



# THE Porch Light

CHILDREN'S INN  
NEWSLETTER FALL 2019  
Volume 20

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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)



*Renee (center) recently spoke at the United Way Women Unite event. Renee, holding baby Lyle, is pictured with Patty, Bright Start Therapist, (left) and Liz, Bright Start Nurse (right).*

## Renee's Bright Start!

Renee is living a life she always dreamed about having. She has a good job, has her own home, is mother to a happy and healthy 14-month-old little boy whom she adores, and is engaged to be married to someone she loves and who loves her and their son.

But just a few years ago, Renee's life was anything but the stuff that dreams are made of...

Renee was on probation for drugs. She couldn't pay her bills, and suffered from depression and anxiety. And to top it off, she learned she was pregnant. For many, pregnancy is a time of joy and anticipation. For Renee, it just added to her stress, anxiety, and fear of the future. These obstacles seemed insurmountable.

Soon after learning she was pregnant, Renee was introduced to Bright Start—a nurse home visitation program through Children's Home Society.

Upon joining Bright Start, Renee was paired with Liz, her nurse. Among the many topics covered during their visits together, Liz and Renee would discuss ways to have a healthy pregnancy and how Renee could implement those into her life.

Because of the education, support, and accountability Liz provided for her, Renee had a healthy pregnancy and was sober throughout. This alone was a huge accomplishment, and one Renee is very proud of!

Following Lyle's birth, Renee experienced postpartum depression, a common yet serious issue some women struggle with after giving birth. With Liz and the Bright Start therapist, Patty, by her side, Renee was able to seek medical help for

**Because of the support Liz provided for Renee, she had a healthy pregnancy and was sober throughout....**

*continued on page 3 ►*



## From the Director

**Amy Carter**  
Operations Director

It was about a year ago at this time that I first learned Children's Inn would be the recipient of the extremely generous gift from T. Denny Sanford that would allow us to build a new building. I got tears in my eyes when I heard this amazing news. Children's Inn has operated for many years out of space that was not intended for the volume it has seen. To know that additional space is going to be available for serving victims of abuse who are seeking refuge and safety, I felt such relief, joy, and absolute gratitude to Mr. Sanford.

My feelings of relief were for the thousands of women and children who come through our doors each year. With a larger facility, the threat of having to turn people away due to not having enough beds will be reduced. Victims of abuse deserve a safe, welcoming, and calming space to heal. With additional bed and living space, being able to provide a more comfortable and peaceful place is something we are excited to provide for our clients.

My tears of joy were for the employees of Children's Inn who would now have the space they need and deserve in which to do this difficult work. Working in an environment filled with crisis and heart wrenching stories of trauma and pain can be challenging. Removing the strain of a cramped and stressed work setting allows staff to provide an even better experience to the people we serve.

The gratitude I felt that day, and continue to have for Mr. Sanford and his gift, is genuine. Without this significant donation, it was unknown how Children's Inn would have responded to the continued demand for the growing safety needs of our community. Ideally, not needing a shelter of any size for domestic violence victims would be our wish. But, we know that is not the reality. We are grateful Mr. Sanford recognized that as well and took on the challenge to provide victims of abuse with the temporary home they deserve.

I challenge each of you to support this need also. While Mr. Sanford's gift provides us the resources we need to build our new facility, it will not support the increased operational expenses that will come with this exciting project. That is where we will look to you and our community to help going forward.

One family who recently stayed at Children's Inn had this to say, "Children's Inn was exactly what I needed when I was confused and scared. I felt safe and slept better than I have in almost a year. I can't say thank you enough for believing in me and giving me safe shelter when I needed it most." This woman's words say so much about why we do what we do. I know that in our new building, even more families will be able to say the same thing.

It's an exciting time in our history and I'm honored to be a part of it. I look forward to having you alongside us on our journey.



*This building project has required a very thoughtful approach in how to best respond to meet the increased need.*

## Now. More Than Ever. A Building Plan Update.

Earlier this year, Children's Inn was honored to receive an incredibly generous gift from T. Denny Sanford. Mr. Sanford has directed up to \$11 million to address the major shortage of space at Children's Inn, and to more efficiently serve the growing number of adults and children who are victims of domestic violence and child abuse.

The tremendous growth of the Sioux Falls area is creating a serious threat to Children's Inn's goal to never turn someone away if they are not safe.

This building project has required a very thoughtful approach in how to best respond to increased need, both current and future. As our current location is "land-locked," our hope is to find a parcel of land big enough to build a larger facility.

As we search for a new location and begin the building design process, we are also working on a plan to ensure the additional funding is in place to operate a larger facility.

The building project will begin only after the plan is in place to fund the additional operating expenses.

*Nearly 65% of Children's Inn operating expenses are funded through charitable support—United Way, donor gifts, fundraising events, and endowment support.*

We are hopeful that now, more than ever, the friends of Children's Inn will rally around this important cause to help provide what will be needed for ongoing operational support.



# Children's Home Society names Lavallee as CEO

## *Experienced South Dakota Business Leader Will Guide Strategy and Advance Mission*



**Michelle Lavallee**

Children's Home Society (CHS) has appointed Michelle Lavallee as its next chief executive officer. Lavallee follows Bill Colson, who will retire at the year end and served as CHS's executive director for the past 10 years.

Focusing on workforce development and expanding Children's Inn are Lavallee's immediate priorities.

Lavallee's extensive leadership experience within South Dakota organizations will serve this charge. Some of her previous positions include executive level positions within Raven, Avera McKennan Hospital and University Health Center, and University of South Dakota.

"South Dakota's children and families will benefit greatly from Michelle's strong leadership skills in strategy development, fundraising and workforce development," said Meg Warder, CHS Board Past President (2018-2019).

"Michelle is a well-respected and experienced leader in South Dakota, grounded to lead CHS to future growth. She also has an incredible passion to advance our mission to empower our communities to be resilient, safe, healthy and strong. We are excited for CHS's future with Michelle at the helm," said Warder.

She added, "We also want to thank Bill for his dedicated service to our community in his leadership positions with CHS and wish him a well-deserved retirement."

Lavallee is just the 10th leader in CHS's 126-year history, a reflection of its stability and commitment to the nonprofit's mission. She is also the first woman to lead the organization.

Lavallee and Colson will work together during the leadership transition through the rest of the year. Colson had announced his retirement plan in 2016.

"I'm so inspired by the work of Children's Home Society and am humbled to further expand its mission," said Lavallee. "It will be an honor to work with this passionate team and positively impact the lives of so many children, adults and families within communities in South Dakota."

Lavallee has been honored by Beacom School of Business—Distinguished Service Award; YWCA—Tribute to Women Award for Marketing and Innovation; and Sales and Marketing Executives, Inc.—Women of Excellence Award, Women Mentoring Women. She also was a lieutenant governor candidate for South Dakota and is an adjunct faculty member, Beacom School of Business, University of South Dakota.

She has extensive Board service including serving as the president of the Downtown Sioux Falls Rotary, incoming chair of the South Dakota Hall of Fame, co-president of the South Dakota Symphony, as well as Board positions for the Ronald McDonald House, Sioux Falls Development Foundation, and the Washington Pavilion. Lavallee has a BS in Communications from Northwestern University and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management.

### Saying Goodbye to Bill...

**"We wish Bill all the best. While he will no longer be part of the CHS staff, he will always be a member of the CHS family."**

— **John McGrath**  
CHS Board President

**"We want to thank Bill for his dedicated service to our community in his leadership positions with CHS and wish him a well-deserved retirement."**

— **Meg Warder**  
CHS Past Board President



**Bill Colson**

## **Bright Start** *continued from page 1*

her depression, something she would never have done on her own.

During her visits with Liz, Renee learned how to take care of Lyle at his different stages of development. Renee set goals to be the best parent she could be, and through Bright Start, she continues to learn and implement those helpful tools to succeed. Lyle is also flourishing, and among other things, he loves to have his mom read books to him.

Renee even had the confidence and courage to present her story recently at United Way's "Women Unite" event.

Renee shares: "My life has been impacted greatly because of Bright Start. I'm a better mom to Lyle and I learn new things every day so I can continue to be the best mom I can be. Bright Start is awesome and I'm so glad our family could be part of the program."

### CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Meg Warder  
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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
Gary Brown	Rob Mudge
Jeb Clarkson	T.J. Reardon
Steve Egger	George Roberts
Phil Helland	John Rozell
Blake Hoffman	Dave Schmidt*
Bob Hoover	Peg Seljeskog
Gary Jensen	Carolynn Stavenger*
Deanna Lien	Pam Taylor Jansa
Helen Madsen	Gene Uher
Royal (Mac) McCracken	Marilyn Van Demark*
Tim Meyer	Doug Wells

\*Current board member

## Remembering a Good Friend



**Jeff Hazard**

The staff and friends of Children's Home Society (CHS) and Children's Inn were saddened to learn of the passing of Jeff Hazard on August 30. Jeff had just turned 64 and passed away after battling cancer.

Leading an incredibly talented team at Koch Hazard Architects, Jeff had been the principal architect for a number of CHS building projects over the years, including a plan currently being considered for Children's Inn.

One of Jeff's many talents as a professional included his desire to gain a true understanding of a project's mission, focus, and function. From there, he would create an architectural design that would best capture the purpose and personality of the project.

CHS is honored that one of Jeff's final projects was his architectural vision for a new Children's Inn facility. Jeff will forever hold a special place in our hearts.

### ABOUT US

Founded in 1977 as a domestic violence shelter, Children's Inn merged in 1998 and became 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.

#### PUBLISHED BY CHS MARKETING:

Janet Andersen, *Marketing Manager; Art Director*  
Debra Moritz, *Senior Writer*  
Staci Kropuenske, *Editor*  
Sarah Javers, *Website Coordinator*

#### AMY CARTER

*Children's Inn Operations Director  
Bright Start Program Director*

#### STACI KROPUENSKE

*Development Coordinator*

#### MELISSA EDMAN

*Development Assistant*

#### JANICE LEE

*Financial Administrator*

#### KOBI RINGLING

*Shelter Program Supervisor*

#### MELISSA JENKINS

*HR Representative  
Volunteer Coordinator*

#### MARK SIGETTE

*Facilities Coordinator*

#### BECCA ANDERSON

*Mental Health Therapist*

#### JODY BOCKORNY

*Mental Health Crisis Therapist*

#### SANDY JONES

*Parenting Coordinator*

#### DONNA SPRINGMAN

*Shelter Receptionist*

#### GWEN PETERSON

*Administrative Receptionist*

#### KATHY SCHNEIDER

*Bright Start Nurse Supervisor*

#### CHILDREN'S INN

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

**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.



## Guardians of the Children

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.

Pastor Carli, as she is known by many, is a passionate Ohio State Buckeyes fan who hails from Columbus, Ohio. She was raised by her grandparents. Carli's grandfather was a Methodist minister and, eventually, she would follow in his footsteps.

Carli married, and she and her husband began their family. When the incidence of crime in their once quiet Ohio neighborhood began to rise, Carli, along with her husband and two young daughters, moved to the Midwest where her husband was from. They settled near Mitchell, South Dakota, but were later divorced.

That's when Carli began a new chapter in her life. She moved to Sioux Falls to attend Seminary. Carli studied hard and earned two master's degrees—one in Divinity and one in Counseling.

Carli remembers somehow running across a Children's Inn needs list. Finances were tight, but Carli remembers bringing coffee, soup, hamburger, and other groceries to Children's Inn when she was able. But she always wished and prayed that she could do more.

Then one day in March 2018, she received a monetary gift—a windfall of sorts—that drastically changed her financial situation for the better. What excited her most was she could finally do more for her favorite charities, which included Children's Inn.

Now a chaplain for Avera Heart Hospital and her church choir, Pastor Carli stays busy with two daughters and five grandsons. She says God leads her where He needs her to be, right when she needs to be there.

In the same way, she seems to have impeccable timing in her "what is needed today" phone calls to Children's Inn. She will go shop for those items and drop them off. She continues to make these calls on a regular basis, and encourages other to do the same.

Pastor Carli has also helped solidify the future of Children's Inn programs and services by naming Children's Inn in her estate plan.

Pastor Carli shares that she gives to Children's Inn because she knows people get help in their most desperate time of need.

*"You guys are angels for what you do. You work hard to take care of all those who walk in your door, but you also take care of each other. I am treated so kindly whenever I come here. You care about everyone who comes here."*

*"I try to bring others with me when I go to Children's Inn. Everyone should feel the love that defines what this place is all about."*

~ Pastor Carli



**Carli Steffes has named Children's Inn in her estate plan, becoming one of the Guardians of the Children.**

## 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.***

## 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.

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

**Rick Weber**  
Development Director

**Ph: 605.965.3127**

**email: [rick.weber@chssd.org](mailto:rick.weber@chssd.org)**



## Needs List

### Can you help?

A complete list of needs and gift ideas can be found at [chssd.org/childrensinn](http://chssd.org/childrensinn) or by calling Staci Kropuenske: **605.338.0116**

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

### GROCERY

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

Honey

Frozen meats

(*ham, turkey, chicken or pork loin*)

### FOR LITTLE ONES

Diapers

Sleepers, pajamas & clothing

Infant Formula

Pedialyte powder packs

Good Nights or Pull-ups

Sippy cups

### PERSONAL CARE

Underwear (*women's sizes 4–8*)

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

Feminine hygiene products

Lotion (*scented & unscented*)

African American hair products

Body wash (*regular sizes*)

Shampoo & conditioner (*regular sizes*)

### THAT OTHER STUFF!

Paper products (*Kleenex, toilet paper, paper towels, napkins*)

Planners & Journals

Laundry detergent (*HE only*)

Cell phone charging cords

Fabric softener/  
dryer sheets

Batteries

### GIFTS

Grocery gift cards

Gas gift cards

Toys and gifts for kids ages 0-17

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

## Children's Inn

A program of  
CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

## Bright Start 2019 Employee of the Year



Dedicated, responsive, helpful, flexible. These are just a few words that describe **Kristy Hazel**—this year's "Employee of the Year" for Children's Inn and Bright Start.

As a nurse at Bright Start for the past 15 years, Kristy's work has put her face-to-face with women and children who are at a point in their lives when support and a link to resources, from someone who truly cares about them, can make all the difference in their lives.

Kristy will drop everything to help a client, or be there when they need her the most. And she does the same for her co-workers. Kristy is a quiet leader who brings a positive spirit not only to her team, but to the whole agency.

**Congratulations, Kristy!**

## 31st Annual Media One Funski



### Save The Date!

**January 17 & 18, 2020  
Great Bear Ski Valley**

The date has been set for the 31st Annual Media One Funski! Over its 30-year history, the Media One Funski has raised over \$900,000 to support the programs and services of Children's Inn.

Make plans now to join us at Great Bear Ski Valley for a weekend of snow and fun!



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



**Jim Lake (left) and Justin Lake (right) present a \$25,000 check to Staci Kropuenske and Amy Carter. Fueled by Vern Eide Motorcars, the Drive Out Domestic Violence social movement campaign helped to raise over \$55,000 for Children's Inn.**

## Social Movement Campaign raises \$55,000 for Children's Inn

The second year of **Drive Out Domestic Violence** campaign, fueled by Vern Eide Motorcars, was a resounding success! The month-long effort began with a kickoff event June 28 during KSFY's "Friday on the Plaza."

The two primary goals of the campaign were to help educate the community about domestic violence and to raise funds in support of the work of Children's Inn. Domestic violence victims needing safe shelter and support from Children's Inn do not pay for services received.

This year, a multitude of community members participated in a showing of support via social media channels, and almost all were sporting this year's **Hope is Stronger than Fear** t-shirts. The social media impact was felt, with a combined reach of 801,431!

Friends and donors could text "hope" to 80100 to donate \$5 to the cause, or could donate online at [driveoutdv.com](http://driveoutdv.com).

All told, generous sponsors and friends helped raise over \$55,000! And you can't put a price tag on the awareness that was created.

Children's Inn would like to thank all those who supported this year's campaign!

**THANK YOU**  
TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!



DAKOTA ELECTRIC, INC.



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



**Sporting this year's Hope is Stronger than Fear t-shirts are (l to r): Melissa Jenkins, Staci Kropuenske, Melissa Edman, Janice Lee, Gwen Peterson.**

# DRIVE OUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Fueled by **Vern Eide MOTORCARS** | **Children's Inn**  
A program of CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY



# Children's Inn

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THE PORCH LIGHT

8

## Take **one** major task off your holiday "To Do" list!



### 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. 29, through Tues., Dec. 24**

(Booth open during mall hours)

**All proceeds benefit Children's Inn!**

**MIRACLE**  
ON 41ST STREET

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

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