

THE Porch Light

CHILDREN'S INN
NEWSLETTER FALL 2016
Volume 17 ■ Issue 2

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Children's Inn

A program of
CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

409 N. Western Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-5607
Phone: 605.338.0116
chssd.org/childrensinn



Keep Turning the Pages...

You pick up that book you've been wanting to read. You settle in to your most comfortable chair, favorite beverage at your side, and immerse yourself in the story. The characters develop, the storyline unfolds, and the plot thickens. You begin skimming pages and skipping chapters in a hurry to "get to the ending." But what details would you miss that might be key to understanding and enjoying the whole story?

Let's read a few chapters from Lisa's life story...

Lisa grew up on a farm. She was the fourth generation to live on her family's South Dakota farmstead. An only child, Lisa was riding horses before she could walk, and she was given her own pony when she was 18 months old. Lisa remembers playing outside with her animals, travelling with her Dad who competed in calf roping events at rodeos, and dressing in her cute cowgirl outfits.

Following graduation from high school, Lisa went on to college, graduated, got married, became a school teacher, and is now a college professor teaching Education majors. From the outside looking in, it would seem Lisa has had a pretty good life.

As a college professor, Lisa likes to begin the semester by asking her students to create a story that tells what they learn about Lisa, their teacher, over the course of the semester. She's married, has a cat, lives in a house—whatever details they pick up.

Toward the end of the semester, Lisa takes her students on a field trip to Children's Inn in Sioux Falls. She wants them to learn about the kind of resources and services available to women and children who are victims of domestic violence in the Sioux Falls area.

She also challenges them to seek out similar helping agencies in those communities where they will be teaching after they graduate. Maybe someday they will meet someone who needs that kind of service, and Lisa wants her protégés to know how to respond.

So now, picture these future educators—along with their professor, Lisa—sitting in the community room at Children's Inn watching a video: *Breaking the Cycle*. Imagine the impact and the silence in the room as their professor suddenly appears in the video and details the horrific abuse she and her

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From the Director

Amy Carter
Operations Director

It seems that right now, you can hardly go a day without seeing something negative on the news about law enforcement. Whether it is an officer involved shooting, or a story about how someone feels their rights were violated by a law enforcement officer trying to do his or her job—the negative press surrounding law enforcement seems to be at an all-time high.

We at Children's Inn have had a long-standing partnership and appreciation for the law enforcement in our area. Going back to 1977, Children's Inn first opened its doors in response to the need for a place for children to go when their home was no longer safe. In the wee hours of the morning, or on a Saturday afternoon prior to the existence of Children's Inn, law enforcement often cared for those children themselves until a safer option was available. And that option became Children's Inn. From that day on, both children and women impacted by abuse found safety and refuge at Children's Inn. They often find Children's Inn with the help of law enforcement.

Now there isn't a day that goes by that we at Children's Inn aren't interacting with law enforcement throughout our five-county service area. It might be an officer who transports a woman and her children to us after they respond to a domestic violence call. Or it might be a phone conversation with law enforcement in an effort to locate a perpetrator to serve a protection order. Sometimes we are welcoming them into the building to take a police report on behalf of a client. Then, there are the times the safety of our building, employees or clients is at risk, and law enforcement responds to protect us.

Law enforcement officers selflessly respond to thousands of domestic violence and child abuse calls each year—calls that are potentially the most volatile to walk into. Their goal when responding to these calls is to protect the victim while also holding the perpetrator accountable. They accomplish this by being supportive, non-judgmental, and patient, while still enforcing the law. We see the good work law enforcement does every day through their interactions with those we serve and we are thankful knowing we can call on them for anything and they will be here to help.

Children's Inn could not do our work or serve our clients in the manner we do, without the support of our local law enforcement entities. On behalf of those we serve, our employees, and our Board of Directors, I extend a sincere message of thanks and gratitude for our local law enforcement and for the important role they play in helping victims of abuse in our community.

ABOUT US

Founded in 1977 as a domestic violence shelter, Children's Inn merged in 1988 and become a program of Children's Home Society of South Dakota.

Children's Inn provides 24-hour, free services for women, children, and men who are victims of family violence, elder abuse, child abuse, or neglect.

Service area includes the South Dakota counties of Minnehaha, Lincoln, McCook, Turner, and Union. Children's Inn services are provided regardless of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and include:

- Crisis Shelter for Women & Children
- Crisis Hotline
- Counseling Services
- Parenting Education
- Battered Women's Support Groups
- Children's Groups
- Safety Planning
- Rural Advocacy
- Community Referrals
- Community Education
- Bright Start—Nurse Home Visitation

NOTE: To protect the privacy of the children and families we serve, it is our practice (unless otherwise noted) to use names and photos that represent our stories, and ensure confidentiality.

AMY CARTER
Children's Inn Operations Director
Bright Start Program Coordinator

STACI KROPUENSKIE
Development Coordinator

JANICE LEE
Financial Administrator

KOBI RINGLING
Shelter Program Supervisor

MELISSA JENKINS
HR Representative
Volunteer Coordinator

MARK SIGETTE
Facilities Coordinator

BECCA ANDERSON
Counseling Support Therapist

JODY BOCKORNY
Crisis Counseling Support Therapist

HEATHER WEEG
Outreach Coordinator

SANDY JONES
Parenting Coordinator

DONNA SPRINGMAN
Shelter Receptionist

MELISSA EDMAN
Administrative Receptionist

KATHY SCHNEIDER
Bright Start Nurse Supervisor

The Porch Light is a twice-yearly publication of Children's Inn and Children's Home Foundation.

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Welcome New Children's Inn Staff



Melissa Jenkins



Becca Anderson



Kobi Ringling

Melissa Jenkins joins Children's Inn as our Human Resources Representative and will work with individuals and groups as our Volunteer Coordinator.

Becca Anderson is the new Counseling Support Therapist. Becca will be a counseling resource for victims of domestic violence in the greater Sioux Falls area. She will also facilitate our women's support groups, Empower teen groups, and children's groups.

Kobi Ringling has held several positions in shelter at Children's Inn over the past five years. Her proven work ethic and experience made her the perfect choice to be our new Shelter Program Supervisor.

Keep Turning Pages... *continued from page 1*

mom suffered as Lisa grew up on their farm. In an instant, the students realize their stories about their teacher are missing a key part of Lisa's life story.

Unknown to these students was the fact that Lisa has no memory of abuse **not** being part of her growing up years. Her father went into rages and assaulted her mom for the slightest imperfections in their home. Lisa became aware that if she made a mistake, it wasn't her that would be targeted for the infraction, but rather her mom.

Lisa tried to be perfect at everything she did so her mom wouldn't pay the price. But pleasing her father was next to impossible. Lisa would throw up at night so she would have an excuse to go downstairs and check on her mom. Lisa would often stay home from school and miss events so she could be ever present at home to protect her mom. Unfortunately, Lisa grew up thinking this was normal.

When Lisa was 16, she began to grasp the severity of her home life and recognized that her friends' families did not live like this. Just maybe, this was not normal. After a brutally honest talk with her mom, they decided to get out. They sought help from friends, and guidance from law enforcement helped them find their way to Children's Inn.

It was there that Lisa and her mom found safety and a sense of calm—feelings that were a welcome blessing, yet so foreign to them. But they found healing, strength, and hope; they began new lives, and they never looked back.

Lisa credits her own school experience as the reason she became a teacher. It was her safe place. It was the one place she



Only after watching a video at Children's Inn do Lisa's students learn her story of growing up with domestic violence. She teaches an important lesson to future educators on what to look for in their classrooms.

knew what to expect—a guaranteed 6-8 hours of routine and predictability. Her school experience was a positive one, and one she wants for all children. And she wants the future teachers in her charge to be empowered and alert to those children who may be desperate for someone to notice their struggle, and to read all the chapters of their life story. Lisa wonders if her own childhood would have been different had someone read all of hers.

Lisa doesn't dwell over her painful childhood. Neither does she deny what happened. But she has found a way to take her childhood experience and use it to inspire anyone who might be in a position to impact the life of a woman or child living in domestic abuse.

And now you know, to borrow a phrase from Paul Harvey, "the rest of the story."

Watch Lisa's Breaking the Cycle video: <https://youtu.be/PSy-hzbzLbg>



4 EASY WAYS to make a gift today!

1. To donate online, visit:
chssd.org/childrensinn
2. To make a gift by credit card, call
Staci Kropuenske at 605.338.0116.
3. Call Children's Inn to learn more
about setting up a one-time or
ongoing gift electronically from
your checking or savings account
(ACH payment).
4. Complete the information and
return this slip with your gift.

How Can I Help?

The Porch Light is our way of keeping you informed of Children's Inn news and events, and the work we are doing with children and families.

Please consider making a gift to support our mission and work. As long as domestic violence and child abuse and neglect continue, we will need friends to help sustain our mission.

_____	Name
_____	Address
_____	City / State/ ZIP

Please use our gift of \$ _____

- ☐ Where most needed
☐ Amundson Endowment Challenge

Make checks payable to: **CHILDREN'S INN**

All gifts are deductible for tax purposes.

A Special Message to Thrivent Members

Are you a Thrivent member eligible for Thrivent Choice Dollars? If so, you have an opportunity to designate charitable gifts through the Thrivent Choice Program. Children's Inn is an eligible non-profit and would be grateful to receive such a designation!

Thrivent members are also eligible to be part of a Thrivent Action Team. You can apply annually (sometimes more than once!) to lead a volunteer team in a one-time fundraiser or service activity, including seed money for supplies. Contact Children's Inn for ideas on how a Thrivent Action Team can help!

Thank you, **Thrivent Financial**, for these opportunities!



More information is available at
www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice



CHALLENGE UPDATE: **Amundson Endowment**

Almost two decades ago, the leadership of Children's Inn and Children's Home Society had the foresight to realize that an endowment fund was part of the answer to prepare for the inevitable changes in government funding streams.

Gifts made to endowment are never spent, but annual distributions from investment earnings will forever generate day-to-day support for Children's Inn and other Children's Home Society programs and services.

Long-time friends, **Dr. Loren and Mavis Amundson**, began matching gifts given to endow Children's Inn, and will match all gifts up to \$200,000!

The \$200,000 Amundson Endowment Challenge is 87% complete with \$174,280 being given by so many friends of



Dr. Loren and Mavis Amundson will match all gifts given to endow Children's Inn, up to \$200,000. Your help is needed to raise the remaining \$25,720.

Children's Inn. In baseball terms, we've rounded third and are heading home! With \$25,720 left to raise, would you help us cross home plate?

We would be so grateful for your support. A gift of any size is appreciated.

You can send your gift in the envelope provided, make your gift online at chssd.org/childrensinn or contact Staci Kropuenske at 605.338.0116. Please specify **Children's Inn Endowment Fund** with your gift.

Bright Start: Offering Support Through It All

Imagine being 20 years old, you just left your abusive boyfriend, and you learn you are pregnant. This was the unsettling reality for Laina, and she didn't know what to do or where to turn.

When Laina went to the doctor, she was referred to the Bright Start program. Shortly after, at 16 weeks into her pregnancy, Laina began meeting with her Bright Start nurse, Becky. When Laina had her 20-week ultrasound appointment, she was told her baby had a genetic disorder that would not allow the baby to live long.

What was already a challenging time in her life became even more difficult for Laina when she heard this news.

Thankfully, she had Becky by her side through it all. They met regularly and discussed the growth of the baby, what to expect during delivery, and also what to expect once the baby was born. Even knowing that her baby wouldn't live very long, Laina and Becky focused on the



Bright Start offers nurse home visitation services to families during pregnancy, after delivery, and may continue until the child's third birthday.

positive aspects of having a baby and being a mom.

Laina's beautiful baby boy was born several weeks early and spent two weeks in the neo-natal intensive care unit before being discharged to go home.

Tragically, at two months old, he passed away. Becky was there to help Laina cherish the time she had with her son and then help her process her grief after he passed. Bright Start was also

able to use some special funds to pay for a headstone, which Laina would not have been able to afford.

Bright Start gave Laina comfort and strength during a very trying time in her life. She developed a strong bond with Becky and continues to keep in touch with her even though she's no longer enrolled in Bright Start.

While the tragic outcome of Laina's pregnancy is not typical of what Bright Start participants face, Laina's story demonstrates how the program provides education, resources, and—most importantly—support for young moms experiencing pregnancy and motherhood for the first time.

If you or someone you know would like more information about Bright Start, contact Kathy at 605-274-0233.

Bright Start

A program of
CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

In partnership with the South Dakota Department of Health





Wrap It Up Here!

Take one major task off your holiday
"To Do" list and help Children's Inn, too!
Let us wrap your gifts for you!

GIFT WRAP BOOTH:
Macy's Court in the
Empire Mall, Sioux Falls
Friday, December 2, through
Saturday, December 24

Volunteers will wrap your gifts
for a donation to Children's Inn.
100% of all proceeds benefit
Children's Inn!

*Bring a new toy or gift
out to the Empire Mall
as part of our
Miracle on 41st Street
Toy Drive.*



SUPPORTED BY THESE PARTNERS:



What's Being Said About This Year's Gift Wrap Booth?

Straight from Dr. Zeuss, here you have it:

Yes, Sam I Am! I'm telling you the truth.
We can wrap anything at the Gift Wrap Booth.

We can wrap up dentures or just a single tooth.
We can wrap a case of pop or a bottle of vermouth.

We can wrap up Shakespeare with a tag that says, "Forsooth!"
We can wrap all your brothers or just your cousin Ruth.
(Although it's not proper and it's really uncouth!)

But, to help Children's Inn, especially youth—
Have all your gifts wrapped at the Gift Wrap Booth!

— Zeuss, M.D.



CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

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 Gina Hopkins, *Vice President*
 Lisa Richmond-Kirby, *Secretary*
 Greg Schweiss, *Treasurer*
 Bill Colson, *Executive Director*
 Sally Anderson (*Honorary Member*)
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 Darla Crown
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 Liz Lloyd
 Melanie Madsen
 John McGrath
 Dave Nelson
 DeMaris Nesheim
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 Marilyn VanDemark
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 George Roberts
 Jack Stengel
 Joe Sztapka

DIRECTORS EMERITUS

To achieve this status, a board member must meet all three of the following criteria:

- Served six or more years as a CHS Board Member
- Served six or more years as a CHF Board Member
- Served as President of either board.

Those achieving Emeritus status include:

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

*Current board member



Guardians of the Children

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 CHS, including Children's Inn.

From Doug and Darla Crown's perspective, "Children's Home Society stands on its own merit whether you are intimately involved with the organization or not. The commitment to its critical mission, stewardship of donor gifts, and long-standing excellent reputation for protecting, supporting, and enhancing the lives of children and families, are all well known throughout the state and beyond." However, the Crowns feel fortunate their connection to Children's Home Society (CHS) is a personal one.

It began in 1998. Darla was employed by an educational consulting firm that encouraged employees to volunteer with local nonprofits. She chose CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). One of her cases involved advocating for a young boy named Kenny. Removed from his home because of abuse and neglect, Kenny was referred to Black Hills Children's Home (BHCH) for treatment and therapy.

Doug and Darla visited Kenny often at BHCH, and they became more familiar with its mission, programs, and resources. They were "amazed by the quality of care, educational programs, and cultural opportunities available for the children." After they were licensed as foster parents, the Crowns provided respite foster care for Kenny and continued to befriend him. When he was in his early teenage years, he aged out of BHCH and was placed in another residential treatment center. Kenny is now 31 years of age, and they still stay in contact.

Darla joined the Children's Home Foundation team as a Development Officer in December 2005. During that time, Doug and Darla became "more impressed by the nonprofit's unparalleled accountability to donors, clients, and the community at large." As the need for services continued to grow, so did



Doug and Darla Crown

Darla's passion for fundraising for the foundation, as well as her sense of purpose as a conduit for those in dire need of refuge and support.

After Doug sold his bulk fuel business, and Darla completed her service as state Command Chief Warrant Officer with the South Dakota Army National Guard, the Crowns entered retirement and needed to update their will. It seemed only natural that CHS would be named a beneficiary. Becoming Guardians of the Children is a decision of which they are very proud, and it represents yet another chapter in the couple's CHS story, though certainly not the last. Darla joined the CHS Board this fall and says about the opportunity, "I am honored, and look forward to serving in an advisory role, and building on the foundation of excellence that Doug and I were originally drawn to more than 20 years ago."

Thank you Doug and Darla for sharing your time, treasure and love to help others!

As a program of CHS, Children's Inn receives a significant percentage of the annual CHS Endowment distribution.

If you would like to become a Guardian of the Children by making a gift through your will or trust, visit www.chfgift.org or call Jeff Nelson at 605.965.3125.

3RD ANNUAL

Vern Eide Acura Golf Classic benefits Children's Inn

**\$67,286
Raised!**

A beautiful day in July set the perfect background for the Third Annual **Vern Eide Acura Golf Classic**. Twenty-four foursomes teed off at GreatLIFE Willow Run Golf Course on July 11.

After 18 holes of golf, everyone gathered at the clubhouse to enjoy a delicious meal and watch *Breaking the Cycle*, a video about the work of Children's Inn. Afterwards, guests enjoyed an inspirational message by Lisa, also featured in the video (her story is featured on the cover of this issue). Lisa thanked everyone for their support through this golf tournament and spoke of how it impacts victims of domestic violence and child abuse and neglect.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

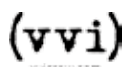


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HOLE SPONSORS:

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Nordstrom's Automotive, Inc.
Catherine Piersol (2)
Shopko Foundation
Sioux Falls Federal Credit Union
Sioux Falls Networks
Wayne & Mary's Nutrition Center
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Winsupply, Inc.



SAVE THE DATE!

Monday, July 10, 2017

HOSTS:



Live. Play. Better.

Children's Inn

A program of
CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

Needs List

Can you help?

Please call Staci Kropuenske
with any questions.

605.338.0116

CLOTHING

Sleep sacks or swaddle sacks:
sizes 3 months to 18 months
Baby bibs
Boys & girls shirts and pants:
sizes 3-16
Boys & girls pajamas: all sizes
(no flannel or fleece, please)
Boys & girls underwear: all sizes
Children's shoes & winter boots:
all sizes
Women's socks & underwear: all sizes
Women's pajamas: all sizes, but
greatest need XL or larger

MISCELLANEOUS

Batteries: AAA, AA, C, D, 9V
Diapers: all sizes, but greatest
need for sizes 4, 5, and 6
Diaper rash cream
Sandwich and gallon storage bags
Crib sheets and crib mattress pads
Arts & craft kits
Hair conditioner
Twin size sheet sets
Laundry detergent (high efficiency)
Backpacks
Alarm clock radios
Toys for all ages

GROCERY

Cereal	Quick bread mixes
Sugar	Cake mixes and frostings
Brown sugar	Oatmeal: Instant or regular
Pop-tarts	Rice Krispies treats
Granola bars	Marshmallows
Cereal bars	Pasta: spaghetti, elbow macaroni, egg noodles, lasagna noodles
Fruit snacks	Iced tea mix
Pudding cups	Kool-aid packets
Snack cakes	
Pancake syrup	
Saltine crackers	
Graham crackers	
Snack crackers	

GROCERY

Bottled water
Coffee
Non-dairy creamer
100% juice: orange, apple, grape
Frozen meat:
ham, turkey, chicken breast,
hamburger, sausage, pork loin
Canned vegetables:
corn, green beans, baked beans,
wax beans, carrots, peas
Canned fruit:
applesauce, peaches, pears,
pineapple, fruit cocktail, pie filling

GIFT CARDS

Grocery gift cards for perishable food items
Retail store gift cards
Activity gift cards:
movies, zoo, fast food, bowling
Gas gift cards

*Donations accepted
between 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
on
Monday, Wednesday,
or Friday.*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Save the Date!



The 28th Annual **Media One Funski**
is scheduled for January 20–21, 2017
at Great Bear Ski Valley.
We hope to see you on the slopes!

THE PORCH LIGHT

8

Eagle Scout Honored for Children's Inn Sanctuary Project



Tyler Bitz in front of Children's Inn before beginning his Eagle Scout Service Project.



Tyler and his volunteers contributed just over 173 hours of time to complete his Eagle Scout Service Project for Children's Inn.

A project to construct some birdhouses for the backyard at Children's Inn quickly grew wings and became a much bigger idea!

An 8th-grader at Edison Middle School, Tyler Bitz wanted to earn his Eagle Scout Award. He approached Children's Inn to offer help with a project idea that would fulfill a need. To earn this Eagle Scout honor, Tyler would have to oversee all areas of the project including the budget, design and manpower. While formulating his idea, the project grew into a new seating and reflection area in front of Children's Inn.

It's no small feat to become an Eagle Scout, but Tyler was determined to do it. Tyler and his small army of volunteers contributed just over 173 hours of time to complete his Eagle Scout Service Project for Children's Inn.

The end result is beautiful! The space created is a wonderful place of sanctuary and rest. Children's Inn is so grateful to Tyler and his team for their hard work.

In late August, Tyler took the final step to earn his Eagle Scout Award. Tyler passed his "Board of Review" where he was interviewed by three adult members of an Eagle board. Tyler walked them through his entire service project, answering questions and sharing all aspects of the venture. Having passed this step, Tyler will be officially presented with his Eagle Scout medal at a Court of Honor Ceremony later this fall.

When asked how his leadership skills were further developed, Tyler said "I think this experience has taught me many new things that will help me throughout my lifetime, and help me succeed, even if a struggle comes my way."

Congratulations on becoming an Eagle Scout, Tyler!