



THE CHILDREN'S FRIEND

SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SINCE 1893 • VOLUME 127 • FALL/WINTER 2022



“We call it the house that Rainbow Brite built. And everybody is welcome.”

—LISA BOWEN

The House that Rainbow Brite Built

“We’re just pretty normal, plain people,” says Lisa Bowen.

Lisa and Jamie Bowen of Humboldt, S.D., have nine children (and three grandchildren). Four are their biological children, ages 23, 20, 14 and 13. The Bowens also have four adopted children and are the guardians of another child; two are 17 and the others are 10, nine and eight.

The Bowens stumbled into foster care and adoption. But then they embraced it with everything they had.

“My friend and her husband were foster parents,” Lisa says.

“They’d had a little girl for about two years when my friend got in a car accident and died. And her husband just couldn’t raise her by himself. We all had to say goodbye to the little girl. I thought, ‘If we were licensed, we could have taken her.’”

Lisa and Jamie started foster parent training soon after. “We were dumb, two naïve farm kids,” says Lisa. “We thought they’d call us once a year to watch a kid for a few days.” The Bowens didn’t know foster parents were in such high demand. “And we didn’t think those things happened here in Humboldt and Hartford and Sioux Falls,” she says.

“Adoption was never our goal. But we said, ‘What if they’d ever call us for a baby?’ I could never take a baby knowing I’d have to say goodbye,” says Lisa. “Lots of people want babies, so I knew they’d never call us. But then they did—they called us four days before Jace was born, because nobody wanted to take him. And from there, everything spiraled out of control. He’s going on 10 this year, and we brought him home when he was a day old.”

One thing led to another—or more accurately, one family member led to another. They ended up adopting Jace, his half-sister, his cousin and his aunt, who was still a minor. Most recently, the Bowens adopted Miles, who may or may not be related to some of the others.

The result is a big, warm, busy multiracial family with children of all shades and backgrounds. “We call it the house that Rainbow Brite built. And everybody is welcome,” Lisa says.

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The Bowens



Miles with his new family

Miles from Home

When Miles was born, he tested positive for methamphetamine and marijuana. “He came to CHS residential care at three years, nine months old; he was one of our youngest children ever,” says Scott Egan, Unit Coordinator.

“Miles had a rough beginning. His bio parents had a long history of meth addiction, other drugs, incarcerations and legal issues,” Scott says. “He was in and out of a few foster homes. He became aggressive towards siblings and had little motivation to make positive changes. Former foster parents said that he ate meals with his hands and needed to be taught how to use silverware.”

But Miles was able to gradually grow with the structure provided on the CHS campus. “He was here for four years and two months. With his hard work, a few bumps, and the great care he was given, he was able to work his way to being successful in a family,” says Scott.

Jamie and Lisa found Miles through the Wendy’s Wonderful Kids program of the Dave Thomas Foundation. CHS operates this program in South Dakota; its purpose is to find adoptive families for children who some say are “unadoptable.”

“The Bowens were an instant hit with Miles and the staff at CHS,” Scott says. “They had a big extended family, lived out in the country with pets, room for him to roam, and older siblings to assist him. You couldn’t have drawn up a better family on paper if you tried. The connection and vibe about the family was so incredible.”



Miles with Wendy’s Wonderful Kids Adoption Specialist Tina Graber and a social worker on the day of his adoption.

Becoming MLB

When he went to live with the Bowens at age seven, Miles wanted to change his name. “He’s a lover of all things superhero, and it didn’t click right away when he came back and said, ‘I want to be Miles.’ Well, it’s because Miles Morales is the new Spiderman,” says Lisa.

Miles then met Lisa’s father-in-law, who had stage four cancer and six months later passed away. “Miles had never had grandparents, so it was difficult to lose one so soon. He then chose my father-in-law’s middle name and became Miles Leroy. He put a lot of thought into that—it was a big deal.”

“And then, of course, his initials are MLB for Major League Baseball. There’s a thought process behind everything he chose. He’s just an amazing little kid,” she says.

Overnight, Miles became a brother, a cousin and an uncle. Lisa has seven brothers and sisters, most of whom have children and live within 10 minutes from Lisa’s parents’ house. Her family alone has 100-plus adults and children.

“He thinks he’s just king of the world when he goes to my brother’s house,” Lisa says. “They will go out on the four-wheeler, stuff our kids were used to doing. Miles said, ‘This is just awesome that this guy wants to spend time with me and take me fishing and there’s all these other safe places I get to go!’”

Adoption has helped the Bowens learn and grow. “It has taught our family about diversity,” Lisa says. “Our kids don’t see color, and I wish more people could be that way. Because I see the struggles our kids of color have.”

Lisa shares that it has also affected their extended family. “It opened up their hearts and their minds, because we grew up pretty rural. But they’ve embraced it. They just immediately



love them. They know what these kids have been through. So not just us—but everyone around us, our friends, our neighbors—they don’t look at them any differently, and they shouldn’t be looked any differently. They don’t treat Miles like the kid who has been abused. They treat him like the kid who needs love. It’s brought our family closer.”

A word to those considering foster care or adoption

Having more and more children doesn’t seem to sap the strength from Lisa and Jamie; on the contrary, it seems to energize them.

“It’s so rewarding to watch them grow and watch them change and watch them learn how to love,” Lisa says. “It’s just so hard to explain what it can be like and what it can do, what it can put inside you and the drive it gives you.”

And it’s equally rewarding for CHS staff. “To see a child you’ve worked with end up in such a perfect setting, thriving, being loved, and have the potential to be the best person he can be is so gratifying,” says Scott.

Recently Lisa and Jamie were at Children’s Home Society. “My husband saw a little guy, and he said, ‘Oh my goodness, we could get 10 more!’ I said, ‘I know! They just want people to love.’”

“And they turn around and they love us. They want normalcy, they want routine, they want a ‘Good night, I love you.’ That’s all they want. They don’t want fancy things. They don’t want a mansion. We don’t do

expensive vacations. Well, we can’t get everybody in the car,” she laughs.

Big family dinners happen several times a week at the Bowens’ home. “Round circle dinner is what we call it,” says Lisa. “That’s what they want. That’s what they need. They just need love and family.”

“We treat them like they are children. Foster kids or adopted. It doesn’t matter. They’re our kids,” Lisa says.

To learn more about Therapeutic Foster Care or Adoption, please contact Chelsie at 605.343.2811 or chelsie.ogaard@chssd.org.



CHS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Michelle Lavalie

Children's Home Society of South Dakota has always been about home

This was made crystal clear to me when we held a ribbon cutting for our new 96-bed Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety (formerly Children's Inn). It's a home for victims of domestic abuse—sometimes for just one night or for as long as several months.

And on October 14, the very next day, we memorialized an important chapter in our early years. We unveiled a historical marker at the site of the large stone orphanage at 10th and Cliff that we built and occupied from 1902 until the late 1960s.

CHS was founded in 1893 to provide a home for children in need. At the time, many children were orphaned; poverty, illness, poor sanitation, alcoholism and the lack of social services took their toll.

Some of the orphans stayed with us for years. It was their home. More than 4,000 children were adopted from CHS and many thousands more stayed until parents could get back on their feet.

CHS has changed with the times. Today we:

- Provide a home, for an average of 18 months, for children in residential treatment in Sioux Falls and the Black Hills
- Offer shelter in a homelike setting for victims of domestic abuse plus emergency shelter for abused and neglected children
- Help find foster parents so children can successfully live in a home with a family
- Help find adoptive parents, giving children a permanent home
- Work with pregnant, at-risk moms to ensure their homes will be healthy and nurturing for their babies
- Visit the homes of troubled youth and surround them with services and care, so they can remain at home
- Train thousands of people across the state to understand the impact of child abuse, helping make home a safe place for all children

The concept of home is embodied at CHS. It is the focus of all our programs and services. We hope that you, as a reader of *The Children's Friend*, will learn more about CHS and how we create that strong sense of home.

2022/23 CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

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Carolynn Stavenger
Sioux Falls

**Sally Anderson is an honorary member, and the great-great-granddaughter of Children's Home Society co-founder Elizabeth Sherrard.*



CHF CHIEF PHILANTHROPY OFFICER
Jon Mammenga

Greetings, friends and supporters of Children's Home Society of South Dakota

My name is Jon Mammenga and I am the newly appointed Chief Philanthropy Officer at the Children's Home Foundation. I've spent my career working in the nonprofit sector, primarily doing fundraising work in higher education at the University of South Dakota Foundation and Augustana University. It is a privilege and an honor to be part of such a great organization with an important and meaningful mission. Those we serve here at CHS are often the most vulnerable in our communities. Your support has tremendous impact and for that we are truly grateful.

The unfortunate reality is that most of the people we serve come to us under traumatic circumstances, such as abuse, neglect, exposure to domestic violence or mental health issues. Our goal is to offer our clients quality care and the comfort, support and sense of belonging one feels at home. We are able to provide this through our six programs, in large part due to the generosity and advocacy of those who support our work.

At CHS, philanthropy plays a critical role in allowing us to accomplish our mission of preventing, treating and healing trauma. Each year, nearly 30% of our budget needs to come from charitable gifts. This is why your ongoing and generous support is so vital to our organization. Every gift, regardless of size, has a profound impact. We celebrate each donation as a meaningful step toward our vision of a world that stands up to trauma where all people are safe, healthy and resilient.

In the coming months, the Children's Home Foundation will be working to expand our programming, with a special emphasis on individual, major and planned gift fundraising—continuing the work of Rick Weber, who has moved into his new role as Foundation Director of Development. I am eager to meet many of our current and potential benefactors in person to learn more about your connection to our mission and working with you to accomplish your philanthropic goals.

Thank you again to our board members and our many volunteers, advocates and donors! Your passion is heartfelt and your impact profound. I look forward to meeting and working with you. It is great to be here!

2022/23 CHILDREN'S HOME FOUNDATION

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Molly Peterson
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- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
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| John Brewer | Helen Madsen | Peg Seljeskog |
| Gary Brown | Royal (Mac) McCracken | Carolynn Stavenger* |
| Jeb Clarkson | Tim Meyer | Pam Taylor Jansa |
| Steve Egger | Linda Mickelson Graham | Gene Uher |
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| Blake Hoffman | T.J. Reardon | Doug Wells |
| Bob Hoover | George Roberts | Meg Warder |

**Current Board Member*

—With Our Thanks—

We recognize these outgoing board members for their dedicated service!



Karen Schreiber
Sioux Falls



Maureen Suga
Sioux Falls



Marilyn Van Demark
Sioux Falls



Joe Sztapka
Sioux Falls

GUARDIANS OF THE CHILDREN



Carolynn and Jim Stavenger

For **Carolynn and Jim Stavenger** becoming Guardians of the Children was an easy decision.

“We have a family of four generations which has been involved with Children’s Home Society since the 1950s,” says Carolynn. Her parents, Loren and Mavis Amundson, started the family tradition. “I’ve spent 18 years on the board and 19 years volunteering every week at Children’s Home Shelter for Family Safety.” When we learned about Guardians of the Children, we said, ‘Well, of course we’ll do that,’”

“In addition to what we already do in terms of volunteering and donations, it just made sense to incorporate some planned giving as part of our estate plan,” says Jim. “It brings some peace of mind and comfort to know that we

strategically made this decision, we know it’s taken care of.”

And Carolynn likes knowing that the work she’s been part of at CHS will continue. “That’s a very comforting and heartwarming thought,” she says.

“It’s also setting an example for others and modeling paying it forward,” says Carolynn.

“We talk about paying it forward with our kids and grandkids all the time. One of my father’s favorite quotes was, ‘To those who much is given, much is expected.’ He would always say, ‘Glad to hear you paid your civic rent today,’ when I said Jim or I were volunteering.”

“I grew up with that just being my way of life. And my expectation is you’re always looking forward, helping others and trying to find a way to make a difference,” she says.

Guardians of the Children is a legacy program established to recognize and honor those people whose vision, philanthropy and love of children have 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 Home Shelter for Family Safety (formerly Children’s Inn).

» IRA GIFT PROVISION

A Special Opportunity for Those 70½ Years Old and Older

You can give any amount (up to a maximum of \$100,000) per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as Children’s Home Society without having to pay income taxes on the money. Gifts of \$100,000 or less are eligible for this benefit and you can feel good knowing that you are making a difference at Children’s Home Society. This popular gift option is commonly called the IRA charitable rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD for short.

Why Consider This Gift?

- Your gift will be put to use today, allowing you to see the impact of your giving immediately.
- Beginning in the year you turn 70½ (72 if born after July 1, 1949), you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD).
- You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.
- Since the gift doesn’t count as income, it can reduce your annual income level. This may help lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security that is subject to tax.

» STOCK DONATIONS

Making donations of equities/stock helps charitable organizations and can also be an income tax benefit. The more your stock has appreciated, the bigger the benefit can be for you.

When you donate stock (held over one year) you avoid capital gains tax, but you can still get a charitable deduction for the full market value of the stock.

For details, we suggest checking with your financial advisor.

» LEARN MORE

To learn more about making a gift through your will, trust, retirement plan or stock donation, please contact:

Jon Mammenga

CHF Chief Philanthropy Officer

P: 605.965.3136

E: jon.mammenga@chssd.org

» Help
**SECURE
THE
FUTURE
of CHS**

Through your estate planning, please consider supporting the mission of CHS as part of your legacy.



VISIT CHSSD.ORG/SUPPORT



help.

**You help
children.
We help
you.**



South Dakota children
need you now for
Therapeutic Foster Care.

HelpSDChildren.org

South Dakota Children Need You Now

Earlier this year, Community Based Services began a campaign to recruit new families to provide Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC).

What is Therapeutic Foster Care?

TFC provides a higher level of care for children with more identified behavioral or emotional needs, or in some cases medical issues. The TFC parents, in turn, receive more training so they can respond to the children's needs. TFC parents also receive a great deal of assistance from CHS, including individual and family therapy, family support, ongoing education and 24/7 access.

Help us find families

Please let your friends or family know about the need for TFC providers, and if you are part of a church or civic group that wants to know more, contact anyone in Community Based Services to set up a presentation.

In addition, sharing TFC social media posts on your own timelines helps increase reach tremendously. You'll find organic and paid posts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn.

**Join the
circle of
help, hope
and love.**

HelpSDChildren.org

The campaign includes:

- A landing page/microsite where viewers can learn more and sign up to begin the TFC inquiry process: HelpSDChildren.org
- In-person presentations and events
- A booth backdrop for the events and smaller display signs
- Stickers to give away at events
- A branded computer plug-in device to give away at events
- A TFC brochure
- A "Care Manifesto" flyer stating the qualities CHS looks for in foster parents
- A video about TFC, which resides on the landing page
- Additional shorter videos
- Social media posts and ads

You can view the landing page and learn about TFC at HelpSDChildren.org. All of the materials include this URL, so there is a central point for the campaign where visitors can find comprehensive information and inquire about training.

New Name. New Location.

Same Safety.

Same Services.

Same Staff.

Same Phone Number.

Same Care.

Same Mission.

More Space!

Brand new,
48,000-square-
foot facility.

Welcome to the Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety

(formerly Children's Inn)

After six years of brainstorming, planning, fundraising and working, we are proud to announce the new Shelter for Family Safety (formerly Children's Inn) is complete!

The Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting was held October 13, 2022, at the new building, located at 113 N St. Paul Avenue. Move-in is scheduled for November 15.

The new shelter, designed by Koch Hazard Architects and built by Lloyd Companies, more than doubles the size of the previous building on Western Avenue, which was consistently overcrowded since 2016.

At 48,000 square feet, it includes 96 beds in 38 bedrooms. The program provides domestic violence shelter and services to women, children and men—which includes responding to more than 6,000 crisis calls and visits each year. We also offer emergency care for abused and neglected children.

New Name

Shelter for Family Safety, founded as Children's Inn, originated in 1977 as a shelter for abused children. Soon after we opened the doors, a woman came with her children, seeking safety from abuse. Children's Inn welcomed her, and so we became part of our nation's first wave of domestic violence shelters.

But over the years, people have wondered if Children's Inn was a motel or a day care center because the name didn't describe the services provided.

On July 27, 2022, the CHS Board of Directors voted to change the Children's Inn name to Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety.

The new name reflects outcomes, conveys warmth and sets a positive and inclusive tone. It clearly communicates the focus of the organization and that it's part of a powerful brand that people know and trust. And like the CHS "Stand for Good" tagline, Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety expresses commitment, advocacy and purpose.





Gift for Good Campaign Update

“On behalf of everyone at Children’s Home Society, thanks to all donors who have helped make this project a reality. With your generosity and support, **we have raised \$8.5 million.** The work isn’t done, however. We look forward to continuing our efforts as we drive toward our **\$12 million goal,**” said Jon Mammenga, Chief Philanthropy Officer at Children’s Home Foundation.

Thanks also to **Lloyd Companies** and **Koch Hazard Architects** for their hard work in designing and building this amazing facility. And a special thank you to the 50 volunteers who are assisting with the Gift For Good campaign.

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 Jeff Hazard
In Memoriam

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 John Rozell
 Carolynn J. Stavenger

Next Gen Chairs
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 Marty DesLauriers

Campaign Committee Members
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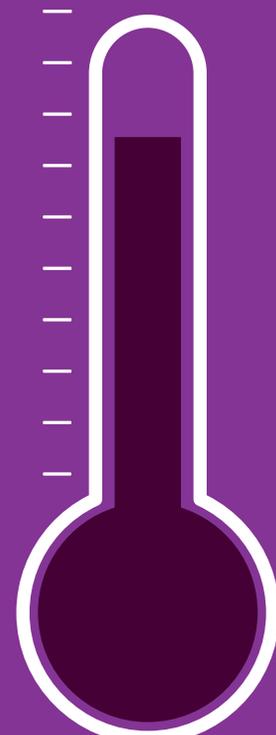
\$12 MILLION GOAL

At the time of this printing, we have
400 donors
 for a total of
\$8,556,464

PLEASE HELP US WITH YOUR



Learn more at giftFORgoodsd.org or contact Jon Mammenga at 605.965.3136.



Celebrating Staff

Each year, CHS employees nominate co-workers for two special awards. Staff learned who won these awards at CHS Employee Appreciation Events held on August 31 in both Sioux Falls and Rapid City. CHS also announced Years of Service awards at the events.

The CHS Employee of the Year and Rising Star of the Year awards are given to employees who demonstrate the CHS mission, vision and/or core values that exemplify the best attributes of a CHS employee.

A committee of CHS board members selected the winners. This group reviews nominations (without names) and chooses a winner for each award.



Employee of the Year Award

Rapid City-based Foster Care/Adoption Therapist Nichole Knepp received the Employee of the Year award, which brings with it a \$2,000 check.

“Nichole lives by the CHS vision personally and professionally.

She has a deep understanding that it is up to all of us to create a world where all people are safe, healthy and resilient. She is a fierce advocate for change to promote this vision as evidenced by her engagement in program development, training, community engagement and exceptionally high standards of practice.”

-Chelsie Ogaard, Community Based Services Program Director



Rising Star of the Year Award

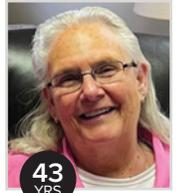
The winner of the Rising Star of the Year award was also part of the Community Based Services team—Family Engagement Specialist Sarah Crawford. She received a check for \$500.

“Sarah embodies the CHS mission in all aspects of her work. Selecting Sarah as our first-ever Family Engagement Specialist has given us the opportunity to launch the program in a profound way...Sarah understands the importance of family and strives to help families heal together...Sarah stops at nothing to help clients overcome their challenges. I have witnessed Sarah connect with individuals, families and community partners that were previously unengaged.”

-Chelsie Ogaard, Community Based Services Program Director

Service Awards

CHS annually celebrates the milestone anniversaries of our 329+ statewide employees. This wealth of skill, experience, institutional memory and community connections has helped define the strength and character of Children's Home Society.



43 YRS
Susan Andrews
Clinical Unit Supervisor
BHCH



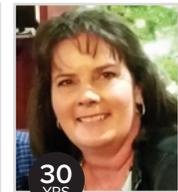
40 YRS
Candy Koehn-Lauck
Assistant Program Supervisor
Shelter for Family Safety



35 YRS
Rick Weber
Foundation Director of Development
CHF



35 YRS
Donna Schwarz-Reil
Residential Youth Counselor II
BHCH



30 YRS
Michelle Bintliff
Medical Assistant
BHCH



30 YRS
Donna Jean Traut
Assistant Program Supervisor
Shelter for Family Safety



25 YRS
Scott Colwill
Team Coordinator
SFCH



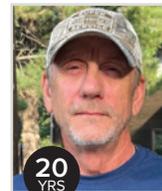
20 YRS
Jerry Bamsey
Facilities Supervisor
BHCH



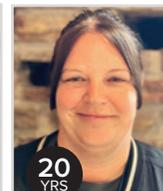
20 YRS
Keith Christofferson
Maintenance Worker
SFCH



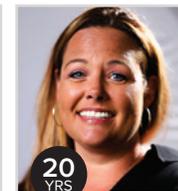
20 YRS
Dawn Endsley
Residential Therapist
SFCH



20 YRS
James Forgey
Maintenance Worker
BHCH



20 YRS
Becky Jackson
Team Coordinator
BHCH



20 YRS
Nici Petrich
Clinical Unit Supervisor
SFCH

– 15 YEARS of SERVICE –

Brian Catron Jessie Mollet April Roselles
Terry Knutson

– 10 YEARS of SERVICE –

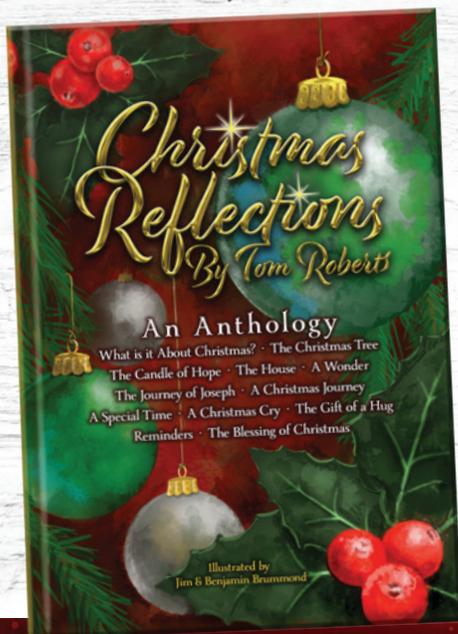
Loni Anderson Wendy Ensz Roberta Johnson
Lisa Compton Callie Hruby Jennifer Wallace

– 5 YEARS of SERVICE –

Gwen Betz Tina Graber Megan Te Slaa
Lakota Carbone Twyla Lippert Amie VanDenHul
Brandi Casillas Brian Mack Aaron Vaul
Hollie Consoer Brady Quamen
Doug Crane Efrain Stevens

– 3 YEARS of SERVICE –

Monica Anderson Mike Groher Cortney Mattson
Carmen Cleveland Jerry Grouzis Cathy Rogers
Sarah Crager Lexi Hooyer Lisa Russell
Jenica Faal Melissa Joachim Molly Schoenfelder
Stacy Goss MK Kabasele Kishwar Shaikh



Christmas Reflections

We are excited to announce the newest book, **Christmas Reflections** by Tom Roberts, illustrated by Jim and Benjamin Brummond.

Christmas Reflections is a compilation of 12 different pieces that invite the reader to ponder during this very special season. These stories express a poignant and thought-provoking perspective about what makes Christmas unique—ideal for use as a series of personal devotions, a family prayer message, or to share as part of an Advent worship service.

Add **Christmas Reflections** to the popular collection of Christmas stories by Tom Roberts for the whole family to enjoy!

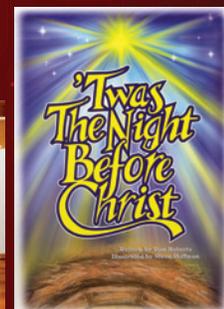
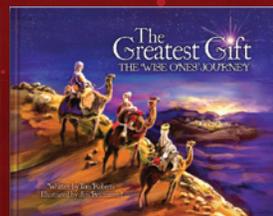
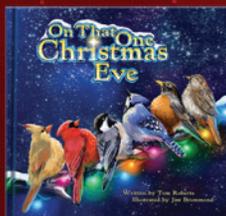


Order the newest CHS book
\$25.50
(includes tax, shipping and handling)



Purchase a gift set of all 7 books and save!

100% of every sale supports the programs and services provided by Children's Home Society.



For a list of events, retailers or to purchase a book, go to: chsd.org/books.

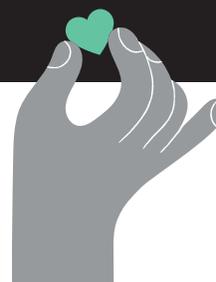
TWO MORE WAYS TO GIVE

You shop. Amazon gives.



AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support Children's Home Society every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop with AmazonSmile, you'll find the same low prices and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

Bringing generosity to life.



Support Children's Home Society of South Dakota by directing Thrivent Choice Dollars available to you based on your eligibility through Thrivent services.

Children's Home Society

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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Learn More About CHS

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A Letter From Home,
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Established in 1893, Children's Home Society (CHS) is South Dakota's oldest human services, nonprofit organization. Our mission is to prevent, treat and heal trauma.

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.

MISSION

To prevent, treat and heal trauma.

VISION

A world that stands up to trauma where all people are safe, healthy and resilient.

VALUES



We are better together.



We choose kindness.



We are tenacious.

Upcoming Events

2022

- Giving Tuesday**
South Dakota Day of Giving November 29
- Little Red Stocking Round Up**
All Nyberg's Ace, Sioux Falls..... November 21–December 24
- Shelter for Family Safety Gift Wrap Booth**
Empire Mall, Sioux Falls..... December 2–24

2023

- Knights of Columbus Bowling Tournament**
Meadowood Lanes, Rapid City..... January 14
- Media One Funski**
Great Bear Ski Valley, Sioux Falls..... January 20–21
- Cleavers Chef Challenge**
The District, Sioux Falls March 24