

SPECIAL EDITION

SPRING/SUMMER 2017 Combined Issue: The Children's Friend and Porch Light

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CHILDREN'S
HOME
SOCIETY



Children's Inn

Bright Start

Black Hills Children's Home

Sioux Falls Children's Home

Community Based Services

Child Advocacy Center



During his term in office from 1933-1944, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) faced major issues such as drought, unemployment, the banking crisis, and World War II which caused despair and uncertainty for many Americans. FDR sought a way to bring calm and confidence to a struggling nation and to explain his ideas.

In the 1930s, 90% of American homes owned a radio. FDR saw the potential of radio to speak directly to the public. The “Fireside Chat” became FDR’s connection to the American people. He chose informal language—the kind you would use when sitting by a fire, talking to friends. He used stories and analogies to be clearly understood. His honesty and reassuring tone was very effective. FDR would have 30 such radio chats over the course of his presidency.

Though not on the scale of the issues confronting FDR, Children’s Home Society (CHS) does have its own concerns for the future. Borrowing FDR’s approach, we would like to sit by the fire and have an honest and candid chat with our CHS friends...

Help CHS Go From **Good. Better. Best!**

If funds allowed, we would strengthen and improve the programs we already have. Just to be clear, *this is not* about starting any new programs.

HIRE AND KEEP QUALITY STAFF

Imagine being a CHS child who comes from a home of chaos and unpredictability. Over time, you learn to trust a CHS staff member with your deepest pain, secrets, and fears. It is so hard. But you begin to feel safe, to believe that someone really cares about what happened to you, and wants to help you.

Then you are told that the staff member you have come to love and trust is leaving CHS.

Though people leave for a variety of reasons, too often it is about wages. We must reduce staff turnover by raising salaries. Being competitive with pay and benefits in today’s job market is a challenge as South Dakota has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country. We want our mission to be carried out by trained and career-oriented employees whose tenure and experience would only make CHS stronger and offer stability and consistency for kids and families.

When you read pages 5–17 of this newsletter, please remember that these are the kind of employees we want to keep and do our best to compensate them fairly for the life-changing work that they do. Our staff have a passion for the CHS mission but they have bills to pay. (We think FDR would have said it that clearly!)

IMPROVE STAFF TO CHILD RATIOS

Years of abuse and trauma are not easily erased. But there is growing pressure from funding sources to reduce the length of stay in residential treatment—to do more in less time (not to mention the paperwork that takes staff away from kids). It would benefit CHS kids (and staff) to improve staff to child ratios for treatment counselors and therapists. This would allow for more intensive interaction and time spent with children and families.

FIND FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

What happens when a child works hard in treatment and is ready for a family, but there are none? As time passes and no placement is made, children begin to feel that there is something wrong with them. **Why does nobody want me?** They lose hope, and become fearful and insecure about their future. **Will I be alone for the rest of my life?** So much more needs to be done to recruit, train, and provide support to foster and adoptive families.

STRENGTHEN AND PRESERVE FAMILIES

What if we could help avoid out-of-home placements for children? An Intensive Family Support staff position would work to help children remain at home with their birth, foster, or adoptive family by providing in-home therapy and life skill counseling services.

REINFORCE STAFFING NEEDS FOR CHILDREN'S INN

The demand for emergency shelter for domestic violence victims frequently exceeds the 40-person capacity of Children's Inn. An all-time high of 79 persons in shelter occurred this past year, with many other days also well above capacity.

As you can imagine, this strains financial resources and overloads staff, impacting staff's ability to meet the demands of their jobs during their scheduled hours. It would be so helpful to have the financial resources to hire relief staff during those times (that are occurring with more frequency) when need exceeds capacity.

PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Sounds like a lofty goal, doesn't it. Would that put CHS out of business? I think we'd be okay with that.

With the launch of our Prevention Initiative in 2015, CHS became intentional and proactive in its efforts to prevent child abuse and domestic violence. Abuse prevention education and training is being provided statewide for medical professionals, law enforcement, school staff, child-serving organizations, and the general public.

Plans are being made to coordinate a statewide child sexual abuse awareness campaign to teach prevention to school students and their parents and to individuals working in youth-serving and faith-based organizations.

Nearly 100% of the funding for prevention efforts is made possible by charitable support. What more can be accomplished? That will be up to our "radio" audience!

BUILDING ENDOWMENT

If you are relying totally on Social Security to fund your retirement, you do not need to read any further. *(Good luck with that.)*

But if you realize how short-sighted (and dangerous!) that plan is, please read on. We think you'll come to understand what we've been trying to accomplish by building our endowment.

"In 1998, our board made the decision to make CHS less reliant on government funding. A goal was set to build an endowment with a distribution that would cover 25% of the annual budget.

"Currently, endowment supports 12% of our budget. Thanks to many generous friends, we are halfway there! Together, we will keep pushing forward to reach that milestone. We truly believe it is the responsible thing to do to secure the work of CHS."

— Rick Weber, Children's Home Foundation Director

Good. Better. Best!

continued on page 4

“Throughout the 124 years CHS has been in existence, our history is peppered with challenges that have threatened the operation of CHS. Thankfully, men and women of vision and conviction met those threats head-on and the mission persevered.

— Bill Colson, Executive Director
Children's Home Society

**True or
False?**

**CHS has all the
money it needs.**





Children's Inn

Bright Start

Black Hills Children's Home

Sioux Falls Children's Home

Community Based Services

Child Advocacy Center

Established in 1893, Children's Home Society (CHS) is South Dakota's oldest human services, nonprofit organization. Our mission is to protect, support, and enhance the lives of children, women, and families. Through a merger in 1998, Children's Inn, founded in 1977, became a program of CHS.

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

PROGRAM SITES

Children's Inn

605.338.0116

409 N. Western Avenue,
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Bright Start

605.274.0233

4402 E. 3rd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Black Hills Children's Home

605.343.5422

24100 S. Rockerville Road
Rapid City, SD 57702

Black Hills

Community Based Services

605.343.2811

1330 Jolly Lane
Rapid City, SD 57703

Sioux Falls Children's Home

605.334.6004

801 N. Sycamore Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

Sioux Falls

Community Based Services

605.965.3192

801 N. Sycamore Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

Children's Home

Child Advocacy Center

605.716.1628

1330 Jolly Lane
Rapid City, SD 57703

Good. Better. Best! *continued from page 3*

True or False?

CHS has plenty of money.

"Children's Home has plenty of money." if you've ever heard that comment—or maybe you have even had that same thought—know this:

- *That would be true if we had no desire to give the best care possible for the children and families we serve.*
- *That would be true if we want CHS to be a place to work that is only a stepping stone to a better-paying job.*
- *That would be true if it doesn't matter that child abuse and domestic violence continues to devastate families.*
- *That would be true if government support is drastically reduced, and it wouldn't matter if CHS closed its doors.*

\$10 Million Endowment Campaign Goals

GOALS

Secure \$5 Million in Challenge Gifts **\$3,650,000**
Raise \$5 Million to earn Challenge Gifts **\$3,312,000**
Raise A Total of \$10 Million in Gifts and Pledges **\$6,962,000**

PROGRESS-TO-DATE

AMOUNT

\$ 1,000,000

\$ 500,000

\$ 500,000

\$ 500,000

\$ 500,000

\$ 250,000

\$ 200,000

\$ 200,000

\$ 3,650,000

CHALLENGE DONORS

Anonymous

Harold & Helen Boer

Arlen "Arnie" Hauge

Rapid City Rushmore Rotary Club

Anonymous

Anonymous

Loren & Mavis Amundson

Anonymous

DESIGNATION

General Endowment

General Endowment

General Endowment,

Child Advocacy Center

Advocacy & Prevention

General Endowment

Children's Inn

General Endowment

Since the 2012 campaign launch, **31 people** have included CHS in their estate plans to become members of **GUARDIANS OF THE CHILDREN.**

HELP
Secure the
Future
of CHS

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

"I bequest (description of gift) to Children's Home Foundation to be used to support the operations of Children's Home Society of South Dakota."

Become a **GUARDIAN OF THE CHILDREN** by making a gift through your will, retirement plan beneficiary designation, or other ways. Learn more by contacting:

Rick Weber
605.965.3127



Unleashing Potential

at Children's Home Society



**Freddy
Maseman**

**BHCH Unit Director/
Family Therapist**

CHS Service: 10 years

This section (pages 5–17) was a special feature in the 2016 CHS Annual Report. It was so well received that we decided to share it with everyone on our mailing list which includes both friends of Children's Home Society and Children's Inn.

Residential Treatment

Program Budget: \$13,800,000

Charitable Support: \$1,261,000

Sioux Falls Children's Home (SFCH) and Black Hills Children's Home (BHCH) are psychiatric residential treatment centers and special education schools for children, ages 4–14, with severe emotional and behavioral problems. Most are victims of domestic violence, neglect, and emotional, physical, and sexual abuse.

It is also part of the CHS mission to partner with caring parents to help their children who have emotional or behavioral problems. There are beds for up to 62 children at SFCH and 53 children at BHCH.

www.chssd.org

There is no such thing as a “normal” day for **Freddy Maseman** (pictured on page 5).

On any given day he can be training staff, running therapy groups, helping with wake-ups, planning staff schedules, reviewing unit activity goals, helping out in a classroom, or shooting hoops with a child that needs some attention. Then there's managing the details of all the kids and families on his caseload.

But Freddy describes his favorite day as when he gets “one of those calls”—a call from a child that used to be at CHS. One such call recently came from Joey. Freddy recalls Joey's history as one of severe neglect and extreme emotional abuse.

Joey, now a young man, called to tell Freddy about his life and family, and how grateful he is that CHS taught him a different way to live from how he grew up. Joey regrets that he didn't always make it easy for the staff who worked so hard to help him. But he now knows what it is like to be happy with just the simple and ordinary things in life, and appreciates living in a peaceful home.

“That's the kind of thing that keeps me motivated—the potential—not only in our kids, but also in our staff. No matter what you think you know or don't know, there is always room to grow.”

Lisa Johnson

**SFCH Unit Director/
Family Therapist**

CHS Service: 10 years



Lisa Johnson must be a master at putting puzzles together—she does it every day at CHS! As a Unit Director overseeing 21 children and 14 staff, Lisa says that communication is the key to her work on behalf of kids and families. Every week, in matters regarding every child on her unit, she speaks with social workers, attorneys, therapists, counselors, nurses, teachers, parents, Big Buddies, and her own staff and clinical team—not to mention the time with children in therapy. Lisa and her staff work hard to keep everyone moving forward together.

Then there is the “nitty gritty” of her work. One of the cases closest to her heart involved Logan, a seven-year-old boy who was removed from his home at the age of four. This family lived in extreme poverty. They felt shame in needing and asking for services. The strain took a toll on both parents and they turned to using meth. Living conditions spiraled downward and both parents ended up in prison for various offenses. An aunt tried to care for Logan but she could not deal with his anxiety and attachment issues. Logan was referred to CHS where, in Lisa's words, “...our staff worked miracles with him.”

But the miracles didn't end with Logan. Now out of prison, Logan's mother, Kathy, became determined to do whatever it took to bring her son home. Many people were skeptical about Kathy's ability to change, and were not supportive. Kathy found an ally in Lisa, who believed Kathy was serious about rebuilding her life.

Lisa met regularly with Kathy, who has never missed a therapy session or a visit with Logan. She has joined a church and participates in a recovery group. Kathy got a job at a restaurant, and has worked hard to become a manager. She is moving to an apartment to make a home for her and Logan. Lisa and her staff organized a bake sale at CHS and raised almost \$500 to give to Kathy to help set up her new household.

“We have the most incredible staff,” says Lisa. “Many feel like it's a ‘calling’ to work here. Even through all of the hits, kicks, spit, screaming, and tears, our staff fall in love with these kids.”

Nine years ago, **Nate Gerlick** went through the process required to convert to the Catholic faith, and he needed to choose a patron saint name for himself as part of his confirmation. A close friend who supported his spiritual journey suggested a saint, Don Bosco, whose life was devoted to passions and pursuits that were similar to Nate's—helping children who don't have anywhere to go.

Saint Bosco, born in 1815, dedicated his life to the betterment and education of street children and disadvantaged youth. He developed teaching methods based on love rather than punishment that are still used today in many schools around the world.

“In every young person, a point of goodness is accessible, and it is the primary duty of the educator to discover that sensitive cord of the heart so as to draw out the best in the young person.”

~ Don Bosco

Fast forward 200 years and you'll find a man at CHS who lives and breathes those principles and brings them to work every day.

“I have always been drawn to needy kids,” says Nate, who went to college to be a PE teacher and coach. “Every day I challenge myself to be the best parent I can be to those 18 kids on my unit.”

Nate's style is that of a coach to both his staff and unit kids, drawing out the best in each one according to their gifts and abilities, and setting up individual goals and plans to address those areas that need work.

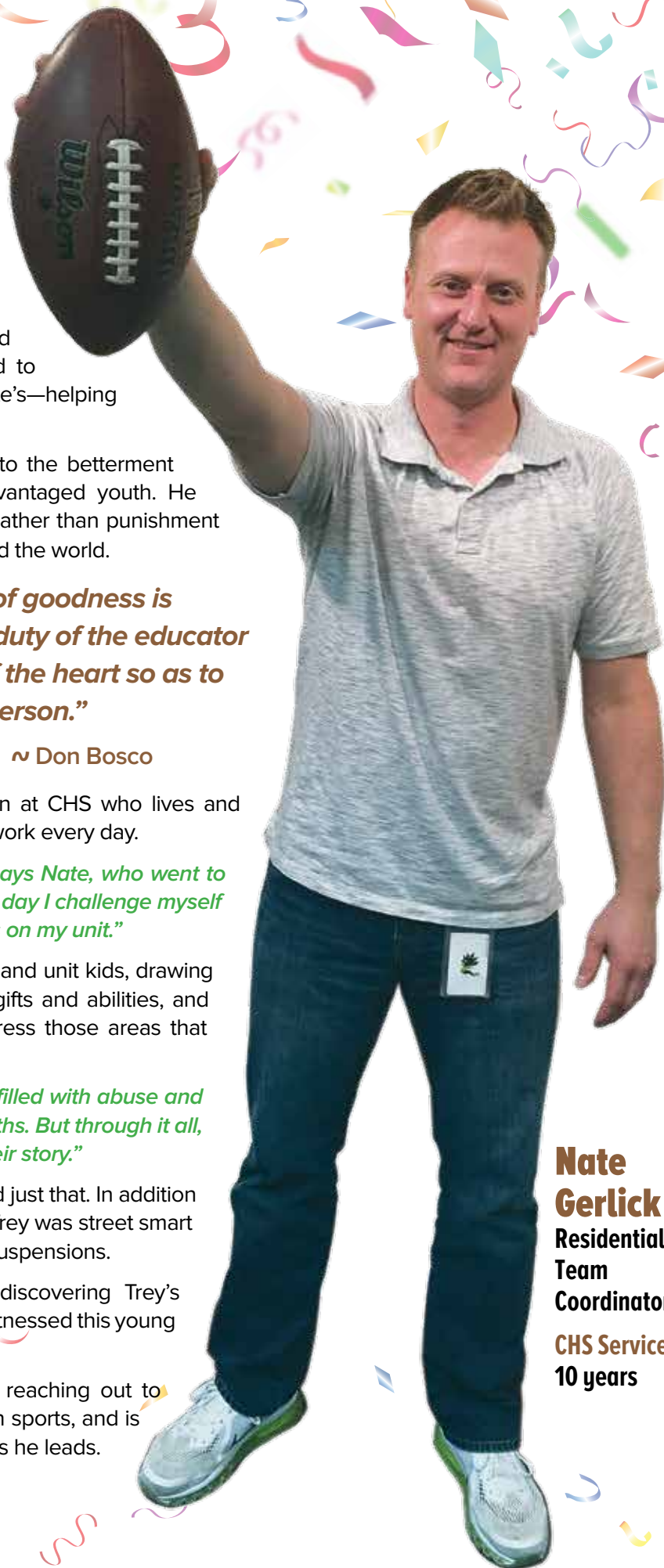
“Most of our kids come with years of history filled with abuse and trauma. That's a lot to erase in just 12-14 months. But through it all, we challenge our kids to rise up in spite of their story.”

Nate often thinks of Trey, a young man who did just that. In addition to frequent attempts to run away from home, Trey was street smart and had a history of gang activity and school suspensions.

Once admitted to CHS, Nate focused on discovering Trey's “sensitive cord of the heart.” Over time, Nate witnessed this young man “rise up in spite of his story.”

Today, Trey is back in his home community reaching out to young people. He has achieved a high level in sports, and is a positive influence through the support groups he leads.

Nate Gerlick
Residential
Team
Coordinator
CHS Service:
10 years





Lisa Entringer
Overnight Team Coordinator

CHS Service: 14 years

Anyone who has been a parent to a younger child knows what evening bedtime routines and overnights can bring. **Lisa Entringer** is quick to credit her experience of “being a Mom” for equipping her with many of the skills needed for her job.

As an Overnight Team Coordinator, Lisa can be found doing any and all of the following:

- Assuring kids that they are in a safe place. (especially their first night)
- Overseeing campus security.
- Rocking away bad dreams and nightmares.
- Reading a story to a child who is struggling to relax.
- Letting kids know someone is there if they need anything.
- Assisting kids who wet the bed.
- Easing nighttime fears and worries when kids are alone with their thoughts.
- Reading kids’ case histories to understand best approaches for each one.
- Mending a torn seam of a child’s favorite stuffed animal.
- Washing and folding laundry.
- Tidying up the unit so things are fresh in the morning for wake-up time.

Lisa had some recent “Mom time” with little Brady. He could not sleep because he had a sore on his finger. As Lisa looked for the sore, (it was nearly healed and barely visible), she realized Brady had something on his mind.

With very little prompting, he ended up telling Lisa that he had been on a home visit and met his new stepfather and stepbrother. He would now be sharing his room with some boy he didn’t know, and he was anxious about that.

Lisa assured him she would check to see how his next visit went. She also reminded him that he has a roommate at CHS, and he gets along just fine with him. But they will keep talking about it. His sore began to feel better, and Brady decided to go back to bed.

Lisa’s years of wisdom and experience also translate into “being a Mom” in another way—by helping mentor new staff.

“We all need to learn the healthy balance of love and limits,” says Lisa. “I enjoy helping our younger staff learn to be firm in a way that makes kids feel safe. Because of our kids’ backgrounds, sometimes it’s hard for new staff to say ‘no’ to a child. But that’s part of what makes our kids feel secure—an adult who is in charge and has their best interests at heart.”



Crystal Groeneweg
Special Education Teacher – 3rd Grade
CHS Service: 9 years

Cystal Groeneweg's favorite time in her classroom comes when one of her students has an "ah-ha" moment. She sees that when a child begins to understand some math principle or vocabulary rule. That little success then snowballs and learning becomes easier (and more fun!) for them. And for a child who has struggled in school and has known little academic success, that moment is life-changing.

As a professional, Crystal appreciates being a teacher at CHS. Most students come with academic and/or behavioral IEPs (Individualized Education Program), and she gets to know her students well on so many levels. She likes the nurturance permission that allows her to pat a child on the back, tousle their hair, comfort a child on her lap, or hold a hand to redirect or reassure.

Crystal shares one of those moments:

"Sometimes you don't know if you're getting through or making a difference in a child's life. But then I think of Megan. She was very smart, but her impulsivity and negative behaviors kept her from learning. She blew up over the smallest of things and would allow a minor set-back to define the rest of her day. She was a classic example of how sometimes you just have to stay the course, do what you know is best, and just work through the 'ick.' Now here we are, five years later, and Megan calls me occasionally from her home in Oregon where she attends high school and is doing very well. She loves to talk about memories she has of CHS and still talks about holding hands when we were walking to lunch. You just never know..."

On any given day, **Emily Starr** is "everyone's Mom." She sees to the physical well-being of all the kids at Sioux Falls Children's Home (SFCH), as well as the staff who care for them. And like any good Mom, she knows about every cut, scrape, blister, bump, bruise, rash, injury, scar, and broken bone on the campus! She knows whether treatment requires further medical care, or if the fix can be a Batman band-aid, an ice pack, a hot pad, a good nap in a cozy fleece blanket, or maybe a hug.

Emily is one of the first people kids see on the day they are admitted to SFCH. In addition to her intake nursing assessment, Emily says her most important job on that day is to be a calm, safe, and reassuring presence that relieves those first-day fears and anxieties for a child. They have come to a place where they know no one, and have histories of not being able to trust or depend on adults. Emily's welcoming manner lets children know that someone does care about them, that they will be safe at SFCH, and that they can ask as many questions as they want.

Emily finds she often needs to play the role of "private investigator" to piece together a missing medical history for a child. In addition to physical health issues, Emily and the medical assistant also attend to any dental care and eye screenings. For many children, this is the first time those needs have been addressed at all.



Emily Starr
Nurse
CHS Service: 15 years

And it has to be said: Thanks to donors at Christmas time—in one of the most fun drawers to open on the entire campus—Emily has every band-aid theme you can imagine: Ninja Turtles, Dory, Spider-Man, Barbie, Star Wars, Little Mermaid, Frozen, Toy Story, Hello Kitty, and Spongebob! How can you **not** feel better when a Jedi Master supervises your healing?!

Bright Start

Program Budget: \$827,000

United Way: \$478,000



Bright Start is a resource and support program that offers nurse home visitation services to at-risk families during pregnancy and after delivery. Services may continue until the child's third birthday.

Nursing services include prenatal, maternal, and infant/child health assessments and education; parenting education; infant/child development assessments; and health, safety, and nutrition education.

Bright Start provides assistance to help link families with resources such as prenatal, postpartum, and pediatric medical care; family planning services to delay and plan future child bearing; and mental health services.

Bright Start may also help make referrals to community resources for job training, early childhood programs and educational opportunities, housing, financial assistance, and substance abuse treatment.

www.chssd.org/brightstart

Being a nurse home visitor for Bright Start is the primary role **Betty Peterson** is asked to play in her work with families. She provides education about pregnancy, labor and delivery, caring for infants, and parenting. Betty does assessments, developmental screenings, and refers families to helpful resources, as needed. First-time moms can benefit from this service from pregnancy until their child turns three.

Betty shares the story of one of her clients...

As a child and teenager, Maya endured chaos, drug use, and rape. Most of her family ended up in prison. At one point, Maya planned to end her life. Who would even care? Through tears, she wrote a suicide note and yelled at God. Then—to this day—she can only explain what happened next as a miracle. Her room went from dark to light. Something rose up in her, and she stopped using drugs that day.

Not long after, she met Mike, and they began a life together. Neither had finished high school, so job prospects were limited. When Maya became pregnant, she found out about Bright Start and enrolled in the program. Maya and Mike were willing to listen and learn about what they could do to help their baby grow, develop, and be healthy, and how they could be good parents. These two have worked very hard. They wanted to give their baby the kind of childhood they didn't have. Maya loves to take her daughter to "Wee Play and Learn" at the downtown library. Mike now has a job where he is learning a trade, and they have moved from their tiny apartment to a two-bedroom townhome.

"Watching families grow stronger and healthier in ways many of us take for granted brings me a kind of joy I can't put into words," says Betty.

Betty Peterson

**Visiting Nurse at
Bright Start**

CHS Service: 2½ years



Children's Inn

Program Budget: \$2,388,000

United Way: \$405,000

Charitable Support: \$1,133,000



Children's Inn provides free services for women, children, and men who are victims of family violence, elder abuse, child abuse, neglect, or sexual assault.

Children's Inn was founded in 1977 and, through a merger in 1998, became a program of Children's Home Society of South Dakota.

www.chssd.org/ChildrensInn

Erin Amundson

Case Manager at
Children's Inn

CHS Service:
1½ years



Every time **Erin Amundson** is at the mall and sees a woman with a long, blonde braid, she thinks of Amanda. Where is she? Is she okay? Is she safe from Jim, her abusive husband? Has he found her again? Is she alive?

As a Case Manager at Children's Inn, it's hard *not* to take your work home. Erin remembers the day Amanda and her frightened children arrived at Children's Inn in a police car after a concerned neighbor heard shots fired and called authorities.

Amanda and her children fled from another state to get away from Jim. For months, she was able to safely hide at a friend's house until someone unknowingly posted a picture that included her children on Facebook. That's all it took for Jim to find her.

When Jim showed up, he began to assault Amanda while she was playing in the yard with her kids. As they tried to get away, Jim shot at her.

On any given day, Erin can be found comforting a trembling child or a mom like Amanda; writing protection orders; helping moms in shelter enroll their kids in school, daycare, or Headstart; educating about court procedures; helping a family with re-location details; or connecting moms and children with helping resources throughout the community.

When asked what is her favorite thing about her job, Erin replies:

"Helping women and families get on a better path in life—to help them learn another way to live that involves a new 'normal'. You can't believe what a fresh bath towel, or new pair of shoes, or telling someone 'You look nice today,' can do for someone who has lost all hope.

"It doesn't happen right away, and sometimes it takes repeated visits to Children's Inn. But then comes that day when you see something in their eye—they are ready to move forward. Some 'switch' in them has flipped and they see that they have value and worth, and deserve a better life. Helping to make that difference in life for someone makes all the hard days so worth it!"



Jessica Olson

Adoption Specialist

CHS Service:

10 years

Community Based Services

Program Budget: \$1,561,000

Charitable Support: \$152,000

Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) serves children who have moderate emotional and behavioral problems, usually from abuse or neglect. TFC offers a healing family experience to prepare children for reunification or adoption.

Wendy's Wonderful Kids (WWK) works to find adoptive families for children who are hard to place. WWK believes that no child is unadoptable.

Post Adoption Services include therapy, family support, training, and referrals.

Training and Assessment is offered to families who are interested in becoming a foster or adoptive family. Includes orientation, home studies, and licensing.

www.chssd.org/foster

www.chssd.org/adoption

“Unadoptable is Unacceptable.”

Jessica Olson embraces the motto of Wendy's Wonderful Kids (WWK) wholeheartedly. The children in this program present one or more of the following challenges: They are older, have medical needs, are in a sibling group, have behavior issues, or have endured extensive trauma. “And those are the kids I get to work for!” says Jessica, with a determined twinkle in her eye.

Jessica is one of two WWK Recruiters in South Dakota, and both work at CHS. Funded in part by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, there are WWK Recruiters in every state and Canada. These two positions in South Dakota also receive funding from SD Department of Social Services and CHS. All WWK recruitment programs focus on finding adoptive families for America's longest-waiting children in foster care. And these children are waiting for Jessica to help them find their adoptive family.

Jessica's favorite thing about her job?

“Getting to know the child. I begin by reading everything I can find about the child's history, and talking to the people who have played an important role in their life. From there, I meet the child and begin attending school programs, sporting events, Christmas programs,

special gatherings, and just go out to eat together. I need to learn about their passions, preferences, hopes, and dreams.”

Jessica's least favorite thing about her job?

“Childhood goes by so quickly. So it's difficult when a child asks, ‘Have you found me a family yet?’ or ‘Does nobody want me?’ or ‘How come they got a family and I didn't?’ From referral to adoption, this process takes an average of two years, so sometimes you have to keep a child's hope up by being strong and hopeful for them. They need to see hope in me when they are struggling to keep theirs.”

Jessica's biggest challenges in her job?

“Foster and adoptive families exist because something negative and traumatic has happened in a child's life that has caused them great loss. Sometimes it's hard for families to understand when kids aren't always all smiles or don't seem grateful. They have gotten somewhat weary of investing in the revolving door of relationships they have known. They are just children, but they are so brave to put themselves out there to love and be loved.”

*“I know
how you
feel...”*

I know how you feel —not many CHS staff can honestly give this response to kids who are working through pain and trauma.

But **Anne McGovern** can.

Among her many responsibilities as a foster care and post-adoption therapist, Anne helps children cope with grief and loss issues when rights are terminated with their birth families. She helps kids give voice to their interpretation of what has happened to them. She helps prepare kids to become part of a new family. And she helps children with transition issues when they move in with a new family and for months after.

Anne has such a passion for helping kids through all this, and more, because she wishes those things had been available to her when she was a child.

Born in Korea 30 years ago, Anne went into foster care when she was a little over a year old. By age two, she went to an adoptive family in Illinois. That adoption disrupted. Then a family in Minnesota took her in at age 2½. Though these were well-intentioned families, there was no preparatory work or a therapeutic support system for either family.

Even at her young age, the trauma of separation, multiple moves, and cultural identity issues took a toll on Anne as a child and teenager.

There were some bright spots. After high school, Anne made a connection with other Korean adoptees. Together, they created a camp focused on post-adoption services that also highlighted the art, music, and culture of Korea. Anne felt she was helping kids and families “unpack” realities that took her years to learn and understand.

As an adult, Anne made a trip to Korea to meet her birth mother. Those four days in Korea allowed Anne to grieve, dispel myths about her mother, and release a lot of things that she thought mattered. The perspective she gained became the foundation for her desire to help others.

Anne loves being able to draw from her own journey “home” and to help kids and families navigate their own.



**Anne
McGovern**
Foster Care &
Post-Adoption
Therapist
CHS Service:
3 years

Child Advocacy Center

Program Budget: \$317,000
Charitable Support: \$190,000

Children's Home Child Advocacy Center (CAC) serves children who are alleged victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, or witness a violent situation.

CAC provides forensic interviews and support to families, as well as the coordination of specialized medical examinations.

These services eliminate the need for repeated interviews and examinations by multiple investigating parties. Referrals come primarily through law enforcement offices and Child Protection Services.

www.chssd.org/CAC

Brandi Tonkel
Forensic
Interviewer/
Education
& Public
Awareness
Specialist
CHS Service:
7 years

Brandi Tonkel remembers the day she found out what a forensic interviewer did—and knew that was what she wanted to do. Brandi received nationally-recognized training to interview children who are alleged victims of abuse and neglect, and to do so in a way that is non-leading, non-suggestive, and child-friendly. Not long after, Brandi had the opportunity to pursue her dream and became a forensic interviewer for CHS.

"I love being with a child 'in that moment' when buried secrets are released," says Brandi. "It's like the weight of the world has been lifted off their shoulders. It is wonderful to connect with a child and know that they trust you with painful and private information. That challenges me to do my best and make certain that trusting me is something they will never regret."

Brandi is especially pleased when her work with a child becomes a first step in their life changing for the better.

"I remember the case of six-year-old Kaylee. There were some people in her town who had nothing more than a gut feeling that Kaylee needed to be rescued from something going on in her home. These reports led to an investigation, and I had the opportunity to spend time with Kaylee. Because Kaylee would still be living in the home and not be emotionally safe, we just 'played' together the first time, as she clearly was not ready to talk. But we made a plan for what she could do when she was ready to talk to me.

"A sexual offender visited the home over the weekend. This incident was reported, and authorities took custody of Kaylee immediately. Kaylee disclosed enough information to me and our team to warrant an arrest, and the offender admitted to even way more than Kaylee had disclosed. A second offender was actually brought to justice in this case, as well.

"Kaylee's whole life will be different now."



Advocacy & Prevention

Program Budget: \$213,000
Charitable Support: \$194,000

CHS is intentional and proactive in its efforts to prevent child abuse and domestic violence in South Dakota.

Statewide training and prevention events focus on:

- Teaching the public and professionals how to recognize and respond to child abuse and domestic violence.
- Educating adults on how to properly handle child abuse disclosures.
- Educating teens about healthy relationships and dating violence.
- Keeping Kids Safe! 4 versions of **What if...?** card sets are now available!

www.chssd.org/Whatif



What if...? card sets available!

Developed by CHS staff, these card sets are designed to help adults initiate conversations with children and teens about difficult subjects such as peer pressure, internet safety, sexual abuse, morals, physical abuse, bullying, and more. Sets are available for children ages 3-5, 6-10, 11-13, and Teens.

Keeping Kids Safe in the World of Social Media: Mentoring and Empowering Children in the Digital Age

Learn how YOU can protect the children you love from potential abuse.

- ▲ Find out how to minimize dangers to our children in our communities and online
- ▲ Learn about navigating the net and what happens when children "log on"
- ▲ Learn how to appropriately respond to disclosures of abuse...and so much more!

DATE: Pick a Date!
PLACE: Your Town, South Dakota
COST: This event is FREE for parents and the general public.
PLEASE NOTE: Due to the graphic nature of the topic, it is recommended that children do NOT attend.
CONTACT INFORMATION: For more information contact Tifanie Petro at (605) 716-1628 or email tifanie.petro@chssd.org

Sponsored by:
CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY



Featured Speakers:

Hollie Strand, MS
Hollie serves as a Forensic Examiner with the Internet Crimes Against Children.

Tifanie Petro, MS

Tifanie serves as a Forensic Interviewer/ Education and Public Awareness Specialist for Children's Home Society.

Hollie and Tifanie independently train educators, law enforcement, and other professionals who are committed to keeping children safe.

Keeping Kids Safe in Today's World: Recognizing and Responding / What if...?

- ▲ Find out how to minimize hidden dangers to children in our communities.
- ▲ Learn ways to talk to children about staying safe so they do not become victims.
- ▲ Learn how to appropriately respond to disclosures of abuse...and so much more!

Pick a Date!
Time am/pm

Date

Place

Choose Your Location
Address
Your City or Town
Your State

Featured Speaker:
Tifanie Petro, MS

Tifanie serves as an Education and Public Awareness Specialist for Children's Home Society.
Tifanie trains educators, law enforcement, medical providers, and other professionals, but has a passion for talking to "the Moms and Dads of the world" to help them keep their children safe.

This event is FREE to the public.

For more information, contact Tifanie Petro at (605) 716-1628 or email: tifanie.petro@chssd.org

Book a Training Event! Call Tifanie at 605.716.1628 or Teresa at 605.965.3147.

Keith Christofferson

Maintenance
Assistant
at SFCH and
Bright Start

CHS Service:
15 years



Support Staff

“

As they hugged, Isaac wouldn't let go of Keith. Finally Keith pulled away and asked Isaac if something was wrong. Isaac said, 'You smell like my Dad.' Keith recalls, I just lost it...

”

When asked what his favorite thing is about his job, **Keith Christofferson** responds, *“The staff and kids. CHS is like a big family...”* But with a twinkle in his eye he quickly adds, *“...and the killer farmer tan I get in the summer!”* His least favorite thing? *“Moving snow.”*

Having retired from the Air Force as a law enforcement officer, and from the Army as an engineer, Keith saw an ad in the paper for a maintenance worker for Sioux Falls Children's Home (SFCH). That was 15 years ago. Since then, Keith is one of the first to arrive on campus every morning at 5 a.m. (even earlier if it's a snow removal day!)

In addition, Keith provides set-up and tear-down support for SFCH events, and “drives the sleigh” at Christmas time when gifts are wrapped and ready to be moved to the houses. He also puts up all the Christmas lights in the trees that line the SFCH campus on Sycamore Avenue and are enjoyed by passing motorists during the holidays.

One of Keith's favorite moments at SFCH occurred when he was walking through a building on his way to fix a light. Little six-year-old Isaac asked Keith if he could have a hug.

As they hugged, Isaac wouldn't let go of Keith. Finally Keith pulled away and asked Isaac if something was wrong. Isaac said, “You smell like my Dad.” Keith recalls, “I just lost it...”

BY THE NUMBERS...

What might Keith do in a day at Sioux Falls Children's Home?

Keith and crew provide for the safety, maintenance, and repair of:

- 28 acres
- 7 buildings
- 18 vehicles
- 145 HVAC units
- 38 fire extinguishers
- 33 bathrooms (62 toilets)
- 64 beds
- 11 dishwashers
- 19 refrigerators
- 6 ovens
- 70 kids' bikes
- 2 commercial washers
- 2 commercial dryers
- 2 utility tractors
- 2 utility carts
- 2 commercial mowers
- Snow blowers & lawn equipment

Volunteer Program

There are a variety of volunteer opportunities! For more information, please call:

Melissa Jenkins	605.338.0116	Children's Inn
Theresa Schreiner	605.343.2811	Black Hills programs
Mari DeBerg	605.965.3120	Sioux Falls programs

Mari DeBerg would leave the Energizer Bunny in the dust!

On any given day, Mari may be found interviewing a potential volunteer; stocking the Big Buddy closet with games, craft supplies, and brownie mixes; hosting a football team doing a clinic for CHS kids; giving a tour to nursing students; doing background checks on new volunteers; talking with a therapist about a child to make a good Big Buddy match; working with a service club hosting a monthly birthday party; recruiting 150+ volunteers for the Orion Challenge; helping with Christmas deliveries—and so much more!

"I have the best job at Children's Home," Mari has said on more than one occasion. "I love getting to know our kids, and working on their behalf by bringing in the compassion, gifts, and talents of some of the best volunteers I have ever known. These people have such a heart for the CHS mission, and I get to help them find the best way possible to put that into action."

One of Mari's favorite memories is having a CHS child tell her what his Big Buddy meant to him. "He is what I think a perfect dad would be like. He sees me every week, I can count on him, we have fun together, and I know he cares about me."

A fun fact: Mari was the first volunteer at CHS back in 1989, before CHS even had a volunteer program. It was her phone call that put those wheels in motion. And now, more than 20 years later, she runs the program!



Mari DeBerg
SFCH Volunteer
Coordinator

CHS Service:
5 years

CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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:

Lynne Byrne	Rob Mudge
Jeb Clarkson	T.J. Reardon
Steve Egger	George Roberts*
Phil Helland	John Rozell*
Blake Hoffman	Dave Schmidt
Bob Hoover*	Peg Seljeskog
Deanna Lien	Carolynn Stavenger
Helen Madsen	Dennis Stene
Jack Marshman	Pam Taylor Jansa
Royal (Mac) McCracken	Gene Uher
Tim Meyer	Marilyn VanDemark*
Linda Mickelson Graham	Doug Wells

*Current Board Member

THE 28TH ANNUAL
**Rushmore Rotary
 BHCH Golf
 Tournament**
 A Benefit for
 Children's Home
 Child Advocacy Center

**A Four-Person Scramble
 Monday, July 31
 Arrowhead Country Club
 Rapid City**

For event information,
 to golf, to be a sponsor,
 or to donate a prize,
 please contact:

Scott Barbour:
 605.342.5587

Theresa Schreiner:
 605.343.2811

[www.chssd.org/foundation/
 Rotarygolftournament.asp](http://www.chssd.org/foundation/Rotarygolftournament.asp)

JOIN US FOR THE 4TH ANNUAL
Vern Eide Acura Golf Classic
 - A Benefit for Children's Inn -



Golf with us!
Monday, July 10
 at GreatLIFE
 Willow Run Golf Course

11 am-12:30 pm

Check-in
 Putting, Chipping and
 Pitching Contests

12:30pm

4-Person Scramble

Following Golf

Dinner, Program & Awards

**An Ace on Hole #16
 WINS a 2017 Acura TLX!**

To register or find more information:

verneideacura.com

or contact

**Staci at 605.338.0116 or staci.kropuenske@chssd.org
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 30, 2017.**

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!



EAGLE SPONSORS



EVENT HOST:



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MEDIA SPONSORS



\$25,000 raised during MARCH GLADNESS

Typically, March brings the Gala at Mount Rushmore sponsored by Xanterra Parks & Resorts, the National Park Service, and Rotary Club of Rapid City Rushmore. However, a major renovation precluded the use of the dining area this year so the Gala event committee created a fun alternative: **MARCH GLADNESS!**

CHS friends were encouraged to send a non-event donation, or to host some kind of themed "mini event" at their home or business and encourage attendees to make a donation. All proceeds would benefit the Children's Home Child Advocacy Center (CAC). Events included Doug & Darla Crown's NASCAR Race Day Celebration, Norm & Linda Peterson's High Tea and Cocktails, Scott & Helen Van Dam's Pad-Thia-To-Go, and others.

Donations made to **MARCH GLADNESS** before April 1 were matched by Xanterra Parks & Resorts and Rushmore Rotary, up to \$10,000. That challenge gift was more than met and all proceeds are on track to raise \$25,000!





22nd Annual Orion Classic

Orion Classic

Monday, August 7

The Country Club of Sioux Falls

8:30 a.m. Pro Exhibition

8:15 a.m. Gates Open to the Public

Learn from the Pros as they demonstrate their skills and provide tips to improve your game. Then watch them in action as they compete against each other in a 3-hole shoot-out!

FREE Admission
Compliments of



10:00 a.m. ProAm

Corporate teams are joined by PGA Professionals in an 18-hole tournament. The public is welcome to watch this event!

Major Sponsors:

Orion Food Systems
Avera
Carnaval Brazilian Grill
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DAKOTACARE
First PREMIER Bank
Great Western Bank
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Sanford Health
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Schulte Subaru
The Stavenger Family
Tri-State Wholesale Flooring

Media Sponsors:

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\$21,929 MSRP
Picture is a representation only.

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Toyota
Corolla SE!**

Sponsored by
**BILLION
TOYOTA**

Only **300** tickets
will be sold – \$100 each!

Call **605.965.3114**

**Evening
for the Kids**


MARK AMUNDSON'S
LEGACY OF LOVE AND HOPE

Sunday, August 6

Best Western Ramkota Exhibit Hall
Join us for an evening of fun and inspiration
while helping kids and families served by CHS.

**Banquet
Sponsor:**



**For event and
ticket information:
[www.
orionclassic.
com](http://www.orionclassic.com)**



and



Toy Drive

By the numbers...

- 23-day run at The Empire Mall (December 2-24)
- 716 volunteers
- 2,146 volunteer hours
- 7,500+ gifts wrapped
- \$56,230 raised for Children's Inn!
- 300+ gifts collected for Christmas and birthday presents!

PRESENTING SPONSOR:



MEDIA PARTNERS:



EVENT SUPPORT:



VOLUNTEER LEADERS:

Sheena Andrews	Morgan McKinney
Phyllis Clark	Charlotte Schwab
Bill Hennrich	Deborah Sneve
Jolynn Hennrich	Tonya Triebwasser
Rhonda Kelsey	Randy VanDeVendel
Joan McIlvenna	Sheila Wassom



**Can you help supply
these ongoing needs...?**

Baby Formula (Similac, Enfamil)
Paper towels • Paper napkins
Kleenex • Dryer Sheets
Hair Conditioner • Unscented Lotion
Coffee • Creamer • Bottled Water
Cereal • Sugar
Canned Fruit • Canned Vegetables
Snacks (Granola Bars, Pop Tarts, Snack
Crackers, Graham Crackers)

**Donations accepted between
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Monday,
Wednesday, Friday.**

Please call Staci with any questions:
605.338.0116

Children's Inn
— A program of
CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY
OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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

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Learn even more about CHS:



Like us on Facebook!



Watch our videos on the
CHS YouTube Channel:

www.chssd.org/videos

Thank You, Funski-ers and Friends!

You Provide Help for Victims of Domestic Violence.



Hosted by Great Bear Ski Valley, the 28th Annual **Media One FUNSKI** was held January 20–21. Back by popular demand for a second year was The Fatbike Race. Tried and true favorites included: snow tube races, snow sculpture contest, rail jam, downhill skiing, snowboarding, and frozen leg kickball.

The crowd favorite Zipfly Sled Race rounded out the two-day event. For those not inclined to hit the slopes, **Hammerschlagen** was this year's new hit!

One of the area's favorite wintertime events, the **Media One FUNSKI** raised \$30,608 to support the work of Children's Inn!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS AND FRIENDS!



MEDIA SUPPORT:
INTERACTIVE outdoor media



FRIENDS OF FUNSKI:

Associated Consulting Engineering, Bierschbach Equipment & Supply, Callaways, CO-OP Architecture, DQ Treat Center, FastSigns, Freeburg Hay, Great Plains Brokerage, Dan Grider, Richard Muller, Sioux Falls Music, Sioux Falls Specialty Hospital.



Upcoming Events

Pick your favorite events, save the dates, and support CHS!

HUNTER'S DREAM MOTORCYCLE RUN

June 24 – Black Hills

SSgt. Josh Harmer: 605.385.5525

VERN EIDE ACURA GOLF CLASSIC

July 10 – Sioux Falls

www.verneideacura.com

Staci Kropuenske: 605.338.0116

THOSE GUYS ABATE POKER RUN

July 16 – Sioux Falls

Dave Brende: 605.940.3535

BORROWED BUCKS POKER RUN

July 29 – Sioux Falls

Kirk Keupp: 605.331.2448

RUSHMORE ROTARY BHCH GOLF TOURNAMENT

July 31 – Rapid City

Scott Barbour: 605-342-5587

Theresa Schreiner: 605.343.2811

EVENING FOR THE KIDS

August 6 – Sioux Falls

www.orionclassic.com

Tom Roberts: 605.965.3138

ORION CLASSIC PRO AM

August 7 – Sioux Falls

www.orionclassic.com

Tom Roberts: 605.965.3138

BLACK HILLS WIND & FIRE MOTORCYCLE RIDE

August 8 – Rapid City

Rich Stanger: 303.818.1728

Theresa Schreiner: 605.343.2811

KIEFFER SANITATION TRASH CAN OPEN

August 31 – Rapid City

Seth Green: 605.415.0523

Theresa Schreiner: 605.343.2811

JON CRANE CHS BENEFIT AUCTION

September 29 – Rapid City

Theresa Schreiner: 605.343.2811