



# THE Porch Light

CHILDREN'S INN  
NEWSLETTER FALL 2018  
Volume 19

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



## No Ordinary Day.

Any given day at Children's Inn is a far cry from Merriam Webster's definition of "ordinary"—*of a kind to be expected in the normal order or events: routine, usual, commonplace.*

For one thing, domestic violence has no borders or restrictions relative to health, wealth, education, color, class, gender or age. As such, staff members must constantly shift focus from one family to the next, often simultaneously addressing issues unique to each family.

So how then does an agency like Children's Inn summarize its work? One way would be to share information using pie charts and graphs, monthly statistical reports, year-to-year comparisons, and demographic information.

Or there is the less statistical approach that takes you into the trenches and keeps it real.

### How many women and children will need emergency shelter today?

In 2017, the average number of women and children needing safe shelter per

day was 43. The lowest number was 15 one day to a high of 70 on another. Anticipating and preparing for how many might be served on any given day is unknown until the day's end.

### What can we do to make Children's Inn a comfortable and welcoming place for women and children whose lives are in chaos and crisis?

It begins with working to give clients the basic necessities and comforts a home would normally provide. Home-cooked meals are prepared and served. Shampoo, toothpaste, soap, combs, brushes, and diapers are available.

Staff washes about 10 loads of laundry each day, keeping each family in fresh linens and bedding. The women and children have access to clothing, if needed, from a room filled with gently-used clothing laundered by staff and organized by size. Each day, 11 bathrooms are scrubbed twice a day, and as many as seven bedrooms have been cleaned in preparation for other families that will need bed space.

*continued on page 2 ►*



## From the Director

**Amy Carter**  
Operations Director

Recently I had the chance to spend some time with Kelli. Kelli had been served by Children's Inn a number of times due to a life filled with issues of abuse, mental illness, and substance abuse. During a recent visit to Children's Inn, Kelli's addiction was impacting her judgment and her ability to be rational as we tried to assess her needs to determine how we could best help.

Because of this, Kelli did not treat our staff very well that day and she left Children's Inn very upset with us. Although this visit didn't end well, Kelli did come back a few days later. At this visit, she was requesting a bus ticket to go back home to live with family, which we were able to help with.

A few weeks later, Kelli returned to Sioux Falls to wrap up a few things before leaving town for the last time. She stopped by Children's Inn to thank us for not giving up on her. She admitted she was in a very dark place a few weeks before. She added that although she wasn't happy with us

“People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; **never** throw out anyone.”

~ Audrey Hepburn

at the time, the respect and compassion we showed her, even though we still had to say “no” to her, did make a difference. Kelli was grateful for what we did for her and how we did it.

It would have been very easy to not help Kelli because of her actions. In our type of work, those we serve are experiencing trauma and are in crisis. Because of this, their ability to process and understand information and to hear what others are saying is most certainly impaired. Knowing this, it is even more important that we in the helping profession carefully listen, empathize, and find ways to empower our clients to be the best that they can be.

As I was reflecting on my time with Kelli and trying to put myself in her shoes, it made me think of the time I had laryngitis and lost my voice. I struggled to speak up for myself,

get people's attention, and to express my feelings. My young daughter said to me, “Mom, you lost your sound.”

My daughter's observation was really quite profound. We never want victims of abuse to feel they've “lost their sound.” Because victims of domestic violence and child abuse often feel worthless and that their voice doesn't count, it is critical to show them that they **do** matter.

We are here to be that place where they can express their opinions. To be that place where their feelings are not held against them. To be that place where their words make a sound that matters.

And, we don't give up on those who may have given up on themselves.

## No Ordinary Day... *continued from page 1*

### What services will be needed by our clients today?

While in shelter, Children's Inn offers case management to each adult client. Case managers assist with protection orders, help create personal safety plans, and talk through goals and to-do lists. In addition to providing advocacy, community referrals, and support to clients in need, transportation can be provided for necessary appointments, court hearings, and medical appointments.

As soon as possible, children in shelter are either newly enrolled in school, or return to their same classrooms. Vans are in and out of the garage an average of 14 times a day, transporting clients for any of the above-listed reasons.

### How many kids do we have in protective custody today?

In addition to any children coming with their mothers, staff also provide care and supervision for up to 12 children at a time who have been placed at Children's Inn in protective custody. Those children are staying at Children's Inn without a parent or guardian, while long term placement is being determined. Staff provide daily care, love, and safety for the duration of their stay.

### Who will need us today outside the walls of Children's Inn?

In addition to everything going on in shelter, Children's Inn staff are managing the constant demands of crisis

intervention and outreach services. Children's Inn makes or receives an average of 46 contacts a day, between crisis phone calls, follow up contacts, and outreach to courts, rural areas, and medical facilities. These calls and visits may involve helping someone understand the red flags of abuse, arranging for emergency transportation to Children's Inn for safety, or talking with a terrified woman trying to fill out a protection order.

Escaping an abusive situation is only the beginning. Woven deep into our programs and services is the commitment to helping women, children, and men heal from the long-term affects of the abuse and trauma they've suffered. To that end, Children's Inn offers individual and group counseling services, as well as parenting classes. Facilitated and led by staff, almost 600 individual or group sessions took place last year.

Prevention and education are key to breaking the cycle of abuse. Each year, Children's Inn staff provide around 300 public education presentations to area school children, youth groups, civic organizations, church groups, and donors or friends.

So to summarize, the only “ordinary” things you will see happening at Children's Inn every day are the extra-“ordinary” measures to which staff will go to provide victims of abuse with the respect, dignity, safety, and hope they deserve.



# When Pets Need Shelter, Too.

Among the red flags that characterize an abusive person is cruelty to animals. Many times, victims of domestic violence will stay in abusive situations when they feel there are no safety options for the four-legged members of their family...

Jodie lived in a small community just outside of Sioux Falls with her boyfriend, Troy, and her 10-year-old daughter Nevaeh. Rounding out the family was Jasper, their beloved pet dog.

For the three years Jodie and Troy were together, Troy was emotionally and physically abusive to Jodie. Ashamed of her situation, Jodie became skilled at covering her bruises with make-up and clothing.

But what hurt Jodie as much as her bruises were the constant threats Troy made to harm Jasper. Jodie knew she needed to get Nevaeh and herself away from Troy, but she didn't want to leave Jasper behind.

When Jodie could take no more of Troy's threats, beatings, and violent outbursts, she contacted Children's Inn to ask about safe shelter. She also

expressed concern for the safety of her dog. She could not leave Jasper behind.

It was then she learned that Children's Inn works closely with the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society in these types of situations. This collaboration provides safe boarding and care of pets while the family turns to Children's Inn for safety and services.



Children's Inn works closely with the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society to provide safe boarding and care of pets while the family turns to Children's Inn for safety and services.

When Jodie knew Jasper would be able to escape the violence as well, she packed them all in the car and drove to Children's Inn. Jodie filed a police report on the recent assault from Troy and law enforcement began to search for Troy to arrest him. Much to Jodie's relief, Troy was finally located and arrested.

Following their time at Children's Inn, Jodie, Nevaeh, and Jasper moved into a new (pet-friendly!) apartment. While they are moving on to a life free from violence, they are staying connected to the services at Children's Inn by coming for support group sessions and individual therapy.

And Jodie and Nevaeh continue to look for regular opportunities to help the Humane Society!



# Even the Smallest Things...

Mia joined the Bright Start program when her daughter, Lily, was just one week old. She and her husband had been in the United States for a very short time and—as brand new parents—they were eager to receive the support and education that Bright Start could provide.

Mia felt safe sharing with Kim that she was overwhelmed with parenting.

Mia's husband had a demanding job that took him away from the home for long hours, leaving much of the parenting to fall on her—so she was particularly excited for the support of Bright Start and her assigned nurse, Kim.

During their first few visits, Kim arranged for an interpreter. But soon Kim noticed that Mia was responding to questions before the interpreter could finish the question. Kim suggested trying the visits without an interpreter. Although reluctant at first, Mia agreed, and they began to meet without the interpreter.

The visits allowed Mia to practice her English, and her confidence grew. As Mia was able to better express herself without the interpreter, the relationship between her and Kim grew stronger.

Two years later, the trust between Mia and Kim is so strong that Mia felt safe sharing with Kim that she was overwhelmed with parenting. She expressed she felt like she was failing as a mom because she would get upset with Lily, especially when it came to eating. Two-year-old Lily was a picky eater and was exerting more independence—leaving Mia feeling frustrated.



*Mia gave the following note to Kim during a recent visit. As this note demonstrates, it's the little things that can really impact someone's life.*

Kim validated Mia's concerns about parenting being difficult, offered her a hug, and reassured her she was doing a good job. They talked about parenting skills and techniques she could use when feeling overwhelmed and stressed. Kim also started bringing menus and food ideas that she could try with Lily.

Mia expressed her gratitude and said, *"This is why I have you come, to help me."*

## Carter named 'Advocate in Action'

Children's Inn Operations Director, **Amy Carter**, was the recipient of the 2018 "Advocate in Action Award."

This award is given each year to an outstanding individual from Minnehaha County whose work in the community makes a real difference in the lives of those affected by domestic violence. Nominees and past winners have included those from law enforcement, victim advocates, prosecutors, judges, therapists, and community volunteers.



**Congratulations Amy!**

## Children's Inn and Bright Start 2018 Employee of the Year

**Candy Koehn-Lauck** was awarded this year's "Excellence in Caring Award."

Candy's client-centered approach and commitment to serving others have had a lasting impression on many women and children during her 37-year career at Children's Inn.

As an Overnight Shift Supervisor, Candy values and demonstrates teamwork. Her work ethic and thoughtfulness are appreciated by everyone.



**Congratulations Candy!**





## Children's Inn Announces Two New Support Groups

Children's Inn is pleased to add two new offerings to their line-up of support groups.

**Man to Man** is an 8-session support group for male victims and survivors of domestic violence, with meetings held weekly.

**Everyone Deserves to Be Safe** is an 8-session support group for LGBTQ victims and survivors of domestic violence, with meetings held weekly.

Both groups will include educational information as well as open discussion about personal experiences. Discussion topics include the cycle of abuse, overcoming gender roles and stereotypes, safe communication, building a support system, healing from abuse, and more.

**There is no cost to attend.** Advance registration is required to attend these closed groups.

Children's Inn continues to offer its **Women's Support Group** each week. These groups are open, with no registration required.

**Monday 6:30-8:00 pm**  
**Thursday 6:30-8:00 pm**  
**Friday 12:00-1:30 pm**

**To register, or for more information,  
please contact:**

**Becca Anderson at 605.338.0116**  
**or**  
**rebecca.anderson@chssd.org**

### CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

Meg Warder, President  
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### DIRECTOR 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
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Helen Madsen	Gene Uher
Royal (Mac) McCracken	Marilyn Van Demark*
Tim Meyer	Doug Wells

\*Current board member



# DRIVE OUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## Social Movement Campaign Nets \$56,000 for Children's Inn

The first-ever **Drive Out Domestic Violence (DODV)** campaign was launched this past July, hitting airwaves and social media networks in a concerted effort to raise awareness and funds to combat domestic violence.

Fueled by Vern Eide Motorcars, the campaign shared impactful national and local statistics regarding domestic violence.

Community members were encouraged to share the information on their own social media accounts to help spread awareness of the impact of domestic violence. All were challenged to text "hope" to 80100 to donate \$5 to the cause or to donate online at [www.driveoutdv.com](http://www.driveoutdv.com).

A big thanks to all our generous sponsors and friends of Children's Inn for joining "The Drive" to raise almost \$56,000!

Find us on Facebook under Children's Inn-Sioux Falls to join our future efforts to educate and create awareness about domestic violence.

Fueled by **Vern Eide**  
MOTORCARS

**Children's Inn**  
A program of  
CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

**THANK YOU**  
TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

 **Great Western Bank**  
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**Harold & Helen**  
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Catherine Piersol  
Dakota Electric Inc  
Howalt McDowell  
Nicholson Law Office

Nordstrom's Automotive, Inc.  
Modern Woodmen  
Culver's  
Shopko Foundation

## 30th Annual Media One Funski

### Save the Date!

**January 18-19, 2019**  
**Great Bear Ski Valley**  
**Sioux Falls**

*We are pleased to be celebrating  
the 30th anniversary of  
Media One Funski!*

*What started as a single cross  
country ski race has grown into a  
winter sports enthusiast's dream!*

*Over the past 29 years, Media One  
Funski has raised \$860,000 to  
support the programs and services  
of Children's Inn. Our heartfelt  
gratitude goes to Greg Blomberg  
and the team at Media One for  
their commitment to the mission  
of Children's Inn and to Funski!*



[www.funski.org](http://www.funski.org)

## Help secure the future of Children's Inn

You can help secure our future by naming Children's Inn as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement plan. For larger estates, Lead Trusts and Charitable Remainder Trusts are advantageous gift vehicles.

To include Children's Inn in your will, the most common bequest language is:

***I bequeath (description of gift) to Children's Home Foundation to be used to support the operations of Children's Inn.***

To learn more about making a gift through your will, trust, or retirement plan, please contact **Development Director Rick Weber at 605.965.3127.**

## IRA Gift Provision has been made permanent

The **Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act of 2015** makes permanent the IRA Charitable Rollover provision that has come and gone several times over the past 10 years. A direct distribution from an IRA can be a great way to provide a charitable gift.

### BENEFITS TO THE DONOR

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

### RULES

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

For more information, check with your tax consultant, or contact:

**Development Director Rick Weber – 605.965.3127**  
**rick.weber@chssd.org**

## ABOUT US

Founded in 1977 as a domestic violence shelter, Children's Inn merged in 1998 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 domestic violence, stalking, elder abuse, sexual assault, and child abuse, or neglect.

Children's Inn service area includes the South Dakota counties of Minnehaha, Lincoln, McCook, Turner, and Union. 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
- Women's Support Groups
- Men's Support Groups
- LGBTQ Support Groups
- Children's Groups
- Safety Planning
- Rural Advocacy
- Community Education and Referrals
- Bright Start: Nurse Home Visitation

**THE PORCH LIGHT** is a semi-annual publication of Children's Inn and Children's Home Foundation.

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 Debra Moritz, *Senior Writer*  
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 Sarah Javers, *Website Coordinator*

**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.

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 Bright Start Program Director*

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### CHILDREN'S INN

409 N. Western Ave.,  
 Sioux Falls, SD, 57104  
 Phone: 605.338.0116

## Needs List

### Can you help?

A complete list of needs and gift ideas can be found at

**chssd.org/childrensinn**

or by calling Staci Kropuenske.

**605.338.0116**

### GROCERY ITEMS

Cereal (*Rice Krispies, Cheerios, Chex, Corn Flakes, Kix, Mini Wheats*)

Snacks (*granola bars, cereal bars, pudding cups, fruit snacks*)

Canned fruit & vegetables

Coffee & Nondairy creamer

Sugar

Frozen meats (*ham, turkey or pork loin*)

### FOR LITTLE ONES

Diapers (*size 5 & 6 only*)

Infant Formula

Pedialyte powder packs

Good Nights or Pull-ups

Sippy cups

### PERSONAL CARE

Pump hand soap

Deodorant (*mens/womens, no roll-on*)

Feminine hygiene products

Lotion (*scented & unscented*)

African American hair products

Body wash (*regular sizes*)

### CLOTHING & BEDDING

Infant sleepers

Infant clothing (*all sizes*)

Underwear (*all sizes but especially women's size 4/5 and up*)

Twin-size bed blankets & sheet sets

### THAT OTHER STUFF!

Planners & Journals

Laundry detergent (HE only)

Fabric softener/dryer sheets

Cell phone charging cords  
 (*Universal/iPhone/Android*)

Batteries (*all sizes*)

Paper products

### GIFTS

Grocery gift cards

Gas gift cards

Gift Wrap for kids

Toys and gifts for

kids ages 0-17

(*used for Christmas and birthdays all year!*)

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

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A program of  
 CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY





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THE PORCH LIGHT

8

**Take one major task off your holiday "To Do" list  
...and help Children's Inn by doing so!**



Xmas  
baking

Kids'  
Xmas  
concert

Clean  
the  
House!

Plan  
menus

Write  
Xmas  
letter

Finish  
shopping

Decorate  
& hang  
lights

~~Wrap  
gifts~~

**Gift Wrap Booth**

**Our Gift Wrap Booth Volunteers  
Will Handle All Your Wrapping Needs  
for a Donation to Children's Inn!**  
Macy's Court in the Empire Mall, Sioux Falls  
**Fri., Nov. 30, through Mon., Dec. 24**  
(Booth open during mall hours)  
**100% of all proceeds benefit Children's Inn!**

**MIRACLE**  
ON 41ST STREET

Bring a new toy or gift out to  
the Gift Wrap Booth as part  
of our Miracle on  
41st Street Toy Drive.

**Children's Inn**  
A program of  
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**CHILDREN'S INN GIFT WRAP BOOTH IS SUPPORTED BY THESE PARTNERS:**

