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
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.

Welcome New Children’s Inn Staff

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.
FALL 2016

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 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

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How Can I Help?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.</strong> To donate online, visit: chssd.org/childrensinn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.</strong> To make a gift by credit card, call Staci Kropuenske at 605.338.0116.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.</strong> 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).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4.</strong> Complete the information and return this slip with your gift.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
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 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 support 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.
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!

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

- Served six or more years as a board member.
- Served six or more years as a President of either board.
- Served as President of either board.

Those achieving Emeritus status include:

- Lynne Byrne
- Jeff Clarkson
- Steve Egger
- Phil Helland
- Blake Hoffman
- Bob Hoover*
- Pam Taylor Jansa
- Deanna Lien
- Helen Madsen
- Jack Marshman
- Royal (Mac) McCracken
- Tim Meyer
- Dan Ashmore
- Helen Boer
- Holly Brunick
- Darla Crown
- Mick Gibbs
- Bob Hoover
- Ron Jeffries
- Gary Jensen
- Laura Johnson
- Kathy LaPlante
- Liz Lloyd
- Melanie Madsen
- John McGrath
- Dave Nelson
- DeMaris Nesheim
- Molly Okerlund
- John Rozell
- Maggie Russo
- Tim Rustand
- Karen Schreier
- Marilyn VanDemark
- Meg Warder
- Steve Watkins

**CHILDREN’S HOME FOUNDATION**

Scott Sletten, President
Scott Barbour, Vice President
Linda Daugaard, Secretary
Jeff Skinner, Treasurer
Julie Anderson Friesen
Greg Blomberg
John Brewer
Gary Brown
Mike Buckingham
Jeff Denison
Jennifer Kirby
Michelle Poe
George Roberts
Jack Stengel
Joe Sztabka

**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
- Rob Mudge
- T.J. Reardon
- George Roberts*
- John Rozell*
- Dave Schmidt
- Peg Seljeskog
- Carolyn Stavenger
- Dennis Stone
- Gene Uher
- Marilyn VanDemark*
- Doug Wells

*Current board member

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 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](http://www.chfgift.org) or call Jeff Nelson at 605.965.3125.
**3RD ANNUAL**

**Vern Eide Acura Golf Classic benefits Children’s Inn**

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.

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**MIDCO**

**SANFORD HEALTH**

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**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

---

**GROCERY**

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

---

**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

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**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

---

**Sponsorship Opportunities**

**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.**

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SAVE THE DATE!

Monday, July 10, 2017

**HOSTS:**

- GreatLIFE Willow Run Golf Course
- Malaska Golf & Fitness Club

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- Tom & Jean Nicholson
- Nordstrom’s Automotive, Inc.
- Catherine Piersol (2)
- Shopko Foundation
- Sioux Falls Federal Credit Union
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**MIDCO**

**SANFORD HEALTH**

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**Children’s Inn**

_A program of CHILDREN’S HOME SOCIETY_

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605.338.0116

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

---

**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
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- Toys for all ages

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- 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.**
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!