

The Children's Friend

Serving Children and Families Since 1893 • Volume 122 • Number 2 • Fall/Winter 2017



A Love Worth Waiting For...

This story was written by Dawn Reinicke, who shares her life-long dream to have a family.

Growing up in rural South Dakota, I had always dreamed of two things: having a family and being a teacher. Simple goals, but those were the desires of my heart.

I lost my first and only child in my twenties. I was grief-stricken. Turning 30 without a family was a life moment that stopped me in my tracks—would my desire for a family ever happen?

I was successful in my career, dedicating many long hours leading initiatives for a large hospital. I enjoyed riding bicycle, and spending time with friends and family.

Wasn't that enough?

When I reached the next decade marker of 40, I expressed my wish for children. So many well-meaning friends and family shared their fears for me of "*being a single parent*," "*working too many hours and not having enough time for a family*," "*you should be happy with your successful career*," and so many other comments that did not support my desire.

The one comment I did take to heart? "**Get a dog.**"

I brought a 9-month-old golden retriever into my life—a precious little one I had for seven years.

Turning 50, I became determined to end this struggle and made a commitment to myself that creating a family was my choice, and I would make it happen. But this time, I would not share my intent until I was far enough into the process that no one could change my mind.

And so I began.

In 2012, I attended classes offered by Lutheran Social Services and chose the country of India to begin the adoption process. Shortly after committing and giving thousands of dollars, India closed their doors to the United States. I know these kinds of things can happen, and it's no one's fault—but it was very discouraging.

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In 2013, I opened my heart to foster care and began to understand the needs of children right here in the United States. Part of the process for being licensed as a foster parent is to attend training classes, read lots of information, and open your home for review to assure its condition is suitable for a child.

During the first visit to my home, Social Services asked me if I would be interested in fostering a child with a possible end-goal of adoption. My heart stopped. I thought the rest of my life I would foster children and return them to their parents. Never did I believe I would have the opportunity to adopt.

In September 2014, I received a call from Social Services asking if I would like to meet six-year-old Betsy. She was currently in residence at Children's Home.

The first step would be to meet Betsy's therapist and learn more about her. I also needed to understand my role for the day. I would enter a living area filled with children. I was to walk in and experience the children with no noticeable attention given to Betsy at this point.

In October 2014, I had that opportunity to meet the children in their living area. I joined a group of girls at a table playing a game.

Guess who came up and sat next to me on my left? Betsy. And she was intent to play the game with all of us.

I fell in love.



In November 2014, Betsy, the therapist, and I met together. We were formally introduced and the therapist shared that we would be spending more time together. Weekly visits to CHS grew to two times per week, and throughout the next nine months became up to four times per week.

By December 2014, Betsy was brought to my home by CHS staff. During this time I was also receiving additional training from CHS focused on a "Love and Logic" model. The training was excellent, providing recommended parenting approaches for children with trauma backgrounds.

The transition of forming a bond between the two of us was well navigated by our CHS therapist. Betsy was soon coming to my home twice a week. And I began to see her behaviors related to trauma.

On a fairly regular basis during those first months, Betsy's behavior came out by hitting me and saying, "*I hate you,*" and "*I cannot trust you*"—crying and screaming—sometimes for hours.

Yes, her behaviors were exhausting, threatening, and took strength I didn't even know I had. But over the span of about six months, her behaviors subsided significantly from every time she came to visit, to once a week, to once a month, to almost never. The training I had received from CHS and the upbringing in my own family was working for me and my beautiful child.

Over two years has passed. Betsy is well adjusted in her home, her school, and our neighborhood. She is loved by her new grandma, grandpa, aunt, uncle, and cousins. She met a biological sister she never knew she had. And her expressions of happiness and appreciation for her life exude from her.

I am blessed, she is blessed.

My heart is healing, her heart is healing.

I have met so many dedicated, educated, and talented professionals from CHS and the Department of Social Services. My wish is to express to each of them, how fortunate our family has been to have met you.

Oh, one more thing. Betsy and I made a family decision: ***We added a golden retriever puppy to our family!***

“I want to be a **birthstone** on a Mom’s necklace.”



What CHS Kids Wish For...

“I wish my art pictures could be on someone’s refrigerator.”

A 7-year-old girl, who dreams of being an artist.

“Whoever walks me down the aisle, I hope he’ll be proud to be my dad.”

A 10-year-old in foster care, dreaming about her future.

“I hope the family will have bunk beds.”

An 8-year-old in foster care, hoping an adoptive family will take him AND his twin brother.

Consider these FACTS about...



A national survey commissioned by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and conducted by Harris Interactive revealed that 48 million Americans have considered

adoption from foster care—more than any other form of adoption (private, infant, and international).*

There are an estimated 408,425 children in foster care in the U.S. More than 100,000 of these children are waiting to be adopted.*



If even **less than 1%** of the 48 million Americans who have considered adoption from foster care would do so, **EVERY child** in foster care needing a family would have one!

*SOURCE: www.childrensactionnetwork.org

CHILDREN’S
HOME
SOCIETY



Children’s Inn

Bright Start

Black Hills Children’s Home

Sioux Falls Children’s Home

Community Based Services

Child Advocacy Center

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

CHS provides residential treatment and special education, emergency shelter, forensic interviews, foster care and adoption, and prevention services. In addition to serving victims of child abuse and domestic violence, CHS also partners with caring parents to help children with emotional or behavioral needs. CHS is accredited by the Joint Commission and licensed by South Dakota Department of Social Services.

PROGRAM SITES

Children’s Inn

605.338.0116

409 N. Western Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Bright Start

605.274.0233

4402 E. 3rd Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Black Hills Children’s Home

605.343.5422

24100 S. Rockerville Road
Rapid City, SD 57702

Sioux Falls Children’s Home

605.334.6004

801 N. Sycamore Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57110

Community Based Services

Black Hills: 605.343.2811

1330 Jolly Lane, Rapid City, SD 57703

Sioux Falls: 605.965.3192

801 N. Sycamore Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57110

Children’s Home Child Advocacy Center

605.716.1628

1330 Jolly Lane, Rapid City, SD 57703

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janet.andersen@chssd.org

What do you know about the CHS Adoption Program?

The primary goal of the CHS Adoption Program is to provide permanency and a “forever family” for children who have been removed from their birth families due to abuse or neglect, and where parental rights have been terminated.

“Unadoptable is Unacceptable”

CHS Adoption Specialists Jessica Olson and Tina Graber wholeheartedly embrace this motto of Wendy’s Wonderful Kids (WWK). Funded in part by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, the children in this program present one or more of the following challenges: they are older, have medical needs, are in a sibling group, have behavior issues, or have endured extensive trauma.

There are only two WWK Recruiters in South Dakota, and both work at CHS. Jessica and Tina focus on finding adoptive families for children in foster care who are waiting to be adopted.

CHS ADOPTION PROGRAM SERVICES:

- Recruit adoptive families.
- Complete home studies and background checks of adoptive families.
- Provide orientation and training for adoptive families.
- Thoughtfully match children with adoptive families, with careful consideration given to each child’s individual needs and circumstances.
- Provide therapy and support services to maximize the potential for a successful placement and experience for both the child and family.

CHS launches adoption campaign to elevate awareness



CHS has developed a campaign to increase public awareness about the need for foster and adoptive families. These campaign images appear on billboards in Rapid City and Sioux Falls, in scrolling digital ads before movies begin at WestMall Theaters in Sioux Falls, and as magazine ads in **Black Hills Parent** and in **Hood**, based in Sioux Falls.

Could you help us find a family...



If any CHS friends would have an outlet for sharing these ads, please contact Steve Deming, Community Based Services Director for CHS at:

605.343.2811 or **steve.deming@chssd.org**

ANNOUNCING THE CHS Adoption Endowment

*The goals of the Children's Home Society (CHS)
Adoption Endowment are twofold...*



THE NUMBERS GOAL:

Build a \$500,000 endowment to support the CHS Adoption Program.



THE HEART GOAL:

Make sure that every child available for adoption will become part of a loving family.

YOU can help make that dream a reality for adoptable children!

Thanks to these donors, gifts given to the CHS Adoption Endowment
will be matched dollar-for-dollar,
up to

\$250,000!

Thanks to many generous friends,
we have earned **\$180,000** toward
that challenge.

We have **\$70,000** left to earn the
challenge. Your gift doubles—
any gift you give will be matched!

Your gift can help us
find families for more kids!



Kathy & Tom Walsh Sr.

\$100,000 Challenge Donors

"For these children to have meaningful and successful lives, a loving and committed family is their best opportunity!"

Most of us have been blessed with families who cared for us, nurtured us, provided guidance and support as we grew into responsible adults. These children deserve the same blessing we have experienced."



Ronna & Scott Sletten

\$100,000 Challenge Donors

"Every child deserves a loving family to help and support them. For most children, this is their childhood experience."

But sadly, for many kids that come to CHS, this has not been their reality. It is our hope that CHS can increase its efforts to place these children with adoptive families where they are protected, can prosper, and feel loved."

**Gordon Spronk
and
Randy Spronk**

\$50,000 Challenge Donors

"It is the least we are called to do: to take care of the widow and orphan. We are humbled to be a small part of this new endowment."

For more information, contact:

Rick Weber 605.965.3127 or rick.weber@chssd.org

CHS Heart Gallery:

Help these kids find their forever home!

Sixteen-year-old **Desmond** has a big smile and sense of humor to match! His interests include comic books, superheroes, movies, and video games. Desmond has an inquisitive mind and considers himself to be creative and curious. He says, "I'm a jock who loves soccer mixed with being a nerd because I love science."

Family is very important to Desmond. His adoption team feels he would do best in a home with a mom and dad, as he would benefit from a strong male role model. Desmond hopes for a family who will always stand by him, and who will help him stay connected to his siblings.

"It would be nice to have someone in the bleachers cheering for me."



"I want to be wanted."



Tender-hearted **Cashis** is 13, and will be in 8th grade. She describes herself as sweet, nice, funny, and kind—and she is all of these! Cashis starts out timid and shy, but will soon warm up and have others smiling. She is a fan of Justin Bieber and Bruno Mars.

Cashis tends to be a homebody and is content to listen to music, play games, watch "KC Undercover," and color! She would love to have a pet and thinks it would be great to live on a farm. Cashis has a smile and a giggle that will warm anybody's heart and home!



Fourteen-year-old **Kaiden** has a penchant for learning obscure facts. Did you know how phosphorus was first made in 1669? Kaiden would enjoy telling you about that! He likes to read books and play video games, particularly if they are science fiction.

Kaiden loves how cute animals are and how they can bring you comfort when you're feeling down. Kaiden isn't picky about where he lives, but would love open spaces outside to explore. He is searching for "something I can look forward to coming home to."

***There is a right home for every child.
Learn more about our program and read stories
about other adoptable children on our website:***

www.chssd.org/adoption



Guardians of the Children

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 CHS, including Children's Inn.

"So often you hear CHS staff talk about volunteers, board members, and donors being part of 'The CHS Family.' For us, it's more that Children's Home has become part of our family!"

This is a sentiment spoken by Shawn and Michelle Poe, who recently informed Development Director Rick Weber that a provision for Children's Home Foundation (CHF) has been included in their estate plan.

The Poes' involvement with Children's Home Society (CHS) can be traced back to 2008 when Michelle and two friends became involved in the local version of Oprah Winfrey's hit TV show, **The Big Give**. Contestants on the national show competed to raise money and resources to help needy people. In the local version, Michelle and her friends worked tirelessly to raise over \$13,000 in cash through various events they organized. In addition, nearly \$6,000 worth of computers, bikes, and other needs were donated. All of this happened in less than three weeks!

Shortly thereafter, both Shawn and Michelle became Big Buddy volunteers to CHS kids.

"Your connection to these kids gets quite strong. They have been through so much in their young lives. Probably the most important thing we could do was just show up—to prove that we were there for them through all the ups and downs, no matter what. There was a joy and light in their eyes when you walked through the door to spend time with them. 'I'll never forget that,' Michelle says.

An experience Shawn is not likely to forget? Shaving his head for CHS! He challenged his co-workers to donate money to purchase Christmas presents for CHS kids. If they raised at least \$1,000 he would shave his head and post it on **Facebook**. Needless to say, the challenge was met!

Michelle was asked to serve as a board member for CHF. She just finished her second three-year term. During her time as a board member, Michelle introduced many others to the CHS mission, including Celebrate Church. It all began with the church staff touring Sioux Falls Children's Home (SFCH).

What followed was a special Sunday to bring awareness to the Celebrate

congregations about the work of CHS. Many of Tom Roberts' Christmas books were also sold that day. A special connection was made with the Celebrate Music Team who now accompanies CHS kids when they sing for the annual "Evening for the Kids" banquet.

Daughters Calista and Elise have also found their own ways to help. One year for Calista's birthday, she informed her birthday party guests that any gifts given would be donated to CHS.



Shawn and Michelle Poe, Calista and Elise

Elise came to Michelle one day and said she wanted to raise some money for CHS. So they went to the grocery store and bought ingredients to make Scotcheroos. Mom and daughter made and wrapped these treats, and Elise traveled the neighborhood to sell them. The amount she raised was matched by her parents. Proceeds went to the CHS art and music program.

Shawn reflects, "It has been interesting to see over the course of time how our interest in being a Big Buddy has morphed into becoming involved on so many levels. We feel strongly about getting people to walk through the CHS doors and see for themselves how important it is to have Children's Home in our state."

Help Secure Our Future

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

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

Become a **GUARDIAN of the CHILDREN** by making a gift through your will, trust, or retirement plan, call:

Rick Weber at 605.965.3127

Or visit: **www.chfgift.org**

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Sioux Falls

IRA Gift Provision has been made permanent

The Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act of 2015 makes permanent the IRA Charitable Rollover provision that has come and gone several times over the past 10 years.

A direct distribution from an IRA can be a great way to provide a charitable gift.

BENEFITS TO THE DONOR

- Allows the donor to avoid receiving an IRA distribution as taxable income.
- May lower the donor's income tax rate.
- The gift counts toward the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

RULES

- The donor must be age 70½ or older.
- Gifts are allowed up to \$100,000.
- The gift must be a direct distribution from the IRA to the charitable organization.
- The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction.
- The gift may not be used to fund a gift annuity, charitable remainder trust, donor advised fund, or private foundation.
- You may not receive any goods or services in return for the gift.



For more information, check with your tax consultant, or contact Children's Home Foundation Development Director Rick Weber at:

605.965.3127
rick.weber@chssd.org

A Legacy of Love and Hope

\$10 Million Endowment Campaign

— AN UPDATE —

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

Currently, endowment supports 12% of our budget. Thanks to many generous friends, we are halfway there!

Together, we will keep pushing forward to reach that milestone. We truly believe it is the responsible thing to do to secure the work of CHS."

Rick Weber, Children's Home Foundation Director

GOALS

Secure \$5 million in Challenge Gifts	\$ 3,650,000
Raise \$5 million to earn Challenge Gifts	\$ 3,650,000
Raise a total of \$10 million to meet Campaign Goal	\$ 7,300,000

Since the 2012 campaign launch, **35 people** have included CHS in their estate plans to become members of

GUARDIANS of the CHILDREN.

PROGRESS-TO-DATE

With Our Thanks...

We recognize our outgoing board members for their dedicated service!



Scott Sletten
Sioux Falls



Linda Dugaard
Pierre



Michelle Poe
Sioux Falls



George Roberts
Sioux Falls



Jack Stengel
Sioux Falls



Dan Ashmore
Rapid City



Lisa Richmond-Kirby
Sioux Falls



Melanie Madsen
Sioux Falls



Gary Jensen
Rapid City

DIRECTOR EMERITUS

Board members who attain Director 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
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John Rozell*
Dave Schmidt*
Peg Seljeskog
Carolynn Stavenger*
Dennis Stene
Pam Taylor Jansa
Gene Uher
Marilyn Van Demark*
Doug Wells

**Current board member*

Reflections

by Pastor Jim

Jim Stavenger is a volunteer who leads a weekly devotional for 21 CHS boys.

Both kids and staff have come to affectionately call him "Pastor Jim."



CHS acknowledges the **varied faith traditions** of all children and families and will try to do whatever possible to honor what is important to them. Whether it's going to church, a sun dance, synagogue, temple, or mosque, CHS recognizes the importance of respecting and nurturing the **spiritual journey** of every child.

Faith milestones...and perhaps a little progress.

Milestones. We all have experienced them. By definition, milestones typically represent a landmark or significant event, or an important point in the progress of something.

There are all sorts of milestones: work, anniversaries, birthdays, graduations, and retirements, just to name a few. There are milestones for just about everything.

What about faith milestones? Are there faith-related milestones? Many are visible—such as baptisms, first communion, bar mitzvahs, and confirmation.

What about faith-related milestones for CHS kids?

About 18 months ago I was asked to consider creating a non-denominational devotional experience for a unit of 21 CHS boys. ***I'm not a pastor. Not by a long shot. I'm just a guy on a faith journey, like many of you.***

How could I add value? How receptive would the staff and boys be? How would we tackle spiritual topics in a way that's engaging, yet truthful and meaningful? What milestones could we create together? Well, let me tell you...

Thanks to a generous donor, each boy has their own devotional book:

Jesus Calling: 365 Devotions for Kids by Sarah Young. Each devotion has a theme, a Bible verse, and a few paragraphs of thought-provoking ideas to discuss.

Why doesn't God stop my mom from using drugs?

The kids love to be chosen to read the day's Bible verse or to read some of the narrative from our book. Many, many hands are raised wanting to share their views, life experiences, and questions. Each week we are discussing what their personal relationship with Jesus looks like.

Milestones...and perhaps a little progress.

At the close of our time together, I ask for prayer requests from the kids. I will then pray on behalf of the group, being mindful of their prayer requests.

About three months ago I asked the kids if anyone wanted to say a closing prayer on behalf of the whole group, instead of me doing it all the time. I got a strong thumbs up!

A new milestone. They are praying for others—out loud—where everyone can hear them.

The kids have also moved away from prayer requests about pets, winning games, toys and gifts, to praying for the homeless and the hungry. Prayers for peace and healing for those that are in pain or have addiction problems. Prayers for each other and for help getting back home to their families or getting to a permanent, safe place. Prayers for those impacted by hurricanes. Prayers for safety and thanks for those that serve to protect us. And prayers for the CHS staff.

Are these boys reaching some milestones in their spiritual journeys? I'd like to think the whole idea of creating a devotional environment for the boys is achieving a milestone in itself. The boys are thirsty for knowledge. Their hearts and minds are open.

And they ask tough questions. Questions such as ***"Why doesn't God stop my mom from using drugs?"*** or ***"Where was God when I was being hurt...?"*** I don't always know the answers to their questions, but we work through it together.

Based on their questions, answers, and prayers, something has taken root. Perhaps progress is being made.

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

A child with red hair, wearing a blue and white striped shirt and khaki pants, is performing a handstand in a grassy field. The background is a warm, golden sunset with bokeh light effects. The child's legs are spread wide in the air, and their hands are planted firmly on the grass.

What a Fun(d)-Raising Summer!

With sincere gratitude to all these friends who support CHS!

JULY 16

The 9th Annual **"Those Guys ABATE" Poker Run** raised \$14,400 for CHS.

JULY 29

The 19th Annual **Borrowed Bucks Poker Run** raised \$3,500 for CHS.

JULY 31

The 28th Annual **Rushmore Rotary BHCH Golf Tournament** raised nearly \$68,000 to support the Children's Home Child Advocacy Center in Rapid City.

AUGUST 6 & 7

The 21st Annual **Orion Classic Golf Tournament** and **Evening for the Kids** raised a record-breaking net of \$669,390 for CHS programs and the CHS Adoption Endowment.

AUGUST 8

The **Black Hills Chapter of Wind & Fire's** Motorcycle Run raised nearly \$2,400 for BHCH.

AUGUST 31

The 4th Annual **Kieffer Sanitation Trash Can Open** raised over \$35,000 to support the Children's Home Child Advocacy Center in Rapid City. Net proceeds were also matched by Rotary Club of Rapid City Rushmore.

SEPTEMBER 21

The **Black Hills Association of Realtors' Downtown Social** fundraiser in Rapid City raised over \$4,600 for the CHS Therapeutic Foster Care Program.

SEPTEMBER 29

The 11th Annual **Jon Crane CHS Benefit Auction** raised over \$64,000 to help support Children's Home Child Advocacy Center (CAC).

AND EARLIER THIS YEAR...

Thanks to owner Dennis Aanenson and Cleaver's Catering Chef Tyler Honke, \$10,000 was raised at **The Cleaver's Chef Challenge**.

CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY
OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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

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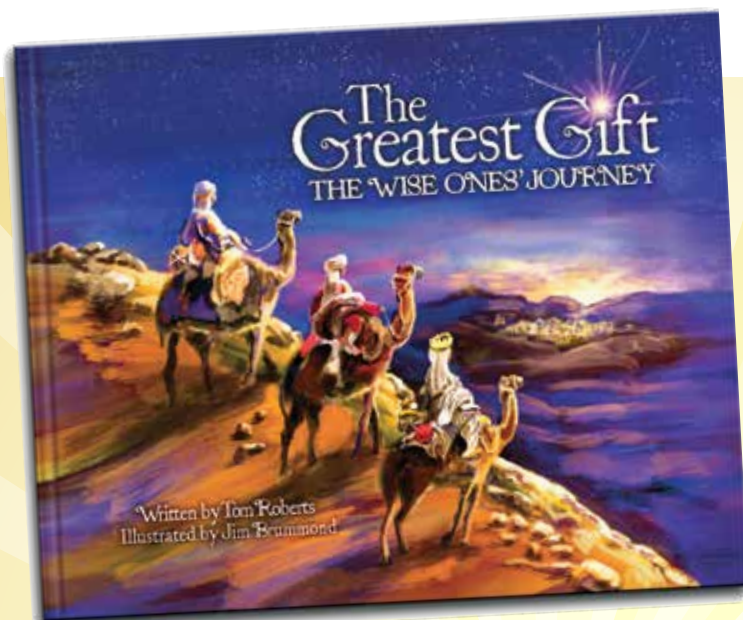


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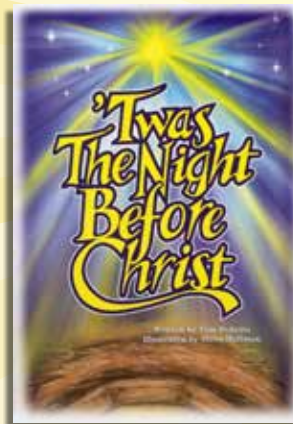


The Greatest Gift THE WISE ONES' JOURNEY

**The newest book by author Tom Roberts
and illustrator Jim Brummond**

Need a Christmas idea? The fifth book in a series of heart-warming stories, ***The Greatest Gift—The Wise Ones' Journey***, has been published by Children's Home Society (CHS). The timeless tale of the Magi's quest, retold with a poetic perspective, it invites the reader to make a journey of their own and rediscover the greatest gift of Christmas.

100% of every book sale
*goes back to support programs and services that
CHS provides throughout South Dakota.*



'Twas The Night Before Christ

First published in 2002, this book is a poetic account of the birth of Jesus written by author Tom Roberts and illustrated by Steve Hoffman.



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.



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.



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.

Book Signing Events

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@chssd.org
or call 605.965.3183**

CHILDREN'S
HOME
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