



THE CHILDREN'S FRIEND

**Children's
Home
Society**
OF SOUTH DAKOTA

SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SINCE 1893 • VOLUME 128 • FALL/WINTER 2023



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Charlie's Perfect, Imperfect Family

For 1,427 days, Charlie waited for the perfect family. And he finally found them in Thomas and Kaylee Hamling, and their older son, Diandray.

"Charlie had some tough experiences growing up," said Children's Home Society (CHS) Therapist Shelby Altfillisch. "He lived with his bio-family and experienced emotional abuse, physical abuse...there were times when he worried about not having food to eat."

Eventually he came to residential care at CHS and with the help of Shelby and other staff, worked through his challenges.

Shelby said, "Charlie waited a really, really long time for a safe family. We had some hard times while we were waiting but we got through it. We waited for the perfect family—and we found them."

“ I was waiting for this,” said Charlie. “I was praying to God. I was kind of anxious, then I knew it was going to be okay because I was getting adopted. I knew God made a good decision. I could just feel it. ”

Meant to be

In the meantime, Thomas's sister, Allyson, was Charlie's Big Buddy—an adult volunteer who mentors a CHS child.

"It was 2020 and Charlie and I had been sitting over in the baseball field, and he had just been told that the family that was lined up to adopt him was no longer going to be making that choice," said Allyson. He asked me if I had a mom, and I said, 'Yeah, I have a mom and she's really great.' And he said, 'Well, I don't have a mom.' "Then he asked if I had a dad, and I said, 'Yeah, I have a dad.' And he said, 'I don't have a dad.'"

"So I just remember praying and just really hoping that Charlie would get a family," Allyson said.

Charlie's Family

Adoption Day



Allyson told Thomas and Kaylee about Charlie. "If it wouldn't have been for my sister-in-law, Allyson, we wouldn't even know Charlie existed," Kaylee wrote. "And she knew that he was meant to be ours way before we did."

The Hamblings began visiting Charlie. "We just kind of clicked right away," said Kaylee. "He just really fit into our family and I did a lot of praying, asking God like, 'Hey, so if this is meant to be, then let it be.'"

A smooth process

For months, the Hamblings attended therapy sessions with Charlie. They started with overnight visits, then foster care, and finally moved to adoption.

Thomas and Kaylee learned about Charlie's family history, his struggles with his birth mom and other families. "With Diandray, Charlie's older brother, we didn't get any of his family's history," said Kaylee. "But with CHS, Shelby told us about how Charlie reacts to things, how he does in social gatherings."

The Hamblings adopted Charlie in 2023. While they are the perfect family for Charlie, that doesn't mean they are perfect.

"You don't have to be perfect parents," Kaylee said. "You don't have to have this perfect life and this perfect family in order to bring these kids into your home, to give them loving families."

A video about Charlie and his family (see link to the right) was shown at the annual CHS Caring for the Kids Celebration on August 6, 2023. The Hamblings, including their sons, Diandray and Charlie, were special guests. CHS Board members surprised the Hamblings with a gift—a week in a condo in Costa Rica plus \$5,000 in spending money!



Charlie and his older brother, Diandray

Kaylee's Statement Read in Court on Adoption Day

Why do we want to adopt Charlie?
Our story is one for the books....

Through some persistence from Allyson, we decided to meet Charlie. And wow, to say that God had a plan is an understatement. Me and Thomas say all the time, we may not have given birth to these children, but I believe with my whole heart that God handpicked you for us.

So why do we want to adopt Charlie?

Let's start with his head. He is one of the smartest boys I know. He can do a math problem almost faster than Thomas. He has done so well academically, and we are so proud of you.

Let's move to your heart. You have such a soft, kind heart. You truly care about the people in the world and are so loving when sometimes the people in this world haven't been so loving to you. But that doesn't stop you.

Then your legs. They have carried you through a lot and helped you run through all of life's obstacles. And do incredible things in sports. And me and Thomas cannot wait to see where those legs take you.

But the number one reason is because we love you so much, Charlie. And we cannot wait to be the parents you were meant to have. Everyone in this room is so excited for you today to finally be a part of our family.

CHARLIE'S VIDEO



chssd.org/videos



Black Hills Art Auction Sets Record

17TH ANNUAL JON CRANE CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY BENEFIT AUCTION

Artists, friends and Children's Home Society (CHS) supporters gathered on September 29, 2023, for the Annual Jon Crane Children's Home Society Benefit Auction at the Arrowhead Country Club in Rapid City.

Now in its 17th year, it has become a unique signature event in Rapid City. The Auction has expanded Children's Home Society's network of donors, volunteers and friends. And it has raised more than \$1 million for the Creative Arts Endowment and Children's Home Child Advocacy Center.

Event tickets sold out and a new record was set for the amount raised—more than \$160,000!

Well-known South Dakota artist Jon Crane and his wife Gail helped start the event with auctioneer Denny McKay. Another prominent watercolor artist,

the late Richard DuBois, also supported Children's Home Society through the Auction and by teaching painting to kids at Black Hills Children's Home. Today, a group of Richard's former students known as the Dream Team carries on his legacy by continuing to work with BHCH children.

This year, 16 artists donated their work for the live auction to help raise funds for Children's Home Society. The event also includes dinner and a silent auction.

For the last several years, Auction proceeds have benefitted Children's Home Child Advocacy Center, a Rapid City-based program providing forensic interviews for children who have

been abused or witnessed extreme violence. The program is 55.4%-funded by donations.

Thanks to all those who participated in the event.



View a special CHS-produced video about the event here: <https://chssd.org/events/jon-crane-benefit>





Koch Hazard Architect Dining Hall renderings

New Dining Hall Project Begins

“Too loud. Too crowded.”

That was the overwhelming staff response on a recent survey question that asked about the dining hall at Sioux Falls Children’s Home. In addition to outgrowing the existing dining hall, we learned that the kitchen needed extensive renovations.

On Monday, September 23, staff watched a bulldozer demolish the Haugo Dining Hall in a matter of hours to begin the first phase of construction on a new dining hall, which is scheduled to be finished by fall 2024.



The new building will be a 6,200-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility with seating for 112. It features a modern kitchen/prep area, along with a backup generator. The deck seating area will offer an abundance of natural light and a view of the pond.

Features also include dining areas for families who come to visit, noise control reduction, a recovery room and a nursing room.

Lloyd Construction is building the new facility, which was designed by Koch Hazard Architects. During construction, children and staff eat on units and in classrooms. Meals are prepared at LifeScope and Children’s Home Shelter for Family Safety or brought in by Hy-Vee.

Friends of Children’s Home Society have the unique opportunity to help with special meals year-round and during the holidays—see next page!



HUNGRY TO HELP CHILDREN?



INTRODUCING TRULY HAPPY MEALS YUM!

Construction is under way on a new kitchen and dining hall at Sioux Falls Children's Home—on the site of the demolished, old facility. The expected completion date is the fall of 2024. During construction, staff will be working hard to prepare and serve meals to kids.

That's why we're providing opportunities to help—with Truly Happy Meals! Help fund special meals year-round and for the holidays. **Our goal is to raise \$30,000.**

**You'll make kitchen staff
and children Truly Happy!**

For information on how to donate or to volunteer, contact:
Rick Weber, Director of Development
rick.weber@chssd.org or 605.965.3127

Examples of what the fund will provide:

MEALS:

Soup & Sandwich Bar,
Breakfast Bar, Taco Bar,
Baked Potato Bar, Holiday Meals.

ESTIMATED COST: \$750–\$1,000 EACH

**Your gift of any
size will help.**



**Christmas
Reflections**

Order the
newest CHS book
\$25.50
(includes tax, shipping
and handing)

**Purchase
a gift set
of all 7 books
and save!**

Christmas Reflections is a compilation of 12 different pieces that invite the reader to ponder during this very special season. These stories express a poignant and thought-provoking perspective about what makes Christmas unique—ideal for use as a series of personal devotions, a family prayer message, or to share as part of an Advent worship service.

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

For a list of events, retailers or to purchase
a book, go to: chssd.org/books.



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, ensuring there were no interruptions in service.
- Thirty-nine guests were 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.



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).

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 needed to manage the now larger footprint.

Looking Ahead

With the move, the capacity of the 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. Intakes have increased by almost 30%. Such numbers underscore the need for the larger facility.

Fundraising continues for the new facility and the endowment to support the expenses that comes with operating a larger facility. To date, we have reached almost \$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 Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation. Thanks to estate plan provisions by the late Gail and Delores Miller, we can offer a \$150,000 matching/challenge opportunity!

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."

Shelter for Family Safety is looking to the future and our ability to serve more survivors in need of safety and services, knowing we have the right resources 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.



Young Authors Celebrated at Black Hills Children's Home

Students in Jennifer Williams' class in Owen School at Black Hills Children's Home recently celebrated the publication of their (first) book!

You Want to Know WHAT About Wild Animals? was written by Jennifer's students and illustrated by Teacher Gillian Spiva, with coloring and additional illustrations also from students.

"Over the course of my career, I have been a huge advocate for lifting the spirits of the students I work with," said Jennifer. "I wanted to do something incredibly special for the students in my class at BHCH. I called the publisher, gave them the deadline for our work to be submitted, and they sent me the materials to get started."

"The students wanted to write about animals, so we chose to write the book as an informational piece about their chosen animal. We started the project back at the beginning of June. The students put in a lot of hard work in the writing process."

The publication party began at 10 a.m., with Teacher Assistant Jace Jackson as the emcee. Residential Program Director Freddy Maseman invited his friend, author Kayla Gahagan (whose work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *WIRED* and more), to be a guest speaker.

Children read aloud the pieces they had written and received a copy of the published book purchased by Director of Schools Mike Groher along with an official author certificate from Student Treasures Publishing.

After the awards, Jace hosted a dance party. Then it was lunchtime; kitchen staff decorated the dining hall to celebrate the occasion and created cakes showing the book cover! After lunch, the festivities continued with student vs. teacher games, including dodge ball and tug of war.

"This is an event that they looked forward to...Their hard work was beaming in their smiles," says Jennifer. "I hope to be able to provide them with an event like this at least every year so I can give them hope and inspiration for their futures."





CHS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Michelle Lavallee
130
years
 1893-2023

130 Years of Caring. And the Best is Yet to Come.

This year marks the **130th anniversary of the founding of Children's Home Society of South Dakota (CHS)**. William and Elizabeth Sherrard began taking in orphans just four years after South Dakota claimed statehood.

In 1893, there was no Department of Social Services. Child welfare was left to compassionate individuals, churches and charitable organizations, of which CHS was the largest and best known.

During the last 130 years, CHS has literally shaped how our state cares for vulnerable children and families.

The landmark Sioux Falls Children's Home orphanage has given way to statewide residential treatment, special education, foster care, adoption, child abuse prevention, nurse family partnerships, forensic interviewing, emergency shelter for children and providing shelter and services to victims of domestic violence.

Today, we partner with non-profit organizations, governmental agencies and businesses, in our state and beyond. **CHS is at the forefront of innovation, exploring new ways to work with children and to keep families healthy and whole.**

At CHS, we are here for the long haul. Even as an employee reads bedtime stories to a child in residential care, a staff member on the other side of the state is finalizing plans for our next five, 10 and, yes, 130 years of change and growth.

We ask you to join us in shaping the future of how South Dakota cares for vulnerable children and families—which begins today.

Michelle Lavallee

2023/24 CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

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 Rapid City

**Sally Anderson is an honorary member, and the great-great-granddaughter of Children's Home Society co-founder Elizabeth Sherrard.*

CHF CHIEF PHILANTHROPY OFFICER

Jon Mammenga

Hello, friends and supporters of Children's Home Society!

Last year, I greeted you as the newly appointed Chief Philanthropy Officer at Children's Home Foundation. A little more than a year later, I am happy to report that I could not be more pleased with my decision to join this amazing organization. It is a great privilege and honor to be part of such a great agency with an important and meaningful mission. Thank you for your support over the last year—and for the ongoing commitment many of you have shown.

I am also happy to report that philanthropy is alive and well at Children's Home Society (CHS). **November 15 marks the one-year anniversary of the completion and move-in at the Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety.** In just under three years, the capital campaign to support the building and endowment has **raised more than \$10 million toward our \$12 million goal.**

Additionally, with the new dining hall project on our Sioux Falls campus, we launched the **Truly Happy Meals campaign** to support feeding the children during the one-year construction time frame. That campaign has **raised more than \$20,000 toward a \$30,000 goal.** And while our efforts will continue, I want to thank all those who have supported these projects.

It is important to emphasize the crucial role philanthropy plays in allowing us to accomplish our mission of preventing, treating and healing trauma. This year, 22% of our budget needs to come from charitable giving. Your ongoing and generous support is absolutely vital to our organization. Every donation, regardless of size, has a profound impact. We celebrate each gift as a meaningful step toward our vision of a world that stands up to trauma where all people are safe, healthy, and resilient.

Thank you again to our Board members, volunteers, advocates and donors! Your passion is heartfelt and your impact profound. With your current and ongoing support, big things are on the horizon for CHS and for our impact on those we serve!



Jon Mammenga

2022/23 CHILDREN'S HOME FOUNDATION

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*Current Board Member

—With Our Thanks—

We recognize these outgoing board members for their dedicated service!


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GUARDIANS OF THE CHILDREN



Bruce and Kim Nearhood

In their mid-60s, Bruce and Kim Nearhood of Rapid City are enjoying an active retirement. Children's Home Society (CHS) is honored to play a small part in the lives of these Guardians of the Children.

Initially, the Nearhoods learned about CHS through their involvement in the Rotary Club of Rapid City Rushmore. "It started 30-some years ago when we made a pledge to Children's Home and started a golf tournament to pay for it and, as they say, the rest is history," said Bruce.

Since that time, the Rapid City Rushmore Rotary has strongly supported CHS—donating more than \$2 million.

"How we came to know about Children's Home was through fundraising efforts

and then visiting," said Kim. "It's sad that Children's Home has to exist, but it's great that it does. We saw there was a great need for this type of care, and we felt that we wanted to help."

Prior to retirement, Kim was a nurse practitioner and Bruce was a financial advisor. He brought his expertise to the Children's Home Foundation Board of Directors, on which he served from 2004 to 2010, including as Board President. "I agreed with their mission."

Through Bruce's board experience, he saw that CHS was a "well-run organization, not top-heavy. Teachers and caregivers were passionate about their jobs and about what they were doing," he said.

The Nearhoods continue to support CHS. "I continue to do what I've always done," said Bruce. "I'm on the committee that puts the Gala on each year, and we're raising \$40,000 or \$50,000 a year for Children's Home Child Advocacy Center (CAC). And I help out at the golf tournament."

The Nearhoods have named CHS in their will. "As a financial advisor, I often counseled my clients on doing the same thing," Bruce said. "Instead of leaving retirement plan assets that my kids would have to pay taxes on, we leave it to charities that won't have to pay, so we don't lose that 20% to 30% in taxes. It's a bequest in our will."

"As I've told clients, your kids don't need all the money. It's a way to establish your legacy and do good after you're gone," said Bruce.

"We see the value of helping Children's Home in the future to provide those services," Kim said. *"And we are proud to be a small part of that future."*

Guardians of the Children 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.

» IRA GIFT PROVISION

A Special Opportunity for Those 70½ Years Old and Older

You can give any amount (up to a maximum of \$100,000) per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as Children's Home Society without having to pay income taxes on the money. Gifts of \$100,000 or less are eligible for this benefit and you can feel good knowing that you are making a difference at Children's Home Society. This popular gift option is commonly called the IRA charitable rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD for short.

Why Consider This Gift?

- Your gift will be put to use today, allowing you to see the impact of your giving immediately.
- Beginning in the year you turn 70½ (72 if born after July 1, 1949), you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD).
- You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.
- Since the gift doesn't count as income, it can reduce your annual income level. This may help lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security that is subject to tax.

» STOCK DONATIONS

Making donations of equities/stock helps charitable organizations and can also be an income tax benefit. 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 details, we suggest checking with your financial advisor.

» LEARN MORE

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

Jon Mammenga

CHF Chief Philanthropy Officer

P: 605.965.3136

E: jon.mammenga@chssd.org

Four Generations of Philanthropy

Seventy-two years ago, the late Loren Amundson began what would become a lifelong and generation-spanning family friendship with Children's Home Society (CHS).

In the early 1950s, Loren was a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity at USD. As a special Christmas treat, the fraternity funded a bus trip for children from CHS to visit the fraternity house in Vermillion for an afternoon of meals, games, presents and fun. Loren was Santa Claus for three years. And the experience of bringing joy to children made an impression on Loren that would last a lifetime.

Loren finished medical school, married Mavis and had two children—Carolynn and Mark. Carolynn Stavenger remembers that in 1964, her father became involved again with CHS as an advisor and physician. "We would drive over to the old orphanage on 10th and Cliff, and we would pick up two or three kids and bring them to our house for the day. We would play with our toys and games and puzzles, and if it was Christmas, we opened gifts.

As adults, Carolynn and Mark became CHS supporters as well. Mark started the Orion Classic, which has become the largest annual fundraising event at CHS. This year alone, the event, now called Caring for the Kids, raised more than \$500,000. Carolynn and her husband Jim have volunteered at CHS for many years in various roles, including Board service. Like the Amundsons, the Stavengers also have made many financial gifts, and have become Guardians of the Children, naming CHS in their wills.



Loren Amundson plays Santa Claus at the USD Lambda Chi CHS party, December 1951.

Carolynn and Jim's son, Mark, and his wife, Jennifer, are also fast friends of CHS. Mark grew up hearing about CHS from his parents and grandparents, while Jennifer is employed at SFCH as a Nurse Supervisor.

Enter the fourth generation! Ella Stavenger, age 10, is a student at Fred Assam Elementary in Brandon. Of course, she's heard about CHS all her life and is familiar with the Sioux Falls campus. Last year Ella's class had surplus dollars to donate to a good cause—and she suggested CHS where the money would help other children. Her class ended up donating \$250 in unrestricted funds to the Foundation!

We're grateful to four generations of the Amundson-Stavenger family for their generosity and friendship.

» **Help
SECURE
THE
FUTURE
of CHS**

VISIT CHSSD.ORG/SUPPORT

**Through your estate planning,
please consider supporting the
mission of CHS as part of your legacy.**



Contact:
Jon Mammenga
Chief Philanthropy Officer
605.965.3136
jon.mammenga@chssd.org



Children's Home Society

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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Children's
Home
Society

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

130
years
1893-2023

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

CHS provides residential treatment and special education, emergency shelter, forensic interviews, foster care and adoption, and prevention services.

In addition to serving victims of child abuse and domestic violence, CHS also partners with caring parents to help children with emotional or behavioral needs.

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

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.

Upcoming Events

2023

Little Red Stocking Round Up

All Nyberg's Ace, Sioux Falls..... November 20–December 24

Giving Tuesday: Truly Happy Meals

South Dakota Day of Giving..... November 28

Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety Gift Wrap Booth

Empire Mall, Sioux Falls..... December 1–24

2024

Knights of Columbus Bowling Tournament

Meadowood Lanes, Rapid City..... Saturday, January 13

Media One Funkski

Great Bear Ski Valley, Sioux Falls..... January 19–20

Gala at Mount Rushmore: Making a Difference for Generations

TBD, Rapid City..... March 2

Cleavers Chef Challenge

The District, Sioux Falls March 22

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