capacity for years. The daily average has increased from 50 guests to 76 in the new building. Our highest daily count was 106, which occurred recently.

WHAT CLIENTS SAY

"We felt safe and secure. The facility is very nice!"

"Your building and resources were amazing."

"The facility and staff were excellent. So nice to know there is a program like this in Sioux Falls."

Such numbers have reinforced the need for the larger facility, which is even greater than initially thought. Overall, shelter intakes have increased by almost 30%.

The new facility, with a triage Hope Center, dedicated therapy space, and areas for individual meetings between clients and case managers, is proving to be exactly the response needed for victims of domestic violence and the team that serves them. Space now allows for healing and a

less chaotic environment for those leaving abusive situations.

The design and construction teams took great pride in the incorporation of trauma-informed healing features, including the incredible artwork, high ceilings and large windows that let in natural light and the sights of the outdoors.

Looking Ahead

While the move and the first year are now in the rearview mirror, fundraising continues for the new facility and the endowment supporting the increase in expenses that comes with operating a larger facility. **To date, we have reached \$10.1 million of the \$12 million total needed.** We encourage you to help us reach our final goal!

Gifts to the campaign are currently being matched by the Gail and Delores Miller Fund through the South Dakota Community Foundation. Thanks to estate plan provisions by the late Gail and Delores Miller, we are offering a \$150,000 matching/challenge opportunity to help complete the Gift for Good campaign.

For the Wall, SD, native Gail Miller, hard work was second only to putting together a great deal. He spent his life and career proving that a 16-year-old high school dropout with a mobility impairment could achieve great personal and professional success. Now, because of those efforts, his legacy will impact the lives of South Dakotans for generations to come, including those served at Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety.

Shelter for Family Safety is looking to the future and our ability to serve more survivors in need of safety and services, knowing we are in a much better position with the new facility to help those in need.

giftFORgood

BECAUSE
GOOD
NEEDS
YOU

Donations to the Gift for Good campaign are still needed and are currently **being matched** by the

Gail and Delores Miller Fund

through the South Dakota Community Foundation, up to

\$150,000!



Gail & Delores Miller

PLEASE HELP US
WITH YOUR

giftFORgood

To make a gift to the new facility or endowment, please visit **giftFORgoodsd.org** or contact Jon Mammenga at 605.965.3136.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

AMY CARTER | PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The first day your child rode a bike without training wheels. Your first wedding anniversary. The first time you drove a car by yourself. Your son's first day of kindergarten. These are all memorable, exciting times in our lives when the "first" experience is positive, celebratory and momentous.

This November, Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety will observe our one-year anniversary of moving into our new building. This occasion is definitely worth celebrating and a time to reflect on this significant event in our history. The year was full of firsts for us and those we serve.

For many of those who sought our services this past year, it was the first time they asked for help or shared with someone else the horrific abuse they had endured. It might have been the first time they had a restful night of sleep because they finally felt safe and at peace. For the first time, many had the opportunity to enjoy a meal with their children without being criticized or afraid of when the next assault would happen. Being at Shelter for Family Safety was, for many, the first and only time they have felt cared about and worthy.

Our new, larger space has been a blessing to both staff and clients. As with any building project and program transition, there were many things we expected and were prepared for. There were also circumstances and situations we could not have predicted. One of the latter was, for the first time in our history, that we had more than 100 guests with us in shelter. Thankfully, in a building with 96 beds and 38 bedrooms, we were able to accommodate all those in need. But it demonstrated that the demand for safe, accessible shelter for victims of abuse was greater than we realized when we began this journey.

In a community with incredible support services, amazing donors, committed leaders, and a spirit of helping others, I am proud to say our first year as Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety in our beautiful new building, has been a first-rate experience. Thank you to each of you who made this possible!



Save the Date | 35th Annual

Media One Funski!

January 19-20, 2024

Great Bear Ski Valley, Sioux Falls

www.funski.org



3 Ways to Give

1. GUARDIANS OF THE CHILDREN

This is a giving program established to recognize and honor those people whose vision, philanthropy and love of children have been demonstrated by a legacy gift to Children's Home Foundation. Funds from the Foundation support the programs and services at CHS, including Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety.

2. CONSIDER STOCK DONATIONS

Making donations of equities/stock is a great way to help charitable organizations and it can also benefit your income tax situation. The more your stock has appreciated, the bigger the benefit can be for you.

When you donate stock (held over one year) you avoid capital gains tax, but you can still get a charitable deduction for the full market value of the stock.

For more details, we suggest checking with your financial advisor.

3. HELP SECURE THE FUTURE OF SHELTER FOR FAMILY SAFETY

You can help secure our future by naming Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement plan. For larger estates, Lead Trusts and Charitable Remainder Trusts are advantageous gift vehicles.

To include the Shelter in your will, the most common bequest language is:

I bequeath (description of gift) to Children's Home Foundation to be used to support the operations of Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety.

To learn more about making a gift through your will, trust or retirement plan, please contact:

Jon Mammenga

Chief Philanthropy Officer

P: 605.965.3136

E: jon.mammenga@chssd.org



Caring for the mind and soul. And the tummy!

“One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.”

VIRGINIA WOOLF

Who among us has not been enticed by a delicious meal or scrumptious treat? You find yourself sitting in a meeting, a plate of yummy goodies is passed around the table, and you don't let the plate pass without taking one to taste? Or we accept the invitation to meet with old friends, or new, over a meal out.

On a very basic level, food serves a purpose. It nourishes our bodies. It provides us with energy that allows us to go about our lives, working and living. But food also serves a much bigger role in our lives. Food helps us connect with other people. It allows us opportunities to slow down, have conversations, share laughter and stories, and bond with others.

Meeting all the needs of guests in shelter is part of what we offer at Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety. Across the nation, many shelters do not consider the needs of the whole person and subsequently do not offer food, counseling, or personal hygiene products.

Knowing guests will be able to focus better on healing from their trauma when their basic needs are being met is a motivating factor for the caring team in the kitchen at Shelter for Family Safety!

We have seating for 90 in the new, spacious shelter dining room that is filled with natural light. Home-cooked meals provide guests with a sense of comfort and familiarity. The new commercial kitchen serves over 950 of those meals each week, totaling more than 50,000 meals a year!

With three scheduled meals and three snacks every day, there are plenty of opportunities for families to come together and have a meal. The last thing children (or adults) in trauma need to worry about is whether there will be food to eat. If shelter intakes continue at their current rate, we will use over 40,000 cartons of milk and 25 tons of food this year.

Now...who is going to do all those dishes?!



2023 Awards Affirm Excellence

During 2023, Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety received national and local awards.



Shelter staff holding Purple Ribbon Award.

- In April, DomesticShelters.org selected **Shelter for Family Safety** as the winner of the Purple Ribbon Award in the Program/Shelter of the Year category.

Shelters were judged against organizations of the same size; in this case, Shelter for Family Safety competed against shelters with an annual budget of \$2 million or more, which includes the nation's largest and best-funded shelters. It was measured according to criteria such as impact, challenge, creativity and originality.



Amy Carter

- In the same awards program, **Shelter for Family Safety Program Director Amy Carter** also won the coveted Purple Ribbon Award in the Program/Shelter Executive of the Year category. **"Of all the nominations we received, our panel of judges felt that yours was among the most impressive and deserving of this top honor,"** the awards notification letter read.



Stacey McMahan

- In August, the Sioux Falls Arts Council awarded its annual Awards in the Arts Innovation Project Award to Stacey McMahan of Koch Hazard Architects for her work on Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety.

STACEY'S NOMINATION READ, IN PART:

Her innovative and imaginative plans for the new space will become...a model for future domestic abuse shelters in other communities. Stacey's unique vision included not only safe and welcoming housing units but also areas for personal counseling, social interaction, outdoor recreation, quiet reflection and even job training.

... She truly understands the wonder and healing capacity of art and providing a new approach to design in our community. In the spirit of this award, this project provides an important collaboration among caregivers, organizations, designers, craftsmen, and artists. Thanks to Stacey McMahan and all involved, the Shelter is a place of safety, to be sure. But it is so much more than just a building. It's also a place filled with sunlight, comfort, creativity and hope.



Amy Carter holding purple ribbon award (top photo).

At the Celebration of Creativity Award Ceremony are (left to right) architect Stacey McMahan, artist Paul Schiller, CEO Michelle Lavalley, Koni Schiller and Program Director Amy Carter.



Children's Home Society
OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Shelter for Family Safety

OUR SERVICES

- Crisis Shelter
- 24-Hour Crisis Hotline
- Counseling Services
- Parenting Education
- Support Groups
- Children's Groups
- Safety Planning
- Rural Outreach
- Community Education and Referrals

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

BECKY LARSON



Becky Larson spent 45 years in the nursing field in three different countries before retiring in Sioux Falls in 2016. She worked in an advanced neurology unit in Australia, and a cardiovascular unit in New Zealand and the U.S. When she retired, Becky learned that a leisurely retirement was not in her DNA. Becky has also found that retirement is really a process as opposed to an event.

After some slow mornings nursing coffee and checking out the television, Becky had enough. She knew she needed to keep moving. Becky drove to Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety (then named Children's Inn) at 409 N Western Avenue and rang the doorbell. She told the receptionist that she wanted to volunteer. When asked what she wanted to help with, Becky recalls saying, "I don't know, make beds? Whatever you need!"

That was the start of Becky's volunteering for the Shelter for Family Safety. Her volunteer work has been just as varied as her nursing career. Every Monday, Becky arrives at Shelter and alternates her time between helping clients find the clothing items they need in Lotus Boutique, assisting with laundry and processing donations. Becky also spent time helping in the kitchen prior to our move to the new facility.

Becky shared that she has always had a soft heart for the mission of Shelter for Family Safety, and for children and that is what led her to volunteer for us. Becky also volunteers for the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society and has fostered nearly 50 kittens who were later adopted out.

Of the new facility, Becky says,

"It is a beautiful facility. I love the art! I love that it's local. The kitchen is wonderful, too. I love the way the community donates. We have a very giving community."

Becky has two grown children—a son and a daughter, both married with a combined seven grandchildren. Becky grew up on a farm and is still a "small town farm girl." Having recently celebrated her 55th class reunion, she still has no plans to slow down anytime soon. Her other hobbies include theater (she has also volunteered at the Washington Pavilion), flowers, antiques, home improvement projects and refinishing furniture.

Becky is one of 10 regularly scheduled weekly volunteers at Shelter, all of whom contribute their very generous gifts of time and talent.

Thank you, Becky, and thanks to all our amazing volunteers!

NEEDS LIST

Can you help?

GROCERY

- Canned fruit & vegetables
- Cereal
- Coffee & nondairy creamer
- Frozen meats (ham, turkey or pork loin)
- Snacks (granola bars, cereal bars, pudding cups, fruit snacks)
- Soup (cream of mushroom or chicken)
- Sugar

FOR LITTLE ONES

- Baby food
- Baby lotion & shampoo
- Bottles & sippy cups
- Diapers (sizes 5 & 6) & wet wipes
- Diaper rash cream
- Formula
- Infant/Children's Tylenol
- Pajamas, sleepers & sleep sacks

PERSONAL CARE (regular sizes)

- Adult sweatshirts, sweatpants, bras, underwear & socks (especially larger sizes)
- Body wash (adult & child)
- Combs, brushes & hair accessories
- Deodorant
- Feminine hygiene products
- Lotion (scented & unscented)
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Socks
- Razors & shaving cream
- Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Melatonin
- Wet wipes

THAT OTHER STUFF!

- Batteries
- Bath towel sets & wash cloths
- Dish soap
- Disinfectant wipes
- Fabric softener/dryer sheets
- Gloves—Latex or Nitrile (med/L)
- Laundry detergent (liquid or pods, HE only)
- Paper products (Kleenex, napkins, paper towels)
- Pillows & pillow cases
- Sheet sets (twin)

GIFTS

- Grocery gift cards
- Gas gift cards
- Toys and gifts for kids ages 0–17 (used for holidays and birthdays all year!)

See full needs list at chssd.org/support/wish-lists

Donations accepted by appointment.
Please call:

605.338.0116

Prefer to shop online?

Shop our registry at
target.com/gift-registry/gift/chs-shelter-sf
and ship directly to Children's Home
Shelter for Family Safety!



To learn more about volunteer needs for Shelter for Family Safety, please contact
Amanda Dorzok
at 605.330.7380

Drive Out Domestic Violence

fueled by Vern Eide Motorcars ran from July 5-27, 2023, and benefitted Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety.



Vern Eide Motorcars presents a generous gift of \$25,000. Pictured here are representatives of Vern Eide Motorcars and Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety.



This campaign uses social media channels to raise awareness of domestic violence. At the same time, it is raising funds for the programs and services of Shelter for Family Safety. A long-time partnership with Vern Eide Motorcars makes it all possible.

This was the second year that **Oh My Cupcakes!** joined the campaign and sold a special Drive Out DV dozen with a portion of the sales going back to the campaign.

In addition, social ambassadors helped share the message in efforts to raise awareness.

Sponsors, ambassadors, friends and participants helped raise \$54,000!

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

Vern Eide
MOTORCARS



(Sioux Falls & Brookings)



Harold &
Helen Boer



Modern Woodmen
FRATERNAL FINANCIAL
Austin Vanhove



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DIRECTOR EMERITUS

To achieve this status, a board member must meet all three of the following criteria:

- Served six or more years as a CHS Board Member
- Served six or more years as a CHF Board Member
- Served as President of either board.

Those achieving Emeritus status include:

Julie Anderson Friesen*	Tim Meyer
Lynne Byrne	Linda Mickelson
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Jeb Clarkson	T.J. Reardon
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Royal (Mac) McCracken	Doug Wells
	Meg Warder

*Current board member

Children's Home Society

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Shelter for Family Safety

113 N. St. Paul Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

THE PORCH LIGHT

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ABOUT US

Founded in 1977 as a domestic violence shelter, Children's Inn merged in 1998 to become a program of Children's Home Society of South Dakota. In 2022, the name was changed to Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety.

The shelter provides 24-hour, free services for women, children, and men who are victims of domestic violence, stalking, elder abuse, sexual assault, and child abuse or neglect.

We serve people from the South Dakota counties of Minnehaha, Lincoln, McCook, Turner and Union. Services are provided regardless of race, color, religion, sex or national origin, and include:

- Crisis Shelter
- 24-Hour Crisis Hotline
- Counseling Services
- Parenting Education
- Women's, Men's and LGBTQ Support Groups
- Safety Planning
- Rural Advocacy
- Community Education and Referrals

MISSION

To prevent, treat and heal trauma.

VISION

A world that stands up to trauma where all people are safe, healthy and resilient.

VALUES



We are better together.



We choose kindness.



We are tenacious.

NOTE: To protect the privacy of the children and families we serve, it is our practice (unless otherwise noted) to use names and photos that represent our stories and ensure confidentiality.

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SIOUX FALLS, SD
PERMIT #437

Gift Wrap BOOTH

Bring your gifts to our booth and our volunteers will handle all your wrapping needs for a donation to Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety

Macy's Court in the Empire Mall,
Sioux Falls

Friday, December 1 – Sunday, December 24

– HOURS MAY VARY –

All proceeds benefit Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety!

Bring a new toy or gift to our Gift Wrap Booth in support of the Results Townsquare Media Toy Drive benefiting Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety Or shop online and ship directly to Shelter for Family Safety!

THANK YOU to our great sponsors!



(Sioux Falls & Brookings)



FIND OUR HOLIDAY WISH LISTS AT: CHSSD.ORG/SUPPORT/WISH-LISTS