



# THE Porch Light

CHILDREN'S INN  
NEWSLETTER SPRING 2016  
Volume 17 ■ Issue 1

## FEATURED INSIDE:

- From The Director pg 3
- Vern Eide Golf Classic pg 4
- Planned Giving pg 5
- More Please: Funski pg 6
- Better to Gift Wrap pg 7
- Children's Inn Needs List pg 7
- Bright Start Egg Hunt pg 8

## 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](http://chssd.org/childrensinn)



Children's Inn staff member Jenna Neth takes a crisis phone call during her shift.

## *Taking center stage on abuse:*

# Employee, Survivor Gives Beautiful Voice to Violence Awareness

Beauty pageant winners. They epitomize beauty, personality, and grace. They are talented. They are intelligent. They are a picture of poise under pressure.

Jenna Neth is all of these things and one more—she is a survivor of domestic violence.

That's why Jenna, who currently reigns as Miss Siouxland, chose domestic violence awareness as her platform to share with the public. Jenna, a relief staff worker at Children's Inn, wasn't expecting this opportunity. She had recently competed in Miss Siouxland, a pageant with the Miss America circuit, and earned the runner-up position.

A surprising phone call late one night changed her title to Miss Siouxland when the previous winner was unable to fulfill her duties. Jenna wasn't able to sleep that night because she was excited for the opportunity to compete for Miss South Dakota in June. But this pales in comparison to the challenges Jenna has already overcome.

At one point in her life, Jenna had an abusive relationship with a boyfriend in high school. She became increasingly isolated from friends and family during the five-year relationship. In college, Jenna moved in with her boyfriend. During that time, he found ways to isolate and keep her from participating in normal college activities with other students.

After living under his abuse for years, it became too much. Jenna decided to leave him, but her escape was a harrowing experience. She chose not to get a protection order against him at that time. Looking back, she regrets that choice—and wishes she had. Because of her experience, Jenna is speaking out against the ugliness of domestic violence, and uses her voice in the pageant circuit to raise awareness of the issue.

As a survivor, Jenna wants others to know, "It's a long road of sorting out

**Survivor Gives Voice**

*continued on page 2*

## Survivor Gives Voice *continued from page 1*

emotions. Victims shouldn't feel guilty if they go back. Just stay strong once you decide to get out."

In her opinion, the biggest challenge to overcome with domestic violence is changing the way people see themselves. If someone is being abused, helping them grow stronger makes it easier for them once they decide to step away, she shares.

Jenna feels privileged for the opportunity to bring domestic abuse awareness to the national level—and show other survivors that you can overcome your past and succeed.

"I am passionate about it from working at Children's Inn, but also as a survivor after a five-year relationship. I think it's an issue we need more awareness on," she says.

What are the biggest difficulties she spots working at Children's Inn? Simply seeing that domestic violence is so prevalent—and that the numbers continue to grow as the city grows.



*Miss Siouxland  
Jenna Neth*

As a relief worker at Children's Inn, Jenna works at many different areas of the shelter, but crisis intervention and working with the children are her favorite roles. She likes giving hope and a second chance to others. She feels most rewarded when she sees shelter guests have a good day after all the trauma they have experienced in the past.

Jenna credits some of her daily inspiration to her co-workers, "Everyone who works at Children's Inn, even though we see a lot and deal with so much, stays positive and works together as a team."

She is taking online classes in entrepreneurial studies to become a serial entrepreneur. Her first venture will be to open a childcare employment agency where she will match nannies to families, as well as other various childcare settings, depending on the needs of the family.

Jenna is moving on to the Miss South Dakota pageant in Hot Springs this June, and looks forward to continuing her success if she advances to Miss America.

As a runner-up to replace the winner for Miss Siouxland, her viewpoint has changed going into the next competition. Jenna knows she has to work even harder, adding, "I see it as God's plan. I was debating continuing pageantry at all after Miss Siouxland ended. When I got the title, I felt like it was God telling me I'm not done. I need you to talk about this platform."

With a true heart for children, Jenna is also an advocate for Children's Miracle Network (CMN), and you can follow her on her Facebook page: Miss Siouxland 2016 Jenna Neth.

No matter the outcome of the Miss South Dakota pageant, Jenna wants to be remembered by others as someone who stayed humble, helping people who need it the most. "I want to make a difference in people's lives," she says bravely.

**You already have, Jenna.  
Good luck to you in the next round  
of competition!**

### ABOUT US

Children's Inn is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1977 and merged in 1998 with 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

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

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## From the Director

**Amy Carter**  
Operations Director

I'd like to take this time to reflect on 2015 at Children's Inn, and what we have planned for 2016. Last year was a record year for us. We consistently had 40 to 50 people, both women and children, staying with us in the shelter each day. In addition to the needs of those staying in shelter, we also experienced an almost six percent increase in the number of crisis calls and crisis counseling sessions.

While the numbers are staggering, it's the faces behind those numbers that tell the real story of domestic violence and child abuse and the existence of such issues in our community. Two examples of the many families we had the privilege of serving at Children's Inn last year follow.

Karen's husband had become increasingly abusive towards her and most recently, he pushed her out of a vehicle and then assaulted her and broke her nose. Her children witnessed everything and were terrified their mom was going to die. After he drove away, leaving them to fend for themselves, Karen walked several miles to the nearest business where the clerk offered to call police. Karen was too scared to talk to the police, but she was open to having the clerk call Children's Inn. We arranged

for a cab to bring Karen and her children to us where they would be safe.

Two sisters, Lizzie and Colette, ages three and five years old, were brought to Children's Inn after police responded to their home due to a domestic dispute. Their mother's boyfriend assaulted their mom and took her with him, leaving the children behind. A neighbor called police, concerned for the family.

Undoubtedly in 2016, we will serve more families like those mentioned above, as well as many others who will need our help.

- We will reach young victims of dating violence through our EMPOWER support group in the middle and high schools.
- We will have the opportunity to speak with school children about family violence and healthy relationships.
- Our parenting classes will provide families with tools and resources to better equip them to deal with the stresses of parenting.
- Our therapists will offer support and comfort to those struggling with the emotional scars of being a victim of abuse.
- Thousands of sessions of crisis counseling, both on the phone or in person, will continue to take place.

Thank you for caring not only about the work we do at Children's Inn, but also for people like Karen, Lizzie, and Colette—and all the others who will need our help in the coming year.

## Amundson Challenge Endowment Update

The Amundson Endowment Challenge was announced by Children's Inn in 2013. Long-time friends, Loren and Mavis Amundson, graciously agreed to match gifts given to the Endowment, up to \$200,000.

We are excited to share that we are **70% of the way** to meeting our goal! Please help us complete our challenge. A gift of any size is appreciated.

Send your gift in the envelope provided  
or contact

**Staci Kropuenske at 605.338.0116**

Donations may be made online at  
**chssd.org/childrensinn**

*(Please specify Children's Inn Endowment Fund)*

*Legacy of Love  
& Hope*



## How can I help?

Did you enjoy reading *The Porch Light*? It 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.

### 4 EASY WAYS to make a gift today!

1. To donate online, visit: [chssd.org/childrensinn](http://chssd.org/childrensinn)
2. To make a gift by credit card, call Staci Kropuenske at 605.338.0116
3. **NEW OPTION AVAILABLE!** 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. Or return this slip with your gift. Please complete the following:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please use our gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Where most needed
- ☐ Legacy of Love & Hope:  
Amundson Endowment Challenge

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

*All gifts are deductible for tax purposes.*

### Help us go GREEN!

To receive electronic communications, email GO GREEN to [childrensinn@chssd.org](mailto:childrensinn@chssd.org) and provide your email address:

**INCLUDE YOUR FULL NAME in the text of the email.**

*Your email address is for internal use only and will not be shared outside Children's Inn or Children's Home Society.*

## JOIN US FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL

# Vern Eide Acura Golf Classic

Children's Inn is excited to share the date for the 3rd annual Vern Eide Acura Golf Classic. This year's event, presented by Vern Eide Acura and Great Western Bank, will be held on Monday, July 11, at GreatLIFE Willow Run Golf Course.

The check-in and skills contests begin at 11:00 a.m., and the shotgun start for the golf classic is at 12:30 p.m. A prime rib dinner will follow the conclusion of the four-person scramble. Registration fees are \$1,000 for a foursome, or \$250 per individual, and include all green fees—along with carts, dinner, and many chances to win great prizes, including a new Acura car.



## Golf with us!

**Mon., July 11  
at GreatLIFE  
Willow Run  
Golf Course**

To register or find more information, go to

**[verneideacura.com](http://verneideacura.com)**

or contact

**Jeff at 605.965.3125 or [jeff.nelson@chssd.org](mailto:jeff.nelson@chssd.org)**

Registration deadline is July 3, 2016.

## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!



### EAGLE SPONSORS



### HOST:



### BIRDIE SPONSORS



### MEDIA SPONSORS







Gloria Lundstrom was known for her deep Christian faith and love of children. She secured that legacy with recent bequests to Children's Home Society (CHS), Children's Inn, her church and other favorite charities in the community. As her niece Jan traced her life story, it became clear that Gloria's gifts were a testament of her life experience and commitment to stewardship.

A Sioux Falls native her entire life, Gloria grew up on a small farm south of the city in the 1940s. Her mother, Hannah, was abandoned by her first husband, leaving her alone with Gloria's older sister, Evelyn, during the Great Depression. Gloria was born much later after her mother was remarried to Oscar Lundstrom. While Gloria did not suffer the same hardships as her mother and sister, her remembrance of their haunting stories make an indelible impression on Gloria when she was a child. Jan believes these stories contributed to her decision to include CHS and Children's Inn in her estate.

Gloria attended a small country school, graduated from Washington High School, and later studied accounting at Nettleton College. Her working years were spent at the architectural firm of Fritzel, Kroeger, Griffen and Berg and the Anderson Group Accounting Firm. She loved numbers and prided herself on being an intelligent investor, parlaying the proceeds from the sale of her childhood farm she inherited into a sizable estate.

Foremost, Gloria believed God's people have a responsibility to be good stewards and help the unfortunate. In addition to helping CHS and Children's Inn, she planned estate gifts for the Salvation Army and her home church,

First Lutheran. A long time parishioner, she was very active in Ruth Circle.

Gloria never married or had children. She spent most of her time with Jan's family, which resides in Sioux Falls. She also enjoyed spending time with the rest of her sister Evelyn's children, Bonnie, Paula, Danny, and Joanne who live in various parts of the country.



*Gloria's gifts were a testament of her life experience and commitment to stewardship. Her legacy will live on.*

Gloria's fondest childhood memories were traveling with her parents to Montana, Oregon, and Washington in their Airstream trailer. She loved the mountains and had a fascination with bears—so much in fact, that she planned a significant bequest for the Sioux Falls Zoo, which used the gift to renovate the Bear exhibit in her name. Another passion, classical music, prompted Gloria to make a significant bequest to the South Dakota Symphony.

At home, Gloria led a simple life. She enjoyed quilting, collecting antiques, and playing cards. Her cats, Morris and Scamper, kept her company during her last years at Trail Ridge Retirement Center, which, coincidentally, is located within a mile of where she grew up. Gloria is home in Heaven. Grateful is CHS, Children's Inn, and the entire Sioux Falls community for the benevolence of Gloria Lundstrom.

## Law makes IRA gift provision permanent.

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

### 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.

### Interested in donating through your IRA?

For more information, check with your tax consultant, or contact Children's Home Foundation Development Director Rick Weber at 605.965.3127 or email [rick.weber@chssd.org](mailto:rick.weber@chssd.org).

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**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  
 Jeb Clarkson  
 Steve Egger  
 Phil Helland  
 Blake Hoffman  
 Bob Hoover\*  
 Pam Taylor Jansa  
 Deanna Lien  
 Helen Madsen  
 Jack Marshman  
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Linda Mickelson  
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 John Rozell\*  
 Dave Schmidt  
 Peg Seljeskog  
 Dennis Stene\*  
 Gene Uher  
 Marilyn Van Demark  
 Doug Wells

\*Current board member

**More Please:**

If we had to describe the 2016 Media One Funski in just two words, it would definitely be "More please!" With a recipe consisting of one new event, two days of perfect weather, over 450 attendees, and heaping scoops of joy, this event left everyone wanting another helping!

The 27th annual event hosted by Great Bear Ski Valley was held on January 22 and 23. The newest event garnering everyone's attention was the fatbike race. A fatbike is an off-road bicycle with over-sized tires. The bike is designed in a way that makes it feasible to ride on soft unstable terrains. The fatbikes are often ridden on terrains like snow, sand or mud. Great Bear typically has plenty of the white, fluffy powder, making the Media One Funski the perfect place to feature this newest craze. Twenty-four riders braved the chilly morning and snowy terrain to give us an event that will definitely be making a return visit.

The two days consisted of snow



**A new Funski event debuted this year—fatbike races!**

tube races, jumps and tricks on skis and snowboards, kickball in the snow, and beautiful groomed trails and hills for cross country skiing and downhill events. It culminated in everyone's favorite zipfy sled race, where a new winner was crowned, knocking out the previous three-peat champion. To everyone's delight, the snow sculptures were constructed into fun designs and shapes, leaving visitors wondering what renditions are already being drawn up for next year.

While we anxiously anticipate the next Media One Funski, we are also incredibly pleased with the outcome of this year—\$32,250 was raised for Children's Inn!

Special thanks to our many partners and friends who helped make this perfect recipe of wintertime fun a success for all our attendees.

**THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!**

**Friends of Funski:** Associated Consulting Engineering, Bierschbach Equipment & Supply, Boss' Pizza and Chicken, Callaways, CO-OP Architecture, DQ Treat Center, FastSigns, Freeburg Hay, Great Outdoor Store, Dan Grider, Hard Travelin', Mailway Printers, Sioux Falls Music, Sun 'N Fun



# Better to Gift Wrap than to Receive

Who could have guessed that wrapping presents to help Children's Inn would be such a gift? The 2015 holiday season was again the time frame for the annual Gift Wrap Booth at The Empire Mall benefiting Children's Inn.

It's become an annual stop for many mall customers and friends. With the opening date a week later than past years, friends still arrived in loyal fashion to support Children's Inn. The shorter season was hardly noticed in the end, with \$38,350 being raised.

An incredible 782 volunteers gave precious time during an already busy time of year—2,439 hours to be exact—to wrap over 7,500 gifts!

A handful of volunteer leaders stepped up their game by working several shifts to oversee the volunteer groups that were wrapping.

The Miracle on 41st Street toy drive was also a success, with hundreds of toys and gifts collected for Children's Inn. These donated gifts are used for the children in shelter as birthday and Christmas gifts, as well as gifts sent with the children when they leave. Many



*Volunteer wrappers from KSFY had a little fun with bow placement while working at the Children's Inn Gift Wrap Booth.*

friends made it possible to fill the sleigh at The Empire Mall and helped to brighten the day for the children served at Children's Inn.



**CHILDREN'S INN GIFT WRAP BOOTH IS SUPPORTED BY THESE PARTNERS:**

**THE EMPIRE MALL**  
A SIMON MALL



## Volunteer Leaders:

Sheena Andrews  
Phyllis Clark  
Bill & Jolynn Hennrich  
Stephanie Hildebrandt  
Rhonda Kelsey  
Joan McIlvenna

Charlotte Schwab  
Deborah Sneve  
Tonya Triebwasser  
Randy VanDeVendel  
Sheila Wassom

## 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**

## FOOD ITEMS

Cereal	Rice Krispies treats
Sugar	Quick bread mixes
Brown sugar	Saltine crackers
Pop-tarts	Graham crackers
Granola bars	Snack crackers
Fruit snacks	Oatmeal:
Pudding cups	Regular or Instant
Muffin mixes	Iced tea mix
Snack cakes	Kool-aid packets
Pancake syrup	Non-dairy creamer

## CANNED GOODS

Bottled water  
Coffee  
100% juice: orange, apple, grape  
Canned vegetables:  
corn, green beans, baked beans,  
wax beans, carrots, peas  
Canned fruit:  
applesauce, peaches, pears,  
pineapple, fruit cocktail,  
pie filling

## CLOTHING ITEMS

Sleep sacks or swaddle sacks:  
sizes 3 months to 18 months  
Baby bibs  
Boys & girls shirts and pants: all sizes,  
but greatest need are sizes 3-14  
Boys & girls pajamas: all sizes  
(no flannel or fleece, please)  
Boys & girls underwear: all sizes  
Children's shoes: all sizes  
Women's socks & underwear: all sizes  
Women's pajamas: all sizes

## MISCELLANEOUS

Diapers: all sizes  
Sandwich and gallon storage bags  
Plastic food containers  
Towels and washcloths  
Crib sheets and crib mattress pads  
Arts & craft kits  
Twin size sheet sets, blankets, bedspreads  
Pillows and pillow protectors  
Portable DVD players  
Backpacks  
Alarm clock radios  
Toys for all ages

## 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

## Did you know?

The Sioux Empire United Way gives funds through an annual allocation process to many agencies and programs in the greater Sioux Empire. Children's Inn and Bright Start are two of those funded programs, with approximately 17% and 58% of their respective budgets coming from United Way dollars.



**We appreciate your support of United Way,  
Children's Inn, and Bright Start!**

### THE PORCH LIGHT

8



*The Easter Bunny brought smiles and candy to the little ones who participated in the first-ever Bright Start Easter egg hunt on March 25.*

## Bright Start Egg Hunt Brings Families Together

What do you get when you bring together 28 moms, more than 28 kids under the age of three, and hundreds of plastic Easter eggs? You get a lot of family fun in the first-ever Bright Start Easter egg hunt!

Due to the snow that blanketed the ground, the Easter egg hunt took place on March 25, just inside the Bright Start office. Kids and moms lined up before being turned loose in search of dozens of eggs waiting to be found. Little ones filled their bags with the treasures as moms stood by beaming and enjoying this special memory.

Patty Luke, Bright Start Therapist shared, "We wanted to have a gathering that would allow moms and kids to celebrate the holiday, while also getting to know other families in the program. Our moms don't often get a chance to socialize with other young families, so it brought them together in a fun setting."

The event concluded with the kids getting their picture taken with the Easter Bunny. Families also went home with a fully stocked Easter basket, thanks to some generous donors. The Bright Start nurses and therapist have always provided young families with support, resources, and guidance. Now, we can add smiles and chocolate to that list!

**For more information on Bright Start,  
contact Kathy Schneider at 605.274.0233.**

### Bright Start

A program of  
CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

In partnership with the South Dakota Department of Health

