Curt is a warrior. In 24 years, he has lived through more battles than most people will experience in a lifetime. He struggled through a childhood filled with neglect, physical and sexual abuse and, before he turned 18, had lived in multiple foster homes, a behavioral health center, a residential treatment facility and a juvenile correctional center. As an adult, Curt survived a serious physical wound from an explosion during his third tour of duty while serving in the military. But his ultimate wound was an emotionally devastating one—losing his 3-year-old daughter in a car accident.

The fires of adversity that can melt butter will also temper steel. Curt chose the latter and there’s no doubt that he is a survivor who exudes a steel-like strength beyond his years.

Curt was shuffled frequently as a child between his biological parents and relatives. He was born in Las Vegas and moved to California with his mother, who kept a string of boyfriends that abused him physically and sexually. Curt’s father took him away at age 5 to live in West Virginia, but he was unable to properly care for his young son. The Department of Social Services intervened and parental rights were terminated in 1999. Curt was sent to live with relatives in Tyndall, SD.

Behavioral issues in the form of classroom performance and school truancy began to emerge frequently—a result of Curt’s past history of abuse and neglect. He was referred to a behavioral health center in Sioux Falls to work through his emotional outbursts and suicidal thoughts. Long-term residential treatment was recommended, and Curt came to live at Sioux Falls Children’s Home for the next two years.

“I didn’t sleep a lot…” he remembers. “My counselor, Roger, would stay up with me and help me do research on the International Space Station. We compiled a whole 3-ring binder of facts.” Curt credits Roger and his Big Buddy mentors, Sara and John, with helping him to cope with and make it through some very tough days and nights during his stay at CHS.

“It wasn’t like any other place I had been…I was feeling pretty worthless, and they accepted me and cared about Wounded Warrior continued on page 3
The future looks even brighter for Children’s Home Child Advocacy Center (CAC) after the 21st Annual Gala at Mount Rushmore held Saturday, March 21. “Growing a Bright Future” was the theme of the event that raised nearly $30,000.

Guests were treated to melt-in-your-mouth hors d’oeuvres and a gourmet meal. Gala festivities included a heads and tails game, lovely garden centerpieces, a Children’s Mini Gala PowerPoint show, and incredible live auction packages.

Along with event planning assistance, Rushmore Rotary provided the entertainment this year by Rock Garden Tour. Xanterra Parks & Resorts, Inc. and their partners donate the venue, food, beverages, decorations and the spectacular live auction packages. Xanterra and the National Park Service employees also volunteer to provide five-star service for the evening.

CAC presented the Partners Protecting Kids Award to Dustin Morrison at the Gala. Steve Deming, Program Director for Community Based Services, said the award is given to a community member who goes “above and beyond” working to keep kids safe from abuse. Dustin is with the Pennington County Sheriff’s Office Criminal Investigation Division (CID) where he is assigned to investigate cases of child abuse and sexual assaults. His work on these cases quickly earned him the respect of the Child Protection Staff and his colleagues.

In addition to this fundraising event, Xanterra and the Park Service also hosted the children and staff from Black Hills Children’s Home for the 4th Annual Children’s Mini Gala at Mount Rushmore. The children dress up and experience the same elegant Gala place settings and décor, but with some kid-friendly twists such as pizza rolls and chicken drumsticks! From magic shows to being sworn in as Junior Rangers and trying on fire-fighting gear, the day is a joyful, memorable experience for the children and staff.

Some time ago a little girl was discharged from Black Hills Children’s Home. The day before her goodbye ceremony, I was sitting next to her during lunch and noticed she seemed quite sad. When I asked her why, she shared how sorry she was to leave BHCH because she had learned so much from us while living here for 19 months. Those of us seated around her commented on how much we had learned from her. She smiled and questioned us, “You did?” I hope she was able to understand the wonderful gift just shared at that table.

After her discharge, she began a new life at home with her aunt and I’m confident she has shared the lessons learned with many people since leaving us. She said, and we are confident, that CHS made a huge difference in her life, but documentation of that is nearly impossible because so much can happen in the months and years following a child’s discharge. Similar events are repeated time after time in most of our programs throughout the year, and even though the child or mom or family may not say out loud that they have learned from us, we know it is almost always so. That deep-rooted feeling keeps us coming back, day after day.

These kinds of happenings cause me to think about the things we give and receive each and every day. Which gifts will make the most difference in the lives of those we serve and which will make the most difference in our own lives? Not long ago a very dear friend said to me “the most important things in life aren’t things at all.” Every time we greet someone, or smile at them, or shake their hand, or give them a friendly hug, or share something important with them, or shed a tear in their presence, or spend time with them, or thank them for just being, we give the very best gift. It is the gift of caring and letting them know that they are appreciated and important to us.

These are wonderful life lessons that we are able to share. These are gifts that cost us nothing but provide us with such great reward. Is there anything more important for us to pass on to those we serve? Is there anything more precious for us to receive? I don’t think so!

www.chssd.org/foundation
me even when I acted out,” he said. “I had some pretty serious emotional issues back then.”

At age 13, Curt moved into a group home for boys. Curt has fond memories of the foster parents who ran the facility. He formed a lifelong connection and still enjoys fishing with his foster dad.

Curt eventually was placed in a single family foster home, where he formed another strong bond with his foster parents. “Ron was great,” reflected Curt. “He taught me how to restore old cars, and we worked on them together.”

A family was lined up for adoption, but the process was disrupted when Curt’s issues resurfaced.

“My anger issues caught up with me,” he explained, and then goes on to describe a troubling “week and a half-long fit where I punched out walls in my anger.”

Curt was sent to live at Springfield Academy for the next three years. At age 18, he left for Job Corps vocational training in St. Paul and then enlisted in the military. He served as a Navy Corpsman attached to the Marine infantry unit.

He describes his military experience as life changing. “First, they taught me to respect myself and others,” he said. “I learned that everyone has a job to do. The consequences may be severe if we don’t do our job—and then unfortunate events follow.”

It was one such unfortunate event that ended his 3-year military career after serving two tours of duty in Afghanistan and one in Iraq.

“I was hit by explosive shrapnel while patrolling,” he said. “I woke up in a German hospital, was shipped stateside and spent the next nine months in rehabilitation.”

Curt spoke only briefly about his marriage, carefully choosing his words to avoid exposing his grief from the tragic event which ended his daughter’s life. “I was married for a short time and we had a daughter, Xiomara Ann—it’s pronounced Cah-mara for the Hawaiian Goddess of Passion. She died in a car accident and that caused our divorce,” he explained.

Wounded Warrior cont. from page 1

Although his initial assignment in the military was medical field training, Curt was involved in a project that designed and implemented a patient tracking system for the U.S. Department of Defense. This sparked his interest in information technology (IT), and he went on to further his education after being discharged. Curt is working to complete his bachelor’s degree in IT Administration and is currently employed as the general manager of a Sioux Falls technology firm.

Curt is an active member of the Yankton chapter of Wounded Warriors. Along with his interest in computers, he is also passionate about restoring old cars. This hobby was inspired by his foster dad, Ron, and his Grandpa Jobie who taught him to “fix things.”

“I bought a Camaro for $200, pulled the engine out and rebuilt it myself,” he says. The car enthusiast has also rebuilt a 1967 Thunderbird Coupe and a 1975 Super Beetle. “My current project is a 1988 model 944 Porsche Turbo.”

When asked why he loves cars so much, he explains that rebuilding a car engine is easy for him. He understands how an old and abandoned junker can be restored to a beautiful classic car.

Curt is also working to overhaul his own life and recover from a broken past to build a new and productive future. His progress is a testimony to all the people who helped him along the way, to CHS, and to the strength of this Wounded Warrior who continues to heal.

Curt is working on his next car restoration project—a 1988 944 Porsche Turbo.
In the early 1900s, a young woman tearfully brought her newborn daughter, Venie, to the orphanage on the east side of Sioux Falls. The mother of 10 children had recently been widowed and was left with no means to support a new baby. Out of desperation she brought the infant to the door of Children’s Home Society and sadly gave her up for adoption.

The baby was loved and cared for and eventually adopted by a childless couple from Brookings. Venie grew up to become an accomplished pianist and singer, playing for the silent movies. She graduated from SDSU with honors in home economics, taught school, worked in her husband’s drugstore and was an active member of her community in Scotland, SD. Always helping others, she was known and loved by everyone.

Venie never met her nine siblings. Her attempts to reunite with them were unsuccessful when records could not be located. But Venie embraced family, and her own legacy was to raise 6 children and 27 grandchildren.

Robin Fritsch, owner of Dakota Spirit in Sioux Falls, is one of the 27. Her business mission statement reads: Our mission is to promote the spiritual, physical and mental development of youth through cheer.

One of Robin’s personal missions is to reach out to others in times of need. She did just that by coordinating an annual “Blanket Day” at Christmas time when staff and volunteers made fleece blankets that brightened the lives of over 90 children at Sioux Falls Children’s Home. In addition, Dakota Spirit collected and donated dozens of gifts on the CHS “Wish List.”

Robin states, “CHS made a difference in my life, and they will in yours too! Christ said to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me.” The legacy of Venie will live on through Robin’s dedication to her grandmother’s first “home.”
Guardians of the Children

Margaret and Tom Geertsema

GUARDIANS OF THE CHILDREN is a legacy program established to recognize and honor those people whose vision, philanthropy, and love of children has been demonstrated by a planned gift to Children’s Home Foundation.

Funds from the Foundation support the services of Children’s Home Society at Black Hills Children’s Home, Sioux Falls Children’s Home, Children’s Inn, Bright Start, Children’s Home Child Advocacy Center, Child’s Voice, and Foster Care and Adoption programs.

Caring… conscientious… resourceful… reliable… fun. Add these ingredients together and you have an ideal volunteer. Double the recipe and you end up with Tom and Margaret Geertsema, our featured Guardians of the Children. And it all started with different ingredients… for cookies.

The Geertsema’s first volunteer experience was in 2009 at the Orion Classic Evening For The Kids. Tom displayed his handyman skills refashioning the Dollar Store cookie sheets to fit in the undersize 1950’s model oven, and Margaret and a friend both dressed as June Cleaver, filled the venue with the aroma of fresh-baked chocolate chip cookies — over a thousand of them. The 500 Gala attendees couldn’t get enough of the warm, chewy treats.

It was their first of many fond volunteer memories. In the years that followed, Tom and Margaret logged seemingly countless hours “leading from the rear” as Tom likes to say. From creating data bases, wrapping Christmas gifts and assembling gift card packets, to building production sets and designing auction displays, the Geertsemas helped whenever asked.

When asked why CHS was special to them, Margaret responded, “We never worked with the kids directly. It was working alongside the wonderful staff that sold us on Children’s Home Society.” Tom added, “We knew the kids were in good hands because of the quality of people we work with as volunteers.” Deb Moritz, who worked closely with the Geertsemas that evening and on many of the projects in the coming years regard Tom and Margaret as “beloved members of the CHS family.”

Tragically, 2009 is memorable to Tom and Margaret for another reason; their son, Todd, age 44, was diagnosed as being gene-positive and symptomatic with Huntington’s disease (HD). Tom and Margaret wanted to learn more about HD and educate others, so they became involved with the local support group of the Huntington’s Disease Society of America. Margaret serves on the local chapter’s Board of Directors and is currently volunteering on the National Field Committee for HD.

Learning that Todd inevitably would need critical nursing home care, Tom and Margaret established a Special Needs Trust. They named CHS as a designated beneficiary of the remainder of the trust. When asked what they would like others to take away from their story, Tom and Margaret were quick to answer, “When asked to participate, be the first to raise your hand” and “every penny helps!”

How true! Thank you Tom and Margaret for sharing your time, talents, treasure and wisdom!

A Legacy of Love & Hope

$10 Million Endowment Campaign

GOAL: $5 Million in Challenge Gifts
Challenge Gifts To-date: $2.4 Million

GOAL: Raise $5 Million to Earn Challenge Gifts
Gifts & Pledges To-date: $1.7 Million

In addition, since the campaign began in 2012, 14 people have become Guardians of the Children through an estate plan provision to benefit CHS.

Thanks to many generous friends, a total of $4.1 Million in gifts and pledges have been received toward the $10 Million goal.
20TH ANNUAL
Orion Classic ProAm
Monday, August 3
The Country Club of Sioux Falls
Watch Senior PGA Champion Tour Professionals play with corporate teams. Gates open to the public at 9 am.
FREE YOUTH GOLF CLINIC - 1:00 PM
Compliments of GRAHAM
Children 12 and under MUST BE accompanied by an adult for all events.
Win a 2015 Toyota Prius!
Only 300 tickets will be sold.
Tickets are $100 each.
Call: 605-965-3114
Donated by BILLION TOYOTA
$25,250 MSRP
Picture is a representation only.

Evening for the Kids
MARK AMUNDSON’S LEGACY OF LOVE AND HOPE
Sunday, August 2
Sioux Falls Convention Center
SOCIAL HOUR SPONSOR: Hungry! for Truth
Brought to you by South Dakota Soybean Research & Promotion Council
BANQUET SPONSOR: POET

For event or ticket information, visit www.orionclassic.com
Laying a Foundation with Over 200 Interviews...

Paving the Way for Prevention and Training

As Children's Home Society lays a foundation for the work of its prevention and training initiative, one of the goals was to have conversations with people all across the state representing law enforcement, social services, clergy, educators, the courts, medical providers, government entities, CHS board and staff members and other agencies that serve children and families.

From the 200+ interviews, we learned about the diversity of services and programs for children and families, and the prevention and training efforts that already exist. We inquired about the effectiveness of these programs, heard others' opinions and ideas about prevention, asked what training is needed or wanted and explored opportunities for collaboration. Common themes and hopes surfaced, providing clarity to the direction of CHS' future efforts.

The findings from this research will be used by CHS leadership and staff to craft a plan of action for this initiative. Encouragement is coming from every direction, and CHS is applauded for making the prevention of child abuse and domestic violence a priority.

“What If” Cards

An incredibly helpful tool for parents, teachers, youth leaders, and more, this robust, interactive card set is being developed to help open a dialogue between adults and kids in the areas of sexual abuse, physical abuse, bullying, morals, stranger danger, peer pressure, drugs and alcohol, internet safety, home safety, promises and secrets, and everyday issues. The card set is scheduled to be available this fall.

Did You Know?

As CHS prepares to “ramp up” its prevention and training efforts, it recognizes the long-time work that has been done, and continues every day through virtually every CHS program. Here is a summary of the Prevention, Training and Education work that was done in 2014:

317 trainings 9,070 attendees

- Human Trafficking
- Family Violence
- Dating Violence
- Foster & Adoptive Parent Training
- Attachment/Trauma
- Keeping Kids Safe
- Cultural Diversity
- Beyond Consequences Parenting
- Healthy Relationships
- Bullying

For more information, contact deb.moritz@chssd.org

Let’s Get This Show on the Road – Literally!

One of the existing prevention “tools in the toolbox” for CHS is Hollie Strand who serves as our Education and Public Awareness Specialist. Hollie travels the state educating parents and professionals on a variety of topics. One of her most popular presentations is “Keeping Kids Safe” (a sample poster from a past event is shown above).

Following a recent presentation at a church in Sioux Falls, Hollie received this email from an event attendee:

I attended your presentation last night at Gloria Dei and just wanted to say thank you for providing the information. I have to admit that my attendance was mandatory for my 8th grader’s confirmation class. I told my wife as we arrived that, “I have a thing at 7:15 and will likely have to leave early.”

I didn’t leave early. Your presentation was very engaging, eye opening, and frankly, heart-wrenching. We went home and talked with our kids about it and, specifically the idea of establishing “code words”. Even our almost 18-year-old who’s going to college next year jumped quickly on that idea as she has been in situations she didn’t know exactly how to handle. I wish we would have thought of that sooner, but better late than never!

So, I just wanted you to know that you’ve already made a difference in my life and I don’t even know you. Thanks for doing what you do!

~James Simko
“Give us this day

Since 1893, grassroots support for Children’s Home Society has been the constant supply for

Decades of Dedication: Cheers to Our Volunteers!

While the dedicated staff at Children’s Home Society work hard to provide the essence of home in a loving, nurturing environment for children in residential treatment, it is the many volunteers who enrich the lives of the children by providing experiences our organization is not able to offer. Below is just a sampling of volunteer groups who bless us so richly week after week!

Since 1992, **BLACK HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST** has provided 15 to 20 volunteers the third Saturday of each month to cook an incredible breakfast for the children and staff at BHCH. By 7:15 a.m. volunteers are unloading groceries and the children wake to the delicious smell of sausage cooking. After a hot, hearty meal, the group presents a Bible lesson with a puppet show or other creative format.

When it is time for the children to forget their circumstances and just experience the joy of being a kid, the **ELLSWORTH MONTHLY VOLUNTEER GROUP** is responsible. The kids enjoy a variety of activities, from fun with an inflatable slide, dry ice bubbles and water balloon throwing to projects such as cookie decorating, egg hunting, face painting, flower pot painting and seed planting. One Saturday a month this group, comprised of personnel from many different squadrons on the Ellsworth Air Force Base, collects donations to host game and craft stations and purchase special birthday and holiday gifts for the children. They also cook and serve a wonderful lunch for all the kids and staff at BHCH.

Who doesn’t love ice cream cake? The **NOON OPTIMIST CLUB** creates lots of smiles each month with basketballs, Barbies, Legos and ice cream cake! They also celebrate with the children by hosting special game days and pizza parties throughout the year. **GOOD SHEPHERD CLC LUTHERAN CHURCH** volunteers provide fun, faith-enrichment crafts and Bible lessons for the children living at BHCH the fourth Saturday of each month. Using faith mobiles, “stained glass churches” and bracelets, they make sure the children take with them a reminder that they are special, loved and created with unique gifts to share with the world.

We are grateful to this extended CHS family who gives so freely of their time and resources to offer the CHS kids the experiences we all want for our own children and grandchildren.

**BLACK HILLS MOTORCYCLE CLUB**

Ella Shafer received donations of two Strider Sports bikes and a check for $1,100 raised at the 27th Annual Black Hills Motorcycle Show on March 14–15. Club members Mike Williams (left) and Ron Colerick (right) made the presentation to BHCH.
A Caffeinated Campus Clean-up Day at SFCH!

A caffeinated crew of nine STARBUCKS EMPLOYEES volunteered for SFCH campus clean-up on Wed., April 29, 2015. This wonderful group also treated everyone on the SFCH staff and all the kids to coffee or hot cocoa.

After everyone’s thirst was quenched, the Starbucks crew helped to beautify our campus by raking, mulching, picking up trash and taking down Christmas lights. We are grateful to have been served by this industrious group of volunteers: Tina Hermes, Abbie Johnson, Dione Deuel, Cassy Bennett, Dale Brumbaugh, Justin Breitkreutz, Jonathan Ayars, Cody Clites and Pete Eekhoff. Thank you for choosing CHS as Starbucks’ “global month of service” recipient.

Five car raffle winners “Drive it Home” for CHS!


Ticket sale proceeds were designated to benefit Children’s Home Society, and we are grateful for the $10,000 from Subaru of Sioux Falls, and to the Sioux Falls Morning Optimist Club for their assistance with ticket sales. Thanks to all of our friends who purchased raffle tickets in support of CHS!

A $7,255 Recipe for Success!

Twenty local top chefs cooked up a recipe for successful fundraising, netting $7,255 in proceeds for CHS at the CLEAVER’S CHEF CHALLENGE “Best in Beef” contest on January 17 in Sioux Falls. Participants taste tested and voted for their favorite dish. Chef Ryan Hembre from Trail Ridge Retirement Community earned top honors.

Calendar of Events

Golf Anyone?

- **Thursday, July 16**
  - There’s still time to sign-up for the VERN EIDE ACURA GOLF CLASSIC! Due to inclement weather, the 2nd annual tournament benefiting Children’s Inn was rescheduled for **Thursday, July 16**, at Willow Run Golf Course with a 12:30 shotgun start. Contact Staci at (605) 338-0116, staci.kropuenske@chssd.org or register at verneideacura.com/golf-classic.htm. The registration deadline is Friday, July 10.

- **Monday, July 27**
  - **Monday, July 27**, is the date for the 26th Annual RUSHMORE ROTARY BLACK HILLS CHILDREN’S HOME GOLF TOURNAMENT at Arrowhead Country Club in Rapid City. Proceeds from this event are designated to support CAC. To become a sponsor or reserve a spot for your four-person team, contact Scott Barbour at BHCHgolf@gmail.com or (605) 342-5587.

- **Thursday, September 17**
  - The 2nd Annual KIEFFER SANITATION TRASH CAN OPEN will be hosted on Thursday, Sept. 17, at the Golf Club at Red Rock with a shotgun start at 11:00 a.m. Proceeds from this four-person scramble benefit CAC in Rapid City. For information contact Brianna Myers (605) 390-8902 or briannam@wcnx.org.

- **Tuesday–Wednesday, September 1–2**
  - Get your team together for the 2nd Annual PS TECHNOLOGY PRO-AM on September 1–2 at The Prairie Club, Valentine, NE. Enjoy fun competition, great food and incredible prizes as each team of four amateur golfers is paired with Dakotas Tour professionals and play a best-ball format for the two-day tournament. Proceeds benefit CHS. Register your team today by calling (888) 492-1101 or email: FrontDesk@ThePrairieClub.com.

July Fun: Poker Runs!

- **Sunday, July 19**: Those Guys ABATE Poker Run
- **Saturday, July 25**: Borrowed Bucks Poker Run

Jon Crane CHS Benefit Auction

Watch for updates about the 9th Annual JON CRANE CHILDREN’S HOME SOCIETY BENEFIT AUCTION on Friday, Sept. 18, at Arrowhead Country Club. Announcements about new live auction artists and unique dinner and overnight packages are coming soon! To become an event sponsor call Ella or Theresa at (605) 343-2811.
Children's Home Child Advocacy Center

A New Name and a New Home for CAC

Children's Home Child Advocacy Center (CAC) has a new home and a new name as of April 24, 2015!

Previously known as Child Advocacy Center of the Black Hills, the name was changed to more clearly identify it as one of the programs of Children's Home Society of South Dakota. In addition to CAC, other programs in the CHS family include Bright Start, Children's Inn, Sioux Falls Children's Home, Black Hills Children's Home and Community Based Services (foster care and adoption).

Thanks to the tremendous generosity of donors, long hours from volunteers and the coordinated efforts of the Black Hills Children's Home staff, CAC has a new home at Messengers Children's Center, 1330 Jolly Lane in east Rapid City. The former emergency foster home has been beautifully renovated into a comfortable, calming office space for CAC, along side Community Based Services and Children's Home Foundation.

For the first 15 years, CAC was located at Black Hills Pediatrics. Prior to the Jolly Lane move, CAC was leasing space in downtown Rapid City. Steve Deming, Program Director for Community Based Services, remarked about the benefits of the move.

"Of course the big winners in all of this are the child victims and families we have the honor to work with," he said. "They deserve the best possible services and environment to aid their recovery and healing, and I truly believe we have achieved that with the building work we have done. All the planning and changes made were done specifically to enable us to work with families in a more sensitive, respectful and compassionate manner, and I am very excited about the good we can all do together!"

CAC provides expert forensic interviews and medical examinations for children when abuse is suspected (typically cases involving sexual abuse). The primary goal of CAC is to reduce a child’s trauma by eliminating the need for repeated interviews by multiple investigative parties. CAC also provides family support services and education and abuse prevention programs. Watch the “What If” DVD at www.youtube.com/user/ChildrensHomeSD.

CHS hosts free community Child Abuse Prevention trainings in Rapid City and Sioux Falls each year. Check for upcoming dates on our website: www.chssd.org/Training Institute.

Sponsors may also host an Abuse Prevention Training. The cost is $250 (plus travel expenses if outside of Rapid City.) For more information, contact Children's Home Child Advocacy Center at (605) 716-1628.

Can you please send a gift today?

Name __________________________
Address __________________________
City __________________________ State ________ Zip __________
Gift enclosed: $ ____________
To give online: www.chssd.org/foundation

PLEASE USE MY GIFT:
___ Where Needed Most
___ For General Endowment
___ For Prevention Initiative Endowment
(Use the courtesy reply envelope enclosed)

*SOURCE: Darkness to Light Stewards of Children http://www.d2l.org

NEW OPTION AVAILABLE FOR EASY GIVING!

Call Children's Home Foundation at (605) 965-3144 and learn more about setting up a one-time or ongoing gift electronically from your checking or savings account (ACH payment)!
Become a Therapeutic Foster Parent

Did you know there are many foster care children in South Dakota who are waiting for their forever family? Children's Home Society's Therapeutic Foster Care and Adoptive Programs provide services for children with moderate emotional, developmental and educational needs.

Nine years ago, Roxie Schmitz, program director for Community Based Services in Sioux Falls, received a call asking if resources were available for a child with medical challenges. Though not a service we had provided in the past, Roxie thought about families currently licensed and one foster family stood out. The foster mom had a medical background and the foster dad was attending nursing school.

The child was placed with these foster parents and, four years later, was adopted. He continues to have minor problems associated with fetal alcohol syndrome, but his heart issues are resolved.

A few years later a call came in, once again requesting a family for a medically challenged child…and soon after that, another call. The same foster parents opened their home to both requests. The children were later adopted. Currently this foster family has two children with such significant medical challenges that one of the children was given a prognosis of an early death. The infant boy was never expected to even be able to hold up his head. The other little boy was not expected to walk.

Both children thrived in our therapeutic foster home. The little boy is now walking and the baby is “scooting.” His medical issues of feeding tubes and oxygen have also been resolved.

The best news is that the use of restricted donations for therapeutic foster care has enabled us to help transition these children to the homes of their individual families. Though not a service we had provided in the past, Roxie thought about families currently licensed and one foster family stood out. The foster mom had a medical background and the foster dad was attending nursing school.

Open your heart and your home! Learn how you can make a difference for a child and soon after that, another call. The same foster parents opened their home to both requests. The children were later adopted.

Currently this foster family has two children with significant medical challenges that one of the children was given a prognosis of an early death. The infant boy was never expected to even be able to hold up his head. The other little boy was not expected to walk.

Both children thrived in our therapeutic foster home. The little boy is now walking and the baby is “scooting.” His medical issues of feeding tubes and oxygen have also been resolved.

The best news is that the use of restricted donations for therapeutic foster care has enabled us to help transition these children to the homes of their individual families. The foster mom has met and connected with the grandparents, and the children have made home visits. Within two months, these little boys will be permanently placed with their grandparents.

This remarkable foster family has cared for 100 children through both CHS and the Department of Social Services (DSS). They have adopted three children and their tenure as foster parents is 35 years, and we hope they foster for many more!

Open your heart and your home! Learn how you can make a difference for a child in need as a therapeutic foster parent. Learn more at www.chssd.org.

Be her Someone. Join our team. Become a Foster Parent. (605) 965-3192

Are you a Thrivent Member and eligible for Thrivent Choice Dollars? If so, you have an opportunity to designate charitable gifts through the Thrivent Choice Program. Children’s Home Society is an eligible nonprofit and would be most appreciative to receive such a designation!

More information is available at www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Thanks to Thrivent Financial for this opportunity!
Back By Popular Request!
‘Twas The Night Before Christ book reprinting in the works

‘Twas The Night Before Christ, a poetic account of the birth of Jesus written by South Dakota author, Tom Roberts, and illustrated by Steve Hoffman, was first published in 2002. Since then, over 20,000 copies have been sold with the proceeds benefiting Children’s Home Society.

The book has been out of stock since 2013; however, numerous retailers and customers continue to request copies. We are excited to announce that because of the help of many friends and donors, CHS is reprinting 3,000 copies to be available this fall! Beat the Christmas rush by ordering your copy early!

Go to our website to learn more or to purchase a copy of any of Tom Roberts’ books: ‘Twas the Night Before Christ, Return to the Farm–A Christmas Journey, The Little Lost Sock or Santa’s Prayer.

These books make great thank you gifts for clients and employees—and bulk discounts are available for purchases of 50-plus copies. You are also helping women, children and families: 100% of all book sales will go to the programs and services that CHS provides throughout South Dakota.

Other Books available by Tom Roberts:

‘Twas The Night Before Christ
A poetic account of the birth of Jesus written by South Dakota author, Tom Roberts, and illustrated by Steve Hoffman. First published in 2002, over 20,000 copies have been sold with the proceeds benefitting Children’s Home Society.

The Little Lost Sock
A simple yet poignant story of hope, the power of faith, and how true friendship can make a positive difference in the life of another. Illustrated by Jim Brummond.

Santa’s Prayer
A touching tale of a young boy and girl who discover Santa kneeling at a church nativity on Christmas Eve. What they overhear is Santa’s prayer for the children of the world. Illustrated by Doug Moss.

Return To The Farm–A Christmas Journey
Tom Roberts’ childhood memories of Christmas on the farm told in the form of a family scrapbook. Illustrated by Jim and Zach Brummond.

To purchase books, go to our website: www.chssd.org/books
To schedule a book signing and story-telling event: Tammy Roberts (605)965-3183 or Tammy.Roberts@chssd.org