Going Upstream

CHS Launches Prevention, Education & Training Initiative

For many people, the latest and greatest “go-to” resource is a voice on their smartphone known as “Siri.” So what would be Siri’s response to the question, “Siri, how can we prevent child abuse?”

Odds are, the question would prompt a referral to a number of websites with information about child abuse. One thing is certain—there are no easy or quick answers—even for Siri!

Since 1893, Children’s Home Society’s legacy has been the protection of children and the rescue of childhoods. CHS co-founders William and Elizabeth Sherrard even helped draft the first child protection laws for the state of South Dakota. And over the past 50 years, CHS has developed many excellent treatment programs to help children in crisis.

But a question likely asked at countless CHS staff and board meetings held throughout its 121-year history still remains: “What can we do to prevent child abuse?”

During an extensive strategic planning session in 2013, CHS leadership decided the time had come to devote collective wisdom and resources to the prevention of child abuse and domestic violence in South Dakota, and has made the creation of the CHS Prevention, Education, & Training Initiative (The Initiative) a top priority.

Upon learning of The Initiative, a long-time CHS friend, Helen Madsen, became excited about what this could mean for children and families, and she went to the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation to make arrangements for a gift to support it.

Because of Helen, the Community Foundation became aware of The Initiative, and thought CHS might be a candidate for their annual City Blossom award—a $50,000 grant for projects that address community needs. A proposal was written and submitted, and much to the absolute delight of CHS leadership, the grant was approved! SFACF’s City Blossom award will be used primarily to hire professional guidance that will assist CHS leadership staff and key community stakeholders in the development of a strategic plan for this new initiative.

CHS has created a new staff position to lead the development of this program. Deb Moritz has been the Communications Manager for Children’s Home Foundation for the past 25 years and, beginning July 1, will step out of that position to become the new Program Coordinator for The Initiative.

“The Initiative is a big step for CHS and our hope is that, through The Initiative, we will help facilitate a significant reduction in cases of child abuse and domestic violence. I know that this effort can’t
The passage of time is such a strange phenomenon! When we are children it seems to go on without end. Were in a hurry to grow up, learn to ride a bike, be allowed to stay at home alone, become a teenager, drive a car, and do all the things we envy about those older than us. I even remember thinking about how cool it will be when I can share my face like dad does! For youngsters, summers seem endless, our friends a few years seem to have always been a part of our lives, and each day is filed away as an event. As our memories turn to the next day and the next adventure. Those were the days!

As I age, instead of the endless summer, I find myself wondering how it could pass so quickly and thinking it can’t possibly be winter again so soon. I wake up in the morning contemplating all I have to do that day and, before I know it, the day is gone. As I write this message for the spring summer edition of The Children’s Friend, I can’t help but think, “I just did that!” — when the truth is that I wrote my column last October, more than six months ago! These days shave nearly every morning and love for about 50 years. Each time I grasp the razor it seems like I just did that, too! That process isn’t nearly as cool as I thought it would be all those years ago!

Twenty one years ago I was honored when asked to join the Board at Children’s Home Society. At the time I had no notion that I would join the staff barely six years later or ultimately become a member of the leadership team. It all seems like yesterday. I hope this time here will eventually end, even though I want it to be like those childhood summers — never ending!

How does time pass for you if you’re a child victimized by abuse and/or neglect? How about a woman subjected to domestic violence? I think it must pass very slowly, no matter the person’s age, but in a different way than it did for most of us enjoying those wonderful playgrounds. The wonder for them must be about the day be over as quickly as possible while hoping for a bit of peacefulness. The days for them must move as slow as possible and do not pass quickly forgotten. Considering that each of us has only so many days before us, this is a terrible and senseless shame!

These are the people who have inspired us, the ones we’re charged and privileged to serve. Our commitment needs to be that we will help make as many of their days safe, healthy, and warmly memorable as possible.

CHS has followed this path for 121 years and I believe we’ve been remarkably successful. Most of our work, however, has been reactive. We’ve helped countless women, children, and families rebound from abuse, neglect, and domestic violence, and our pledge is to continue doing so. You’ve learned from this issue of The Children’s Friend that we now intend to work at reducing those days filled with abuse, neglect and domestic violence by preventing it in the first place through education and training. I’m confident we’ll be successful with this initiative, but also know it can’t be successful without support from you who believe in us. Please join us in this important endeavor!

The Challenge Drive is On!

The challenge drive is on for Children’s Home Foundation (CHF) as efforts continue to provide long-term funding stability for Children’s Home Society (CHS). The Legacy of Love & Hope Campaign officially launched in September, and volunteers are being enlisted, unique campaign gatherings are being hosted, and challenge donors are coming forward to help with the current fund-raising effort to secure the future of CHS.

“Our goal is to have a group of donors who will offer a $5 million challenge and, to date, four challenge donors have committed a total of $1.7 million,” said Rick Weber, CHF Development Director. Many Children’s Home Society friends have already donated in response to the challenge, raising an additional $1 million. To date, a total of $2.7 million in gifts and pledges have been committed toward the $10 million goal.

The Board of Directors has established a long-term “numbers” goal to build a fund that can support 25% of the Children’s Home Society’s annual budget through a 5% distribution from endowment investments. The “heart” goal will ensure every child who needs the care, protection and support of Children’s Home Society will receive it, regardless of funding ability. CHS programs extend statewide and serve over 2,000 children each year.

Informational meetings and tours are being hosted at BHCH, SFCH and Children’s Inn. We would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in attending or would like to schedule an individual tour. It is our hope that CHS friends will come forward to help, in whatever way they are able, with this very important campaign.

CHALLENGE DONORS:
Anonymous Donor ...........................................$1,000,000
Anonymous Donor ............................................$1,000,000
Rapid City Rushmore Rotary Club .................$250,000
(for Child Advocacy Center of the Black Hills)
Dr. Loren & Mavis Amundson ..........................$200,000
(for Children’s Inn)

Total Challenge To-Date: $1.7 Million

Legacy of Love & Hope Goals:
$5 Million Challenge
$5 Million “To Earn” Challenge
TOTAL: $10 Million

Would you consider becoming a Donor or a Campaign Volunteer?
For more information, please contact Rick Weber:
605-965-3127
or rick.weber@chssd.org
Creative Arts Endowment Goal Met

Accomplishing a major goal calls for a party, and the Creative Arts Endowment campaign gifts reached the $2 million mark at the end of 2013 to bring in the New Year with something to celebrate! The Endowment will permanently fund the art and music programs at Sioux Falls Children’s Home (SFCH) and Black Hills Children’s Home (BHCH).

To commemorate the event, SFCH hosted a thank you party on Tuesday, May 13, at Carnaval Brazilian Grill. SFCH music teacher, Wendy Ensz, and art teacher Lisa Compton were introduced.

A student choral group sang “Thank You For the Music” and “What a Wonderful World,” directed by Wendy. Guests were also invited to view the student art display compiled by Lisa and student artists.

CHS Executive Director Bill Colson and Development Director Rick Weber acknowledged the teachers, board and donors for their efforts in creating the curriculum and funding the endowment.

We appreciate that representatives from the Fishback Financial Community Fund joined us, and we are very grateful for the initial $150,000 start-up grant received from them, which funded the SFCH Creative Arts program until the endowment was established.

A similar celebration for BHCH will be incorporated into the Jon Crane Children’s Home Society Benefit Auction on October 10, 2014.
DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS FOR YOUR ESTATE PLANNING ADVISOR?

If you are like many people, you have a lot of questions about planning for the future.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR MEETING WITH YOUR ESTATE PLANNING ATTORNEY

Whether you are meeting with an attorney to discuss your first will or trust or to revise your existing estate plan, there are some ways you can begin to prepare for your meeting today.

1. Write down a list of questions you have for your attorney. Thinking through your needs and goals in advance helps to ensure that the meeting with your attorney is efficient and effective.
2. Gather and organize your information. Complete our FREE Wills Guide or use the online Wills Planner available on our website: www.chfgift.org
to document information about your family, assets and goals. Learn about the ways you can provide for your family, create gifts of income, save on taxes and benefit CHS with your plan.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU PASS AWAY WITHOUT AN ESTATE PLAN?

A will might cost a minimum of three to four hundred dollars. But the cost of dying intestate, meaning without a will, can easily be more than that sum. Someone who dies intestate must have a court approve the settlement of their estate. This can be very expensive sometimes costing tens of thousands of dollars. Planning today can help save costs and better provide for your family and future.

DO YOU NEED A WILL?

A will can help you decide who will receive your property.

1. You can appoint a guardian for your minor children in your will.
2. A will allows you to appoint an executor to administer your estate.
3. A will can help reduce taxes for your heirs and your estate.
4. A will can help save costs and better provide for your family and future.

WHY DO YOU NEED A TRUST?

A living trust can be very expensive—sometimes costing tens of thousands of dollars. But a living trust can help you decide who will receive your property.

1. You can appoint a guardian for your minor children in your living trust.
2. A living trust can help reduce taxes for your heirs and your estate.
3. A living trust can help save costs and better provide for your family and future.

DO YOU NEED A HEALTHCARE POWER AND A LIVING WILL?

A durable power of attorney for healthcare allows you to select the person who can make healthcare decisions for you if you are no longer able to care for yourself. The person you select can make decisions about your medical treatment, including life-sustaining medical treatment. A living will allows you to select the person who can make decisions about your healthcare during your lifetime.

1. You can appoint a guardian for your minor children in your will.
2. A will can help reduce taxes for your heirs and your estate.
3. A will can help save costs and better provide for your family and future.

FOR A CONVERSATION ABOUT PLANNING YOUR ESTATE, PLEASE CONTACT: Jeff Nelson

Jeff Nelson, Planned Giving Officer

Planned Giving

OFFICE: 605.965.3125

www.chssd.org/foundation
SFCH School gets Ready to Read as recipient of AT&T and Monsanto Grants

"Give us this day our daily bread." Matthew 6:11

Since 1893, grassroots support for Children’s Home Society has been the constant supply for “our daily bread.” We are so grateful to friends who find special ways to support the CHS mission.

SFCH School gets Ready to Read as recipient of AT&T and Monsanto Grants

“With a book I can go places without leaving my room...it’s just like I’m on an adventure,” was one of the responses from a SFCH student who was asked how she would feel if someone gave her new books to read.

Thanks to grant awards from AT&T and the MONSANTO FUND, her book adventure will come true. This year SFCH School received grants for $4,500 and $10,341 from the two companies that were used to purchase Guided Reading books and curriculum guides. The first shipment of 3,000 books arrived and more are on the way!

The original goal of the 2013 SFCH Ready Reader project was to update the entire reading program from Pre-K to middle school. The Guided Reading level books were chosen for the new core curriculum.

Building on the success of the initial Ready Reader model, the 2014 Ready Reader 2 will expand the K-2 lower level books. It includes support materials that match the internationally aligned standards in reading, science, social studies and math for a reading-based curriculum across grade levels and subjects.

An essential goal of the 2014 project is helping students achieve a solid foundation in reading, ultimately so that upon transition to a public school setting they will thrive and succeed. Teacher training is instrumental in attaining that goal, and 15 teachers attended a graduate level workshop using teaching techniques from the book, Word Nerds: Teaching All Students to Learn and Use Vocabulary. A fall teacher’s workshop entitled, The Next Step in Guided Reading, will continue the training and development of new teaching strategies.

The excitement of receiving new books inspired the redesign of an area within the computer lab to house the resources. The new Guided Reading library has become an environment for staff and children to celebrate literacy and welcomes learners to a variety of activities.

“Breakfast Books” is a pre-school day read-aloud event for students and transition staff. Two new volunteers use the space to tutor students in reading and language acquisition, and therapy dogs have been incorporated in specialized situations to support therapeutic reading experiences.

CHS is grateful to AT&T and the Monsanto Fund for partnering with us in this important literacy based project.

"Wheel of Fortune” Pizza Party benefits BHCH

ROMAN and RILEY ZANDSTRA had an unusual request for their birthdays—the brothers, ages 7 and 9, didn’t want any presents at their party in April. Their mother, Leah Zandstra, is well known for “theme” parties that she hosts every year for her sons’ birthdays. The boys invite everyone in their class to attend, along with a large host of relatives and friends who live in the Rapid City area. A typical party averages 40 to 50 children—and that’s a lot of presents! Although the birthday flyers each year stated, “No gifts necessary,” guests always seemed to overlook this instruction. Roman and Riley came up with a plan for this year’s “Pizzeria” party, which included a “Wheel of Fortune” pizza game built by the Zandstras. They asked Mom to design their invitation asking guests to “Please bring a monetary gift to be donated,” and the fortune would be given away.

Leah gave her sons a long list of possible recipients, and said the boys “Googled” everything to make their final choice. They ultimately picked BHCH after reading its mission statement.

“I was so proud of the boys, because they came up with the idea on their own,” said Leah. “They know they have enough stuff, and wanted to give something back.” In the end, the boys donated $400 to BHCH that will be used to grant wishes for the children and living units.

Thank you, Roman and Riley, for sharing your happy birthday fortune!
A Word of Thanks and Fond Farewell to Ty & Tokie Morgan

At Children's Home Society we are extremely blessed by many individuals, families and businesses who volunteer, donate, pray and greatly enrich the experiences of the children and the staff. They come into our lives so willing to give and expect nothing in return. Their only motive is to make a difference and to share their time, treasure and love unconditionally.

It is with a thankful heart and a few tears that we bid farewell to two of our generous Rapid City angels. For more than four years, Ty and Tokie Morgan have served as Weekend Buddy Volunteers for East Unit on the Black Hills Children's Home campus. The Morgans have hosted pizza parties, movies and bowling outings. They have celebrated birthdays, played games, assembled Christmas toys and shopped for the children when the seasons changed. They have made cozy fleece blankets, upgraded electronics, and donated games, toys and sports equipment to all of the living units.

But, their selfless acts do not end there! Ty and Tokie have been a tremendous support for service projects, including Christmas organizing and transporting, relocating the Child Advocacy Center and clean-up after the huge Atlas Blizzard last fall. Who could even count the loads of tree branches that big, black truck hauled away from both campus locations?

Ty and Tokie also played a vital role in planning and working the Jon Crane Children's Home Society Benefit Auction last fall, and their efforts contributed to a record-breaking fundraising event. No matter what the need, Ty and Tokie have stepped up to enrich the lives of children and staff!

As Tokie, Ty and their wonder dog, Goliatth, head south to Texas, we say:

Thank you for being our volunteer angels. Thank you for blessing us so richly, loving us unconditionally and becoming such an incredible part of the Children's Home family.
2013 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR
Established in part with an endowment gift from JOE & AMY CASS, the “DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE IN CARING AWARD” is given annually to recognize an outstanding employee at each CHS site.

SIoux FALLS
CHILDREN’S HOME
Roscha Zoet
Special Education Teacher
Years of service: 18

BLACK HILLS
CHILDREN’S HOME
Hollie Strand
Education and Public Awareness Specialist
Years of service: 6 1/2

CHILDREN’S INN
SIoux FALLS
Kristina Painter
Program Supervisor
Years of service: 8

Hellos and Goodbyes to Our Staff...

After 23 years of dedicated service to Children’s Home Society (CHS), Pat Nadolski retired in June as Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Pat began her career with CHS in 1991 as the Administrative Services Director. She continued in this job as the agency grew, and in 2003 CHS restructured this role to her current position as CFO. Pat and her husband Dave will be moving to their home on Lake Sarah, Minnesota, where they plan to enjoy time relaxing, fishing and cruising around the lake on their pontoon.

Tami Gronseth accepted the position as new CFO last November. She earned her MBA and is a Certified Public Accountant who joined CHS after a financial career in healthcare. Tami and her husband, Timm, live in Sioux Falls with their three children.

Deb Moritz was hired in 1989 as the admissions coordinator at CHS. One year later she began working for Children’s Home Foundation (CHF) as Communications Manager, a position she has held for the past 24 years. On July 1, Deb transitions back to CHS as the Program Development Coordinator in charge of The Prevention, Education and Training Initiative.

Janet Andersen began working for CHF as the new Communications Manager on May 1. Janet brings over 25 years of experience in the fields of graphic design and marketing. She and her husband, Denis, live on a farm northeast of Sioux Falls.