

The Children's Friend

Serving Children and Families Since 1893 • Volume 120 • Number 2 • Fall/Winter 2015

FINDING JOY IN LIFE!



A single word expresses George Bamsey's appreciation of Children's Home Society—**JOY!** The 29-year-old is writing a book about his life experience, sharing his philosophy that not everyone has a happy story to tell and that forgiveness is the key to healing and finding joy. He believes it's not where you come from in life, but where you want to be.

George recently stopped by Sioux Falls Children's Home to tour the facility that had been his home for several years in the mid-'90s. He presented a gift, carefully selected for its meaning, to CHS Program Director, Sue Williams. The letter art sign, JOY, expresses his gratitude for the work done by dedicated CHS staff.

"I try to look for the joy in life and be happy," he says. "I'm succeeding at something. I'm able to present myself as sober, sane and happy. I have my freedom and my health. I called CHS today because I'm ready to talk about my past."

Born in 1985 in Bucharest as Georgescŭ Nedelcŭ, his past includes time spent in a Romanian orphanage for the first five years of his life. He remembers this place as an institution where physical punishment and neglect occurred on a regular basis. At age 6, his parents took him from the orphanage and immigrated to Sioux Falls where he attended Franklin Elementary.

George's childhood memories are painful. "I wasn't able to speak English, so kids would tease me and throw rocks at me at school. My parents were abusive, and they used alcohol and drugs regularly. I learned to live on the streets and would often steal things from a neighborhood grocery store to eat," he said. "They (the grocery store owners) knew it was me..."

Finding Joy continued on page2



CHS Executive
Director
Bill Colson

The landscape of our work at CHS is changing. For many years our residential beds have been full with waiting lists at both campuses. Almost all children placed with CHS were either in the custody of the state and funded for both residential and education, or they were in the custody of parents eligible for Medicaid and education funded by school districts. That has now evolved into a time of fewer state referrals and fewer parent referrals with education funded. Empty beds are more common and CHS is funding more education through our scholarship program than ever before.

This trend is the result of widespread efforts to serve children in less restrictive environments, preferably at home. While we are supportive of the effort, we know that there is much variation in what types of treatments are needed to keep children safe and in healthy places. Children respond differently, depending on their mental and physical state, as well as what environment they came from. Whether this trend will continue is uncertain. That depends, as it should, on how children and families respond.

Moving forward, our focus will be to evolve in order to meet the needs of those we serve, whatever they may be. Choosing the direction of our evolution poses a significant challenge but we will manage that, too, just as we have many times over our 122-year history.

To facilitate a productive evolution, we must be sure that our partners, stakeholders, and referral sources know what we're up to and what we have to offer in the way of services. This is important not only so that it is known we have beds available in our residential programs, but also that we are working to expand our community based efforts. Our Prevention Initiative is now under way, and to spread the word about all of this, we need to energize our marketing efforts. We have staff and committed friends who know us well, understand our services and have the right contacts in South Dakota and surrounding states. We will work collectively to do what needs to be done.

In the coming months you'll be hearing more from me about our next steps in the evolution of CHS. I'm thankful you're all along for the ride!

Finding Joy *continued from page 1*

George saw his dad for the last time at age 7, when his mother took George and his sister to Children's Inn to flee the domestic violence in their home. Child Protection Services sent George to live in foster care for a year. His foster parents sought help from CHS to help resolve George's health and emotional issues.

"I couldn't gain weight. At age 9, I weighed about 48 pounds, and Mars Bars were part of my daily diet," he smiles.

His health condition was remedied with antibiotics, but the self-described "troubled child" continued to need help with emotional issues. He was placed at Sioux Falls Children's Home for residential treatment and care.

"CHS was a safe haven for me," said George. "For the first time in my life I wasn't scared. I wasn't worried about food. I only threw tantrums to get attention when I wanted more of that 'good feeling'." George has fond memories of roller skating, fireworks displays and building things with staff members.

Eventually, a loving couple came to visit CHS and adopted George, age 10, in October of 1995. Kim and Jerry Bamsey, who live west of Howard, gave George a new name and a new life on their crop and cattle farm.

"It was great!" George fondly recalls. "Jerry taught me to drive his old F-150 pickup, and I had a new sister, Erica." The Bamseys also adopted Erica.

George wants people to understand that CHS runs much-needed programs for children who are like him. "CHS really teaches kids how to balance their emotions and make the bad in life turn into an attribute of strength... They taught me there is nothing in this world that can prevent you from becoming the person you want to be," he said, "and there's a lot of joy in understanding that."

"They (CHS) taught me there is nothing in this world that can prevent you from becoming the person you want to be."

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 as a domestic violence shelter) became a program of Children's Home Society.

CHS provides emergency shelter, residential treatment & special education, forensic interview & examination centers, foster care & 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 problems.

- Accredited by the Joint Commission
- Certified by South Dakota Department of Education
- Licensed by South Dakota Department of Social Services
- CHS services are provided regardless of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin.

SERVICES ARE PROVIDED AT:

Black Hills Children's Home Rapid City
Messengers Children's Center Rapid City
Child Advocacy Center Rapid City
Children's Inn Sioux Falls
Sioux Falls Children's Home Sioux Falls
Bright Start Sioux Falls

The Children's Friend is a twice-yearly publication of Children's Home Foundation.
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Children's Home Foundation, PO Box 1749, Sioux Falls, SD 57101-1749
Website: <http://www.chssd.org/Foundation>

NOTE: To protect the privacy of the children and families we serve (unless otherwise noted), it is our practice to change names and use photos that represent our stories. We use actual case examples, but alter certain details to ensure confidentiality.



From the humor of Groucho Marx and "I Love Lucy" to a night invaded by Star Wars characters, CHS' Evening for the Kids has been filled with 20 years of crowd-pleasing themes.

Orion Classic: Celebrating 20 Years

"Bring your secrets, bring your scars. Bring your glory, all you are. Bring your daylight; bring your dark. Share your silence; and unpack your heart."

This chorus of the popular song "Unpack Your Heart" by Phillip Phillips served as the theme for the 20th Annual Orion Classic, held August 2–3. The words, fitting to the mission of Children's Home Society (CHS), perfectly extend to the generosity of the sponsors, PGA pros and individuals who have and continue to support CHS through this event.

In honor of the late Mark Amundson, a new logo was unveiled for the 20th anniversary: **Evening for the Kids: Mark Amundson's Legacy of Love & Hope**. Mark's vision was to develop a fundraising event featuring professional golfers, and he led the Orion Classic steering committee for 19 years. This year, over 580 guests attended the Sunday banquet and a new fundraising record was set—netting over \$490,000 to support the programs and services provided by CHS. Unpack your heart, indeed!

Monday's Orion Classic also brought a record number of PGA professionals to the course. Every pro who had attended the Orion Classic in past years was invited to the 20th anniversary celebration. In 2006, four PGA golf professionals played the course: Butch Baird, Graham Marsh, Dave Stockton and Larry Ziegler. The 2015 event featured 18 PGA pros, 29 Champion Pro Am teams and 10 Executive Pro Am teams.

What started as an exhibition tournament and banquet has grown to become a premier fundraising event for CHS. Since its debut in 1996, the Orion Classic has raised nearly \$5.5 million. The support from each sponsor, pro, participant and volunteer is instrumental for the success of this event, and many businesses and individuals have partnered with us throughout the event's history.

In 2016, the Orion Classic will be featured in **Golfers Giving Back—Exceptional Charity Tournaments Coast to Coast**, a book by golf writer Joel Zuckerman that will highlight 75 of the finest charity golf events in the nation.

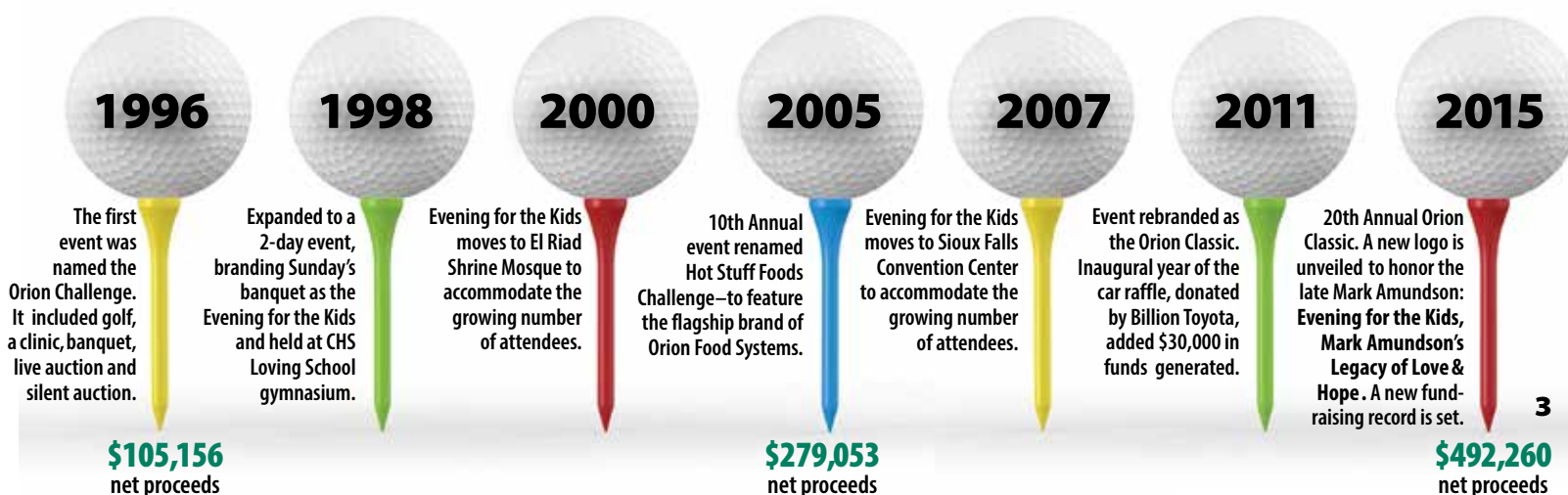


This dynamic duo was instrumental in launching the first Orion Classic: Mark Amundson and PGA pro Graham Marsh.



Golf pros (l. to r.) Jim Ahern, Dave Stockton, Morris Hatalsky and David Eger give "high fives" to CHS children.

~ HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS: 20 YEARS OF THE ORION CLASSIC ~





Development
Director
Rick Weber

"What is something good about Children's Home Society?" and

"What would you change if you could?"

These were just two of the questions asked as part of the annual licensing process for our residential treatment program. However, it's not staff who are providing the answers; it is a sampling of kids. And it's always interesting to hear what they have to say...

Some of the answers are what you might expect from any 4- to 13-year-old child: "I get to play", "Good hamburgers", or "I wish we could have pizza and ice cream every day!"

Other answers cut right to the heart of our mission: "It's safe here and nobody gets hurt" and "I wish my Mom could live here, and my whole family."

I think it's great that South Dakota Department of Social Services takes the time to learn what our kids have to say and help us to understand what we can learn from their perspective. We serve some of the most vulnerable children, and they have such little control over their situations. Children's Home Society is a place that believes all children have the right to be safe, loved unconditionally and given opportunities to develop to their full potential.

Everything we do is an effort to achieve those objectives. We'll be sure the kids get some pizza and ice cream—although it won't be every day!

But, every day, we will do everything we can for kids to be safe and loved.

Every day, we will provide opportunities for the children to thrive, just like we would want for our own children and grandchildren.

Every day, we will count on friends like you who share our mission and passion for helping children. Thank you!



A Legacy of Love & Hope

A Legacy of Love & Hope is a \$10 Million Endowment Campaign that was launched in 2012 to help build a secure future for Children's Home Society. Our vision is to help every child that needs CHS, regardless of funding limitations, and to **do more to prevent** domestic violence and child abuse.

The CHS budget for FY2015–16 is \$18.6 million, and 17% of that amount needs to come through charitable support. The lasting legacy of this endowment will be to create long-term stability with permanent funding in the form of endowment distributions that are so critical to the future of CHS.

Challenge Donors:

In addition,
since the campaign
began in 2012,
21 people
have become
**Guardians
of the
Children**
by planning a
legacy gift to
benefit CHS.

\$1,000,000	Anonymous Donor (for General Endowment)
\$ 500,000	Anonymous Donor (for Prevention, Education & Training Initiative)
\$ 250,000	Rapid City Rushmore Rotary Club (for Child Advocacy Center)
\$ 250,000	Anonymous Donor (for General Endowment)
\$ 200,000	Dr. Loren & Mavis Amundson (for Children's Inn)
\$ 200,000	Anonymous Donor (for General Endowment)

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: \$2.1 Million

Thanks to many generous friends, a total of \$4.5 Million in gifts and pledges has been received toward the \$10 Million goal.

Guardians of the Children

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



DeMaris Nesheim

The Joy in Giving

"...whoever sows generously will also reap generously... for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

~ 2 Cor. 9:6-8 NIV

This is the story of a modern day sower—DeMaris Nesheim. She was introduced to Children's Home Society (CHS) by her neighbors, John and Kay Rozell eight years ago. John, an Emeritus Board Member, connected DeMaris with CEO Bill Colson, who invited her to visit the Black Hills Children's Home campus. DeMaris took a tour with her daughter, Jodie, who also worked with children who are victims of abuse and neglect similar to those at CHS. DeMaris was moved by the experience and became evermore appreciative of her daughter's passion for her work.

When asked to become more involved in CHS, DeMaris wanted to learn more about the agency. She read **A Century of Love**, a book about the first one hundred years of CHS. She was emotionally struck by the stories of the selfless employees and sacrificial donors.

As a successful business owner and member of other non-profit boards, DeMaris knew the importance of prudent fiscal management, sound strategic planning, and keen leadership, and after observing all three at CHS, she agreed to join the Board in 2014.

DeMaris was ready to invest more of her time, talents and treasure. She is the type of investor/donor who serves as a great model for others:

A WISE Giver...when DeMaris decided to contribute to the CHS endowment campaign, there was no better way than transferring highly appreciated stock to the Children's Home Foundation (CHF). By avoiding the capital gains tax, she could afford to make a larger gift and help more children.

A RESOURCEFUL Giver...DeMaris found a fun way to double her giving pleasure by uniting two of her beloved charities. She is sponsoring a retreat for the staff and kids at BHCH at Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota's Outlaw Ranch.

A TRANSFORMING Giver...DeMaris wanted to plan a legacy gift. She and her professional advisors constructed a gift agreement to set up the DeMaris A. Nesheim Fund with a portion of her IRA and estate through a Revocable Trust. For greater cost effective management of the gift, the monies will be pooled with the CHF investments. Each year, CHF will report to the Trustee of DeMaris' Residual Trust to ensure that the gifts are used as intended—to provide annual support, in perpetuity, for the Black Hills programs of CHS.

And always, **a CHEERFUL Giver...** whenever DeMaris is thanked for an act of kindness or gift, a warm smile appears and her eyes well up with tears of joy. And accompanying the joy is hope—the hope that others will be generous and experience the same joy she derives from giving.

DeMaris' motivation for giving so generously is twofold: she wants to honor her daughter, Jodie, whose life helping children was tragically cut short by cancer, and she seeks to honor God by sharing the wealth with which she has been blessed.

DeMaris, thank you for making your legacy one of love and hope. The children at CHS will forever share in your joy!

CHS Calendar of Upcoming Events 2015-2016

Pick your favorite,
and enjoy supporting CHS!

CHILDREN'S INN GIFT WRAPPING BOOTH

December 4–December 24

The Empire Mall, Sioux Falls

Contact: Staci Kropuenske (605) 338-0116

KORY and the THE FIREFLIES NEW YEAR'S EVE CHAMPAGNE BALL

Thursday, December 31

Icon Lounge, Sioux Falls

Tickets available online: koryandthefireflies.com

2nd Annual CLEAVER'S CHEFS CHALLENGE

Saturday, January 16, 2016

The District Lounge, Sioux Falls

6:00 pm Social Hour & Appetizers

7:00 pm Chefs Challenge

TOP PRIZE: \$1500 for People's Choice

For information or tickets, contact

Tyler Honke at 605.671.6328

or visit: www.thedistrictsf.com

27th ANNUAL MEDIA ONE FUN SKI

Friday–Saturday, January 22–23, 2016

Great Bear Ski Resort, Brandon

Contact: Staci Kropuenske (605) 338-0116

www.funski.org

GALA AT MOUNT RUSHMORE

Saturday, March 19, 2016

Contact: Ella Shafer (605) 343-2811

or ella.shafer@chssd.org

Board of Directors

At the statewide annual meeting for Children's Home Society and Children's Home Foundation, the following were elected officers and board members for 2015-2016.

CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY



Melanie Madsen
PRESIDENT
Sioux Falls



Bobby Sundby
VICE PRESIDENT
Rapid City



DeMaris Nesheim
SECRETARY
Hill City



John McGrath
TREASURER
Brandon



Bill Colson
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Rapid City



Sally Anderson
Honorary Member
Mesquite, TX



Mike Albertson
Rapid City



Dan Ashmore
Rapid City



Helen Boer
Lyons



Holly Brunick
Sioux Falls



Bob Hoover
Rapid City



Gina Hopkins
Sioux Falls



Ron Jeffries
Rapid City



Gary Jensen
Rapid City



Laura Johnson
Reva



Kathy LaPlante
Sioux Falls



Liz Lloyd
Sioux Falls



Tim Meyer
Sioux Falls



Cynthia Mickelson
Sioux Falls



Dave Nelson
Sioux Falls



Lisa Richmond-Kirby
Sioux Falls



John Rozell
Sioux Falls



Maggie Russo
Aberdeen



Tim Rustand
Brandon



Greg Schweiss
Rapid City



Dennis Stene
Sioux Falls



Joan Uhre
Black Hawk



Meg Warder
Hill City



Steve Watkins
Sioux Falls

CHILDREN'S HOME FOUNDATION



Gary Brown
PRESIDENT
Rapid City



Scott Sletten
VICE PRESIDENT
Sioux Falls



Jennifer Kirby
SECRETARY
Sioux Falls



Tim Hamel
TREASURER
Sioux Falls



Scott Barbour
Rapid City



John Brewer
Rapid City



Mike Buckingham
Rapid City



Linda Daugaard
Pierre



Jeff Denison
Rapid City



Scott Korsten
Sioux Falls



Michelle Poe
Sioux Falls



George Roberts
Sioux Falls



Jeff Skinner
Sioux Falls



Carolynn Stavenger
Sioux Falls



Jack Stengel
Sioux Falls

DIRECTORS EMERITUS

Board members who attain Directors Emeritus status have met all three of the following requirements:

- have served six or more years as a CHS Board Member
- have served six or more years as a CHF Board Member
- have served as President of either Board.

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

*Current board member

WITH OUR THANKS...

We recognize our outgoing board members for their dedicated and committed service!



Rick Belsaas
Rapid City



Phil Helland
Sioux Falls



Rachel Nordbye
Rapid City



Rollie Noem
Hill City



Bill Sanford
Sioux Falls



Al Schoeneman
Sioux Falls



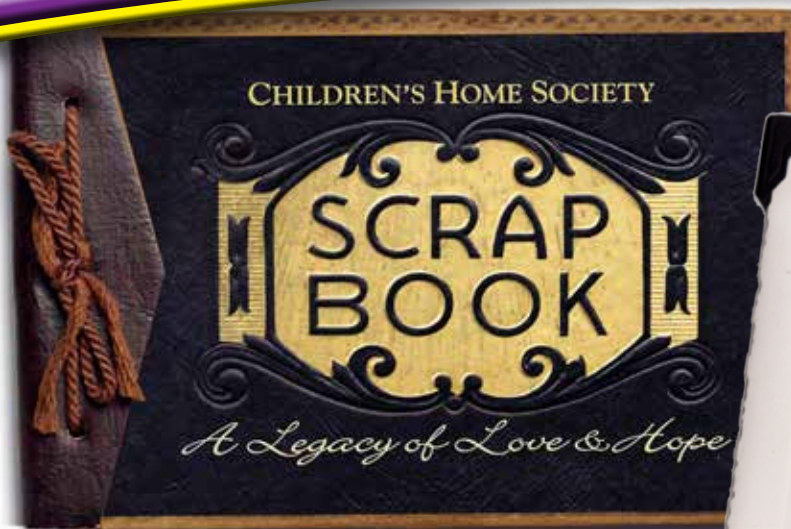
Karen Schreier
Sioux Falls



Norbert Sebade
Rapid City



John Spangler, MD
Rapid City



Laura Johnson tells Santa what she would like for Christmas at CHS in December of 1958. Laura and her sister Marcia spent two years with CHS before their adoption by a childless couple in 1960. This photo would later appear on the cover of *The Children's Friend* in the fall of 1962.



A Rich History:

New Board Member Shares Personal Memories of CHS

Laura Johnson and her sister Marcia were toddlers when their grandfather brought them to Children's Home Society (CHS) in 1958. Their aging grandparents did not feel they could appropriately raise two very young children. Having faith in CHS's reputation of caring for the children who were entrusted to them, Laura's grandparents put her and her sister up for adoption, asking only that they be kept together.



Laura Johnson

Laura remembers feeling scared that first day, but soon those feelings were replaced with an overwhelming sense of comfort and safety. "We weren't just two more children at a facility," recalls Laura. "We were sisters, and that had to be encouraged for us to be as close as we still are today."

Laura and Marcia spent two years with CHS before a childless couple adopted the sisters. In addition to feeling safe, playing and singing with CHS staff fills Laura's memories.

"My adoptive grandmother was an educator, and she was just amazed by the things we knew and how we sang," says Laura. "It was clear that someone worked with us and cared for us."

Laura believes that early care at CHS truly formed the shape of things to come. Not only have the sisters enjoyed

a lifetime of singing, Laura went on to teach music and art for 27 years in the public school system. And Marcia, initially struggling with her own speech, obtained her speech degree and has worked in the public school system and at the VA.

While Laura was teaching, she met CHS staff member and author, Tom Roberts, during a promotional tour of one of his books, written to help raise funds for CHS programs. "It took my breath away!" exclaims Laura of the memories and gratitude for CHS that came rushing back.

Laura immediately decided that she needed to go back to the place she once called home. "It felt so good to visit and see all of the children in such a positive light."

Laura's time with CHS is taking a new point of view now, as she joins the CHS Board of Directors. "It's so hard to put into words, the feelings of the heart," says Laura as she explains the deep-rooted connection she feels for CHS.

"It was my childhood, and CHS staff was my family." Laura is excited for this opportunity to give back to CHS — which has provided her with such wonderful memories. Laura reminds us that we can't lose track of the fact that these children may be lost right now, but they can go on to live productive lives because of the work of CHS.

"It has to make a difference," says Laura. "It made a world of difference to me!"

Share your Legacy story with us!

Send your old photos and memories to: Children's Home Society, ATTN: Janet, PO Box 1749, Sioux Falls, SD 57101.

Email: Janet.Andersen@chssd.org or phone 605.965.3148.

First PREMIER Bank/PREMIER Bankcard
presents

KORY and the FIRE FLIES Champagne Ball NEW YEARS EVE! at the beautiful ICON LOUNGE

8:00pm | Dec. 31

Champagne Ball

TICKETS ON SALE AT koryandthefireflies.com

TO BENEFIT CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY AND INCLUDES:

Kory and the Fireflies Concert, Live DJ, Heavy Appetizers, Champagne at Midnight, Party Favors, Photo Booth, Chance to Win a Custom Guitar designed by Kory, PLUS lots of Dancing, Mingling and New Year's Eve Fun!

We hope you enjoy receiving The Children's Friend

This newsletter is our way to keep you informed about CHS news and about the work we are doing with children and families. We also hope that you will consider making a gift to support our mission. As long as the kids continue to come, we will continue to ask for your help.

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)



Strategies for Safety

An Update on the CHS Prevention Initiative

Someone once said, "Footsteps in history aren't made sitting down."

While Children's Home Society (CHS) continues to research and develop an effective action plan for the future of its Prevention, Training and Education Initiative, we are forging ahead with troops on the ground who provide training and education. In addition, we are developing resources to share with others who are committed to ending the cycle of abuse. You might say there is no grass growing under our feet through these grassroots efforts.

"What If?" Cards

CHS aims to provide effective tools that can be used to help keep South Dakota children safe. Schools and youth-serving organizations throughout the state are anticipating the release of the "What If?" card sets, a talking tool that uses real-life situations to help initiate conversation between children and adults on safety precautions and abuse prevention.

The sets are versioned for age-appropriate topics, which range from secrets and bullying to neglect and abuse.



Prevention, Education and Training To-Date

In 2014, CHS provided 328 educational presentations and training seminars focusing on the prevention of child abuse, neglect and domestic violence. **These efforts reached 9,260 individuals!**

CHS is on track to surpass those numbers in 2015. Over 250 presentations and seminars have been provided, reaching 8,500 adults and youth through September.

Statistics reveal that for every adult trained in child abuse prevention:

10 children
will be kept safe!*



Thanks to generous grants provided by the **John T. Vucurevich Foundation**, the **South Dakota Community Foundation** and the **Midcontinent Foundation**, we are one step closer to the production of the "What If?" card sets.

To learn more about the "What if?" project or to book a "Keeping Kids Safe" training session, contact Tanya Fritz at (605) 716-1628.

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

Back By Popular Request!

'Twas The Night Before Christ

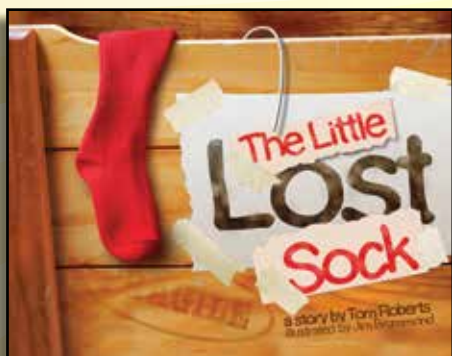
'Twas The Night Before Christ, a poetic account of the birth of Jesus written by South Dakota author, Tom Roberts, and illustrated by Steve Hoffman, was first published in 2002. Since then, over 20,000 copies have been sold with the proceeds benefiting Children's Home Society (CHS).

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 has reprinted 3,000 copies to be available this fall! Beat the Christmas rush by ordering your copy early!

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 programs and services that CHS provides throughout South Dakota.

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**.

Other Books available by Tom Roberts:



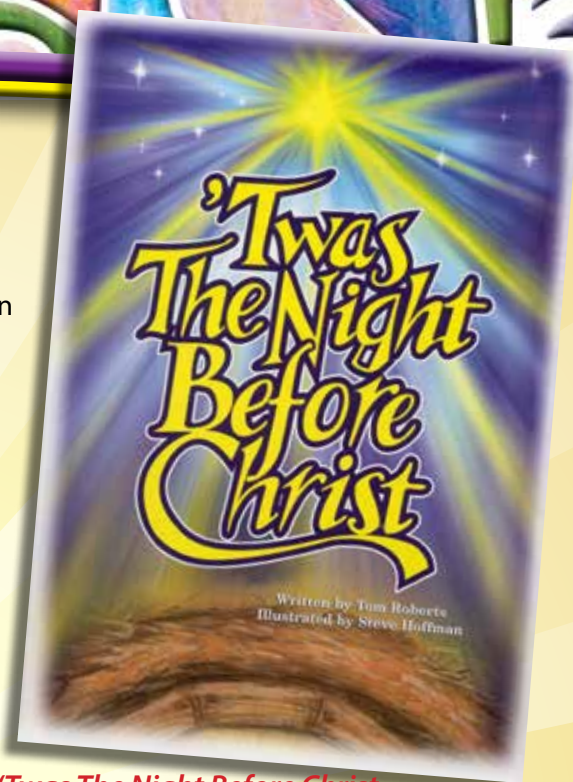
The Little Lost Sock

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.



'Twas The Night Before Christ

A poetic account of the birth of Jesus written by Tom Roberts, and illustrated by Steve Hoffman. First published in 2002, over 20,000 copies have been sold with the proceeds benefiting CHS.



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.

Need the perfect Christmas gift?

Purchase this beautifully packaged set with all 4 books!



**ONLY
\$60**

**SAVE \$20
on the set!**

Book Signing Events

**Watch for a Book Signing Events
Coming Soon to Your Neighborhood!**

For a complete list of retailers, story-telling programs and book signings, or to purchase books online, visit our website:

www.chssd.org/books

**To purchase books in bulk quantities,
PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Tammy Roberts (605)965-3183 or
Tammy.Roberts@chssd.org**

BHCH = Black Hills Children's Home
SFCH = Sioux Falls Children's Home
CAC = Children's Home Child Advocacy Center

"Give us this day

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

Sole Hope: The Joy in Making a Difference

The staff at our residential treatment locations work hard to provide opportunities for the children in care so they can experience the joy of giving and making a difference in the world. The "Sole Hope" project filled that criteria.

Children and staff at BHCH participated in a shoe cutting party on Saturday, June 13. Volunteer Jenny Rehorst collected materials and created patterns for the children to cut shoe parts from old denim jeans and plastic poly folders or milk jugs to make into children's size 3 shoes.

The shoe pieces will be mailed to Sole Hope in North Carolina, and then forwarded on to Uganda, Africa, where shoes are a luxury. Children suffer and die from infection and disease caused by Jigger fleas that burrow into bare feet.

Created with re-purposed materials, these shoe parts provide income for the workers who sew them. Sole Hope provides the shoes, education and medical care to children in dire need.

An eight-year-old girl at BHCH summed it up: "It makes my heart smile to help other kids. Every time I put on my own shoes, I will remember I made a difference."



Volunteers (L to R): Kirsten Nielsen, Teal Schutzius, Jenny Rehorst and Ashley Ritter Collins explain the Sole Hope project to children at BHCH.



A Kid-friendly Ride in a RED HOT Fire Truck

A group of children from BHCH were treated to a "Red Hot" Fire Truck ride and tour of Fire Station #1 in Rapid City on Saturday, June 6. Faces were beaming as the children rode the firetruck around downtown Rapid City. As car horns honked and pedestrians waved, one little boy exclaimed: "We are celebrities in a parade!"

Back at Fire Station #1, Oliver White, Public Information Officer, hosted a tour for the children. They learned many interesting facts and got to sit in a fire engine. Officer White taught them about fire safety and the training they would need to become a fire fighter.

This opportunity came from a silent auction package donated by Black Hills Community Bank at the 8th annual Jon Crane CHS event. Tim and Diane Meyer of Sioux Falls purchased the auction package and then generously donated it back to BHCH to be used for a group of children as an outing for good behavior. Thank you to the Meyers for a terrific day and for potentially "sparking" the children's interest in such a noble career path!



our daily bread”

Matthew 6:11

“our daily bread.” We are so grateful to friends who find special ways to support the CHS mission.

Golfers find the fundraising sweet spot for CHS!



A view of the beautiful course at Red Rock Golf Club, site of the Kieffer Sanitation Trash Can Open. Inset photo: Chad Gollnick, Iron Outfitters Event Sponsor and Fred Folsom, founder of the Kieffer Sanitation Trash Can Open.

Kieffer Sanitation Trash Can Open

Golfers teed-off at Red Rock Golf Club in Rapid City for the 2nd Annual Kieffer Sanitation Trash Can Open on September 17. Proceeds of \$15,000 will support the Child Advocacy Center and will be matched by a challenge donor to impact even more children and families in our community!

In addition to an extremely fun day of golf, marshmallow drives and a pig roast, event sponsors were treated to an extraordinary experience at Murphy's Speakeasy. Kieffer Sanitation will also continue their Christmas tradition of helping Santa provide a bike and helmet for each child at BHCH.



Premier Home Mortgage is a big supporter of the Kieffer Sanitation Trash Can Open, and are good friends to BHCH and CHS Community Based Services at Christmas. L to R: Mindi Caron, Russ Allgier, Dave Fritz and Jennifer Rice.



Prairie Club Pro Am Tournament

Team Cholla captured its second straight PS Technology Pro Am victory in September at The Prairie Club in Valentine, NE. L to R: Aaron Tom, Darren Lee, Cam White (pro), Graham Van Horn and Scott Timmerman. Thanks to The Prairie Club, sponsors and players, over \$10,000 was raised for CHS.

9th Annual Jon Crane CHS Benefit

Arrowhead Country Club was filled with spectacular original art and auction packages on September 18 for the **9th Annual Jon Crane CHS Benefit Auction.**

In addition to raising over \$40,000 for the CHS Prevention Initiative, many of the artists serve as Dream Team Mentors, teaching art and encouraging creativity and healthy expression to small groups of BHCH children.

The 2015 Dream Team Artists include Kathy Benson, Shawn DeGroot, Jerry Green, Kathie Hart, Belinda (Beth) Lytle, Joanne Nelson, Gwen Ray, Ginny Reinicke, Mary Scull, Sonja Taylor, Sherry Thurston, Melissa Wood and Nora Wosepka.



A child created this watercolor with guidance from "Dick's Chicks" Dream Team Mentors.



Original artwork by Richard DuBois was donated in his memory by his family.

CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY
OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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How do I become a Little Red Stocking Partner?

What do purses, cookbooks, nuts and blue jeans all have in common?

All these items were used in creative ways to help raise funds for the Children's Home Society **Little Red Stocking (LRS) Partners** program.

In the fall of 2007, CHS began inviting businesses, churches, service organizations and others to be **LRS Partners**, with the idea that each organization could develop a fund-raising effort that reflected their own culture. Over the years, a wide range of activities have been created to raise awareness and funds (see sidebar).

Designed to create a statewide charitable giving program, the LRS program increases awareness of the CHS mission and raises funds for program support and services for the children and families served by CHS. Since its inception, our **LRS Partners** have raised over \$233,000! We continue to seek **year-round partners** to support our mission.

"Many hands make light work." This philosophy perfectly describes the efforts by many of our **LRS Partners** who work together to foster an environment of giving back to the community, and have fun doing it!

*"The Meta Mission program allows our employees to purchase **Jeans for a Month**, where all of the proceeds go to a designated charity. Many times the funds are distributed between several charities but we have chosen to donate an entire month's of proceeds to the LRS fund for many years now. The need is great and the benefits are obvious.*

"At MetaBank, we have seen the great things Children's Home Society does for the young people in our community. Assisting with the LRS was one way we could show our appreciation and support for CHS's dedication and hard work. All of us at Meta are excited to be a part of this important project."

~ **Tom Gould, MetaBank**
Employee Lead Charity Events Coordinator

"Nyberg's Ace loves being a part of selling the Little Red Stocking icon, knowing we are helping out children in our community. It has now become a tradition for our staff each Christmas to take on the challenge of selling these 'stockings' to beat our previous year's icon numbers! The comments we mostly hear from customers who purchase, without hesitation, is that they like to support an organization that the money raised stays local. Christmas is a time for giving, and the LRS icon project represents that to all of us!"

~ **Marin Huber, Nyberg's Ace Hardware Stores**
Advertising/PR Director



Need Some Ideas?

1. A group of bank employees published a cookbook to sell at their branches
2. Group rummage sales of DVDs & books
3. Ice cream socials for neighboring businesses
4. Purse auctions
5. Sales of LRS paper stockings to employees, and sales at restaurants and retail establishments
6. Bake sales, nut sales, pancake feeds, BBQ feeds, etc.
7. Gifting a percentage of store sales
8. Jean's Day donations
9. When it comes to employee events...any type of food is a hit!

It's easy to become a Little Red Stocking Partner!
Check our website at www.chssd.org

For more information, contact:
Tammy.Roberts@chssd.org
She would be happy to visit about LRS ideas!

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