

# THE CHILDREN'S FRIEND

SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SINCE 1893 • VOLUME 126 • FALL/WINTER 2021

**“We literally came with the shirts on our backs, our dolls and each other.”**

—LAURA JOHNSON



*Early photograph of Sharon (Marcia) and Vicky (Laura) Johnson.*

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## Coming Full Circle:

The Story of CHS Board President Laura Johnson

When they went to live at Children’s Home Society in Sioux Falls (CHS), Vicky was just three, and her sister, Sharon, was 18 months old. Their mother was an alcoholic and she’d been in a bad car accident. The girls’ grandparents, who lived in Aberdeen, SD, were given custody—but they didn’t feel they could raise the two young children—so the girls were placed at CHS.

Their grandparents came to see the two girls every Sunday. The sisters remember Christmas programs, playing with dolls and truly feeling at home; they lived at CHS for three years.

One Sunday, their grandparents came to see them—but the girls weren’t there. They had been adopted—not through CHS, but through another social service agency—by Harry and Clara May Johnson from a ranch near Sturgis. Their names had been changed to Laura and Marcia. And in keeping with privacy practices of the time, their location was kept secret from their biological family.

### Meanwhile, back at the ranch...

“Mother and Dad had never been able to have children,” she says. “They had a call one day, saying that there were two little girls available for adoption, but the request was that they be kept together.

And so they went from being childless to having these two little people that were very independent.”

The girls also had to adapt. “We had lived in a group setting for three years. Marcia and I have a bond that’s twin-like because we’ve always depended on each other. One time, I remember Marcia getting in trouble—and how upset I was with that. I thought, ‘How dare you discipline her?’ It took a lot of adjustment on both of our parts,” Laura says.

**“To go back and see these kids in the same situation that we were in was so powerful.”**

—LAURA JOHNSON  
(SHOWN TODAY WITH SISTER MARCIA, RIGHT)



*Left to right: Marcia (Sharon) and Laura (Vicky) Johnson.*

The girls started school; after Laura finished sixth grade, the school closed, and they were bussed into Sturgis.

“Marcia and I both were very active in 4-H, FHA, and any organization like that,” Laura says. “Mother and Dad were great about keeping us involved.”

**“We excelled in school, and in large part it was because of our background with CHS.”**

In 1973, Laura was crowned South Dakota Junior Miss and was the second runner-up for the America’s Junior Miss title. This helped fund her college education, which was at Black Hills State. Laura earned a bachelor’s degree in education and later a master’s in administration.

She married Bill Johnson (her maiden name was also Johnson) and lives on his family’s third generation cattle ranch just 100 miles from where she grew up. Laura taught art and music in the Harding County Schools and is currently an Instruction Manager for an online company in Seattle, Washington, called Apex Learning. The couple has four adult children.

### **The plot thickens...**

Laura and Marcia knew they were adopted but had very little detail. “Years later, Marcia’s son, Brian, was born with paralyzed vocal chords and Life Flighted to Denver,” Laura says.

“The doctors said they needed medical history. But we had no medical history. All we had were the legal adoption papers that had come with us.”

The sisters contacted the agency that had handled the adoption and insisted they needed information for medical histories. They ended up petitioning the court and finally received the files.

They found their family’s medical history in the files. But that wasn’t all. They also found letters written by their biological mother to the agency that had handled the adoption, along with letters from the girls’ biological grandfather. Sadly, the letters had not been forwarded, *Today, of course, privacy practices have changed, and many adoptive families have relationships with their children’s biological families.*

Eventually Laura and Marcia learned that their mother, grandmother, and an aunt had passed away.

The good news was that their grandfather was still alive in Aberdeen. The sisters decided to see him. “I think it was 29 years to the day that we left CHS—June 1—that we met our grandfather,” Laura says.

“We got to Aberdeen, and we had our hearts in our hands, because we didn’t know what to expect. And the social worker said, ‘I’m so sorry, there’s been a problem. Your grandfather has fallen and broken his hip. But the good news is, he’s in the hospital here. And your aunt is here, with him.’”

“So we went to the hospital, and we walked into this room, and this little man was lying in bed,” Laura says. “And he started crying, and he said, ‘My girls are home. My girls are home.’”

As they visited, their grandfather went on to explain what happened that day, 29 years earlier.



The 1962 edition of the *Children's Friend* featured Laura Johnson on the cover.

“Once again, they had come to see us on a Sunday. But we were gone. And it was worse than a death because they had no idea where we were, and they weren’t given any information.”

“And he had a really difficult time calling us anything but Sharon and Vicky,” says Laura.

The silver lining was that the sisters were able to establish a good relationship with their grandfather, and to find out more about their birth mother, what the circumstances were

and why they went to CHS. Their grandfather was still very supportive of CHS and felt it was the best choice they could have made for the two little girls.

### Completing the circle

As a teacher, Laura visited Sioux Falls on occasion for various meetings. “I had a colleague who said, ‘Come on, we’re going to visit CHS.’ So we went, this teacher and I, and toured it. I’m not going to lie. I still get emotional. It was difficult,” she says.

Laura’s children knew her story. Her oldest daughter, Robin, had a friend that was on the CHS Board. “Robin told her about me, and Robin told (former CEO) Bill Colson, ‘There’s someone you need to meet.’”

“So I went to CHS down in Rockerville to meet with Bill Colson, and I told our story. And then, later, I was invited to become a board member.”

“It’s a tremendous honor to even be asked to be on the Board, let alone to be moved into the Executive Board positions,” Laura says. She’s found that being on the Board has been rewarding and educational.

“It’s really been interesting to find out what goes into providing the services that CHS offers these children, that it’s not just a warm meal and a pillow at night,” she says.

“The staff are caring, educated individuals who are working hard to make this a good experience for these children, because it’s not just a place to live. It’s a home. They provide what kids need for discipline and support, and the hug when they need a hug, and reprimand when they need a reprimand.”

Laura continues, “Our society has changed, and to help children become productive, engaged individuals as they grow is a monumental task.”

Laura and Marcia have talked about CHS and how it feels to renew their ties to the organization. “To go back and see these kids in the same situation that we were in was so powerful. It was so surreal to place ourselves in that situation and see the children—and to realize that wow, this is us,” Laura says.

“Miranda Lambert wrote a song, ‘The House That Built Me.’ And CHS is the house that built us.”

### Laura's invitation to others

At the annual meeting of the CHS Board of Directors on September 30, Laura Johnson was elected President of the Board. She is the first Board President who lived at CHS, making it a special honor for both CHS and Laura. She urges people to learn about CHS, the important work being done and to consider becoming involved.

“To have the opportunity to give back is very important to me. There are givers and takers in this world, and I like to think that I’m a giver,” Laura says. “We as humans need to take care of other people.”

Donors and friends are greatly appreciated. “They have no idea how many children they’re reaching with their donations, not necessarily even today, but into the future. Everything that we’re doing at CHS is for the kids that we’re serving now, but also how can we better serve kids in the future, and families?”

Of course, this is personal for Laura. “We put all our trust in the people that were at Children’s Home. Obviously, our grandparents did, too. And they proved, time and time again, that trust was worthy,” she says.

“CHS is giving opportunities for the children of South Dakota to have a foundation—and the chance to lead full and productive lives.”



CHS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
**Michelle Lavelle**



The CHS Board of Directors and the Children's Home Foundation (CHF) Board of Directors gathered from September 30–October 1 for our Annual Meeting.

**It is my great honor to work alongside our stellar board members. They are accomplished, engaged, creative and visionary.**

At the meeting, we honored 10 retiring board members, welcomed 10 new board members and worked together to create a five-year plan. It was based on our three strategic pillars: Culture of Leadership, Service Excellence and Mission & Margin.

The planning process was collaborative, in-depth and sometimes challenging. CHS exists at the intersection of a rich history, an exciting future and a powerful wave of momentum. We're planning five years out for everything from program integration to campus facility plans, leadership development and program funding.

As you may have noticed in this publication and others, we have been rolling out refreshed branding. The new look emphasizes warmth, simplicity and caring. It nods to our long history while showing that our thinking and practices are current. Our new tagline, Stand for Good, shows how CHS is leading the movement to provide trauma informed prevention, treatment and healing.

Building on our refreshed branding, CHS is focusing on thought leadership, along with increased social media visibility. We're positioning ourselves to move confidently into the future and to continue helping children and families throughout South Dakota.

Thanksgiving is just ahead. I am thankful for the privilege of witnessing the care, healing and transformation that occur daily at CHS. We are truly an exceptional organization, and I invite you to learn more about us.

2021/22 CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

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**Marilyn Van Demark**  
Sioux Falls



CHF DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR  
**Rick Weber**

There seem to be plenty of challenges in our world today but when it comes to charitable giving, the news is encouraging and uplifting. According to the annual report from Giving USA, Americans donated a record of more than \$471 billion in 2020.

At Children's Home Society, we have been blessed by new and continued support in so many different ways. COVID-19 required us to make some changes with our fundraising, primarily with our in-person events.

Like so many other organizations, we adjusted and fortunately today's technology helped us accomplish that. We are so very grateful for how our friends and donors understood the situation and stepped up to help. Funds raised from some events were down, but only about 10 to 15%. Others did even better than before. This speaks to the caring hearts of our charitable partners and what I believe is an understanding of how all those we serve have so little control of their situations.

It is so fun to witness the wide variety of ways donations come our way. We receive many gift-in-kind items as well as cash donations for different purposes and in a wide range of amounts.

**Every gift, regardless of the amount, makes a difference, is needed and is truly appreciated. We all have different capacities for giving. It is not so much about the size of the gift when it is received, but from a philanthropic perspective it's what is in the mind and heart of each individual donor as the gift is given.**

Thank you to each and every one of you who are part of making it possible to carry out the mission of Children's Home Society and for the impact you have on the lives of so many children and families.

**—Directors Emeritus—**

Lynne Byrne  
John Brewer  
Gary Brown  
Jeb Clarkson  
Steve Egger  
Phil Helland  
Blake Hoffman  
Bob Hoover  
Gary Jensen

Deanna Lien  
Helen Madsen  
Royal (Mac) McCracken  
Tim Meyer  
Linda Mickelson Graham  
Rob Mudge  
T.J. Reardon  
George Roberts  
John Rozell\*

Dave Schmidt\*  
Peg Seljeskog  
Carolynn Stavenger\*  
Pam Taylor Jansa  
Gene Uher  
Marilyn Van Demark\*  
Meg Warder

\*Current Board Member

2021/22 CHILDREN'S HOME FOUNDATION

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Molly Peterson  
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Bobby Sundby  
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Joe Sztapka  
Sioux Falls



George Twitero  
Rapid City

**—With Our Thanks—**

We recognize these outgoing board members for their dedicated service!



John McGrath  
Brandon



Maggie Russo  
Aberdeen



Tim Rustand  
Brandon



Norbert Sebade  
Rapid City



Meg Warder  
Hill City



John Brewer  
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Mike Buckingham  
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Mary Howard  
Sioux Falls



Phil Lampert  
Custer



Jeff Skinner  
Sioux Falls

# GUARDIANS OF THE CHILDREN



John and Jan Brewer

**John and Jan Brewer** of Rapid City began their relationship with CHS in 1986 with a hosted tour of Black Hills Children's Home (BHCH) on the Rockerville campus. "That year, Jan and I organized the Christmas Eve Santa and the Elves gifts at BHCH, which is a tradition that continues to this day," John says.

"I don't know how many times—but there were a lot—when kids who were 4, 5, 6 and 7, had never had Christmas. They didn't know what to do, how to react," says John. "The kids write their letter to Santa and pick a gift they want and when Santa comes, they greet him and get the gift. You cannot imagine the eyes and smiles when that happens. A small but important Christmas miracle."

John and Jan have both served on the CHS Board of Directors. As John just completed two terms on the Foundation board, served multiple terms on the Society Board and was President of the Society Board, he is now a Director Emeritus. The Brewers co-chaired campaigns for the BHCH residence and Owen School, served as Big Buddies and when possible, spent Christmas Eve with the children.

The Brewers' impact on CHS will continue on, thanks to a planned gift. "As Guardians of the Children both Jan and I recognize the power of a hand up at critical times. Jan and I have included CHS in our estate plan."

**Guardians of the Children** is a legacy program established to recognize and honor those people whose vision, philanthropy and love of children has been demonstrated by a planned gift to Children's Home Foundation. Funds from the Foundation support the programs and services at CHS, including Children's Inn.

## HELP SECURE THE FUTURE OF CHS

You can help secure our future by naming Children's Home Society (CHS) 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 CHS 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 Society of South Dakota.**

## 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.

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

**Rick Weber**  
CHF Development Director  
P: **605.965.3127**  
E: **rick.weber@chssd.org**

**Children's Home Society**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

## Learn More About CHS

Sign up to receive our monthly e-newsletter, **A Letter From Home**, at [chssd.org](http://chssd.org)

Like us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter

Established in 1893, CHS is South Dakota's oldest human services, nonprofit organization. Our mission is to prevent, treat and heal trauma.

Over the years, CHS has continued to expand the continuum of programs to meet the evolving needs of children and families. These include Emergency Shelter and Crisis Intervention, Forensic Interviews and Advocacy, Residential Treatment and Education, Adoption and Foster Care, Nurse-Family Visitation and Prevention, Education and Training.

Through these programs, CHS serves families, individuals, and children of all ages. Many are victims of domestic violence, abuse and neglect, or traumatic life events. CHS also partners with caring parents to help children with emotional or behavioral needs. CHS comes alongside parents or guardians to strengthen their families and to help children get the care and services they need.

CHS is accredited by the Joint Commission and licensed by South Dakota Department of Social Services.

# Caring for the Kids



For 2021, this special event included a golf classic, car raffle and a KELO TV special on August 3.

The campaign raised a net of over \$390,000, made possible in part by two generous challenge gifts. Pipestone matched all donations up to \$50,000 as did Gordon, Randy, Seth and Tyler for Spronk Brothers III. As a result, all donations through the KELO TV special were matched twice!

The winner of the 2021 Subaru Forester Limited, donated by Schulte Subaru, was James Berven from Watertown, S.D. Check out the TV special and music video here: [CaringForTheKids.com](http://CaringForTheKids.com)

**Many thanks to Caring for the Kids donors and sponsors for supporting the CHS mission.**

## CHALLENGE DONORS



Gordon, Randy, Seth and Tyler

## CAR SPONSOR



## HEART SPONSORS



## HOPE SPONSORS

- Avera
- Citi
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- KELOLAND Media Group
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CHS  
THERAPEUTIC  
FOSTER CARE

## We'll keep doing it until they make us stop.

Who in the world would voluntarily raise 24 children—most of whom have behavioral, developmental or medical needs? It's hard enough to take care of one or two children, let alone two dozen!

That's why therapeutic foster parents are straight up superstars. Like Cindy and Robert Michelson of Piedmont, SD. Over the last 20 years, they've provided therapeutic foster care to 24 children, with the longest placement lasting seven years. Of course, that doesn't include the four foster children they ended up adopting. As if that weren't enough, they also have three biological children!

The Michelsons decided to start doing foster care after reading a newspaper article about it. Two of Cindy's sisters worked at Black Hills Children's Home, so she knew about CHS. The child featured in the newspaper article was their first placement.

"We just jumped in with both feet," Cindy says. "We had training. But with her we got another sort of training—real life training, so to speak. She wanted to know we were committed."

Of course, children decide if someone is committed by testing them, which can be tough. But in the Michelsons' case, that very first placement worked out. "We're still in contact now after all this time," Cindy says. "She's grown and has a baby of her own."

### More evidence of superstardom

The Michelsons' youngest biological child was only 10 when they began doing therapeutic foster care. Adding foster care kids to the mix can be difficult, but the Michelsons excelled there, too.

Today, all three of their bio kids are foster care licensed. In fact, a daughter who lives in Minnesota adopted one of Cindy and Robert's foster children.

Of the three children the Michelsons adopted, two have complex medical needs and have had multiple surgeries; many of their foster children have also had medical needs. "That's a big interest of ours," Cindy says. "We know the ropes now, like how to find the best medical care."



Left to right: Cindy Michelson with three of her adopted children

Therapeutic foster care is the type of care that CHS specializes in. It's for children with higher levels of needs. This means the foster parents receive additional training. And it means that the child and the foster family receive a higher level of support—including 24-7 access to case managers plus individual and family therapy.

### Ups and downs of foster parenting

Although foster parenting can sound challenging, Cindy doesn't see it that way.

"I would say foster care is simply common-sense parenting," she says. "It really is. You can have 20 years of different trainings—great trainings—but it still boils down to what your gut's telling you this child needs."

**"And, the kids need the commitment. It doesn't have to be a lifetime. It doesn't have to be 20 years, but it does mean you stick it out for the kid. They're going to test to see if you're committed."**



Foster children may believe they're not worthy of the care and attention. "I had a little gal about five years ago that said she was allergic to nice. A nice home? 'Nope, won't work.' Nice food? 'I don't like it.' She was like that because she didn't know how long it was going to last." Cindy says.

She reflects on a boy who came into their care. "At first, when I'd drop him off at school in the mornings, he would walk to the corner of the building, put his hoodie up, and just stand at the corner, hands in his pockets and try to be invisible. He



*Cindy (center) poses with Ann Lecy, Family Development Specialist, and Chelsie Ogaard, Community Based Services Program Director.*

had no friends. He didn't even have a connection with his teacher, although she tried. He just had that wall built up so high."

Cindy continues. "So, by the end of the two months, the teacher emailed and said how much he had just blossomed. He had made a

friend there, which was huge, and he'd actually been starting to put his hand up when he knew the answer to something and participating in the classroom. Now, going on four years later, he wants to do track."

She recalls another boy who was just four years old when he came to them. "He was battered and bruised and had to wear a cast where his femur had been broken," she says. "He was angry because of being stuck in this wagon and pulled because he'd been an active little boy."

As he got better, we saw little de-escalations," Cindy says. "He got the cast off but he needed more than just physical healing. We would say, 'I see that this is hard for you. Can I help you?' Sometimes it'd be yes, sometimes it'd be, 'No, get out of my face.' I would let him know on his terms that he was going to be okay. And eventually he was adopted and was successful."

## Celebrating success

One of the facts about foster care is that a close bond between the child and the family is forged—and then broken. Foster parents know this going in, but that doesn't necessarily make it easier.

Cindy looks at goodbyes as successes and frames them as such for their foster children.

"We have two now and they're going to step down placement—regular foster care instead of therapeutic." The two children were upset when they learned they would be leaving. Cindy told them, "This is a success! It's a new adventure for you, and we will try to keep in contact."

Also, Cindy had been working with the children to help them handle big feelings. "We talked about those big feelings and the skills they've learned while they were here, and that's it's okay to miss us—but they get to go to the next step."

She acknowledges that it's difficult. "At least I'm sure they will be safe." The children they've adopted also worry about the foster children. They struggle with saying goodbye and need reassurance that the children leaving will be all right.

"We like the success stories," she says, smiling. They follow their former foster children (after they've aged out) on social media and enjoy keeping up with their successes.

## Advice for those considering becoming foster families

**Cindy encourages everyone to consider being foster parents or to help in other ways.**

"Don't come into foster care with rose-colored glasses, which I think a lot of people do. 'All they need is love' is another cliché. They do, but it takes commitment, and to be committed through the end of a child's time with you. Because otherwise, they take

all that on themselves, they blame themselves, if you don't have that commitment."

"The biggest thing is that there's such a huge, huge need," Cindy says. "If you can't foster, find a way to support organizations in South Dakota. Even being a mentor to the kids that come from abusive situations, because they don't know what our version of normal is. Help them, whether it be Big Brothers, Big Sisters, or CASA or other ways to help kids that are in the system."

"Or if there are cultural things that people could pass on, that would be

huge. I know that's a tremendous need for our kids in foster care. It could be any cultural thing, because there's a lot of things I don't know, and I admit that. I'm trying to learn."

Cindy and Robert? "We'll keep doing it until they make us stop," laughs Cindy. They're following in the footsteps of Robert's uncle, who provided foster care until he was 85!

» To learn more about Therapeutic Foster Care, please contact Chelsie at 605.343.2811 or [chelsie.ogaard@chssd.org](mailto:chelsie.ogaard@chssd.org).

## CHS Honors Employees

Every year, CHS employees nominate co-workers for the Employee of the Year award, and since last year, for Rising Star of the Year. Nominations are judged by a group of board members who choose winners based upon how they have demonstrated the CHS mission, vision and core values that exemplify the best attributes of a CHS employee.

Awards were given at the Honoring Employees events in Sioux Falls on September 22 and in Rapid City on September 29. Employee years of service were also recognized.



### Employee of the Year Award

The winner of Employee of the Year, which comes with a \$2,000 check, was Loving School Teacher of middle school math, Jordan Hofer.

Excerpts from several nominations of Jordan include the following:

“Jordan is such a consistent presence...he is kind, compassionate, thoughtful, a team player and willing to do what is right for the kids. He provides encouragement and support while having a realistic and consistent follow through.”

“Jordan unites the middle school team by providing clear communication, unassuming leadership and a wealth of knowledge through experience.”



### Rising Star of the Year Award

Education and Public Awareness Specialist Cassie Nagel was selected as the Rising Star of the Year and received a \$500 award.

Nominations included the following praise for Cassie:

“Cassie has demonstrated tenacity and kindness as she has helped shape the prevention education program for East River... Cassie understands that we are truly better together, because she is always receptive and responsive to the input of others.

“Kindness is an innate trait of Cassie’s. She makes sure everyone feels seen and heard in all settings, professional and personal.”

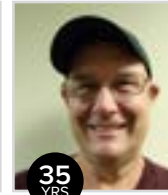
## Service Awards

Each year, Children’s Home Society celebrates the milestone anniversaries of its 325+ statewide employees. This wealth of skill, experience, institutional memory and community connections has helped define the strength and character of Children’s Home Society.

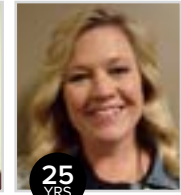
### – 10+ YEARS of SERVICE –



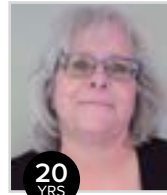
Janice Lee  
Financial Administrator  
Children’s Inn



Todd Miller  
Team Coordinator  
SFCH–Madsen Down



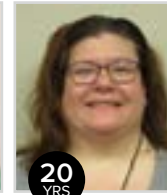
Aunnie VandeGriend  
Assistant Unit Director  
VanDemark Up



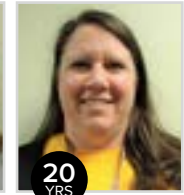
Kim Balk-Phelps  
Development Specialist  
Foundation



Tara Chayka  
Assistant Education  
Director  
BH Children’s Home



Michelle Schroeder  
Social Worker–  
Case Manager  
Children’s Inn



Kelly VanDenBerg  
Residential Therapist  
SFCH  
Madsen Down



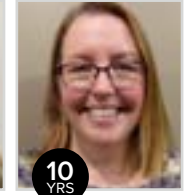
Butch Carrell  
Residential Treatment  
Counselor  
SFCH  
Madsen Down



Carol Frier  
Administration  
BH Children’s Home



Kobi Ringling  
Program Supervisor  
Children’s Inn



Erin Schoens  
Assistant Education  
Director  
SF Children’s Home

### – 5 YEARS of SERVICE –

- |                         |                    |                  |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Shelby Altfillisch      | Michele Haeder     | Tifanie Petro    |
| Katelynn Beldin         | Polly Hooks        | Courtney Sargent |
| Jody Bockorny           | Melissa Jenkins    | Jami Scoggins    |
| Erin Boysen             | Marybeth Jorgenson | Victoria Snyder  |
| Monica Eaton-Harris     | Christina Myers    | Kate Swalley     |
| Rudy Gonzales-Sebastian | Mike Neyens        | Jason Reitmeier  |
|                         | Laura Peterson     |                  |

### – 3 YEARS of SERVICE –

- |                  |                   |                 |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Carol Amussen    | Amanda Hoskins    | Gwen Peterson   |
| Shannan Clingman | Jason Huwe        | Heather Plueger |
| Peggy Crane      | Izzi Lee          | Taylor Poehling |
| Corey Ensz       | Kris Leonhardt    | Angie Smith     |
| Kate Feilmeier   | Karen Mendez-Diaz | Tayla Sysavath  |
| John Hammond     | Reanna Mennis     | Kelsey Weber    |
| Darlene Hillmer  | Bailey Munk       | Siri Wollmann   |

# Christmas Books Available Now

It's time to start thinking about holiday gifts, and retailers are warning that supplies may be short this year. That's why it's the perfect time to give your loved one a special Christmas book, while helping Children's Home Society!

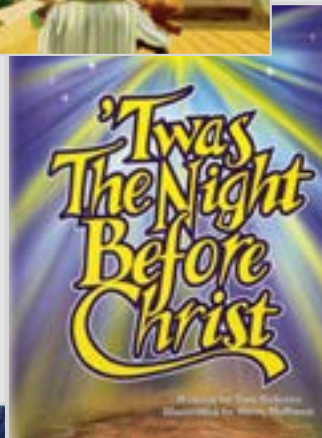
Penned by author/storyteller Tom Roberts, these books are heartwarming Christmas stories that help readers of all ages feel the true spirit of Christmas.

For a list of events, retailers or to purchase a book, go to: [chssd.org/books](http://chssd.org/books)



**\$20 each**  
(Shipping is additional.)

**100% of every sale** supports the programs and services provided by Children's Home Society.



## Love our new look?

You may have noticed that the Children's Home Society logo looks a little different—and that our *Children's Friend* publication looks a little different as well. Most organizations refresh their branding on a regular basis to fit prevailing tastes and design standards.

Here's a look at where we've been over the years.



1958



1970



1979



1990



2015



**Children's Home Society**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

STAND FOR GOOD

# Children's Home Society

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

P.O. BOX 1749  
SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA 57101-1749

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

PROBLEMS? We'd like to make it right!  
Change the label and mail back to us.

- Misspelled name     Receive more than one  
 Wrong address     Remove my name  
from mailing list



Thank  
You

## With gratitude for all these friends who help support our work!

Gala at Mount Rushmore (Another COVID–altered non-event) .....	\$31,000
Kieffer Sanitation Trash Can Open–June 22 .....	\$34,300
Those Guys ABATE Poker Run–July 18 .....	\$11,054
Rotary Golf Tournament–July 26 .....	\$63,600
The Red Rock Bar & Grill “Bike Nights” (through the summer) .....	\$31,117
Black Hills Wind & Fire Motorcycle Run–August 5 .....	\$5,230
Caring For The Kids–August 2 & 3 .....	\$390,176
Scooters “Day of Giving”–August 3 .....	\$5,232
Black Hills Association of Realtor’s Raffle–June & July .....	\$8,500
Jon Crane Benefit Art Auction–October 1 .....	\$109,337
Tommy Jacks Pub Meat Raffle–throughout 2021.....	\$4,816

## Upcoming Events

### 2021

Little Red Stocking Round Up Nyberg’s Ace .....	November 22–December 24
Giving Tuesday Social Media Campaign.....	November 30
Children’s Inn Gift Wrap Booth Empire Mall, SF .....	December 3–24

### 2022

Media One Funski Great Bear .....	January 21–22
Cleavers’ Chef Challenge The District–Sioux Falls .....	March 25