

"I got hooked on Harry Potter books..." said Anthony, who shared his memories of a stay with his mother and five siblings at Children's Inn.

THE Porch Light

CHILDREN'S INN
NEWSLETTER FALL 2020
Volume 21

FEATURED INSIDE:

	Page
■ Anthony Remembers	1-2
■ From The Director	2
■ All In: Building Plan Update	3
■ Rising Star of the Year	4
■ Hope is Stronger than Fear	5
■ Children's Inn Needs List	6
■ Happy Birthday Bright Start!	6
■ Funski: Save The Date!	6
■ Guardians of the Children	7
■ Gift Wrap Booth Info	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

Anthony remembers...

A childhood perspective of staying at Children's Inn

Though many people often make self-deprecating jokes about failing memories, in some ways, Anthony wishes that were true for him.

But Anthony does remember. He remembers his parents' fights. He remembers his father's unpredictable moods, the shouting, the slaps, the blood, and things flying across the room. He remembers the day when, as a 12-year-old boy, he and his mother and his five siblings quickly and quietly packed a few precious belongings, hurriedly loaded into a car, and anxiously drove away, unsure of what would happen next. All Anthony knew is they were on their way to a place called Children's Inn.

But that isn't all he remembers. Anthony remembers what Children's Inn did for him and his family. Years later, now an adult, Anthony reached out to Children's Inn through Facebook and shared the following:

"My mom and I, and my five siblings had a stay at Children's Inn back in 2001. I can't tell you enough how much it meant to me to be looked after and to be distracted from everything going on with my parents as a 12-year-old boy. Also, I got hooked on Harry Potter there when I read the third book. I remember playing in the backyard, whining until I got to play Oregon Trail in the teen room, being taken to my first soccer game (go Spitfire!), and melting down used crayons to make fun-shaped crayons. I also recall watching a lot of Veggie Tales while we were there. I believe there were also a couple of toddlers/infants. I remember playing with them, as well. It was the best part of that bad situation."

Thinking about his stay at Children's Inn and about those that crossed his path, Anthony said that "the helpers" at Children's Inn were amazing. "I remember just

continued on page 2 ►



From the Director

Amy Carter
Operations Director

Earlier this year, Children's Home Society revised its core values to better reflect our work and goals as an agency. The core values of being **better together, tenacious, and kind** are now at the forefront of our daily actions in the workplace. I have found it to be rewarding and humbling to witness our employees carry out these core values as they serve our clients and community.

As I personally reflected on how I can model these values, I witnessed something unexpected. I have seen our clients carrying out these values as well, even during these challenging months. Without consciously knowing these are the values our agency strives to uphold, those we serve have demonstrated what it means to be tenacious, kind, and better together.

Leaving an abusive home is the precise definition of tenacious. Taking the incredibly difficult and scary step of walking away from your home and family because you realize it is the only option you have to be safe, demonstrates a form of determination and resolve that many do not possess. I have nothing but admiration for the hundreds of women and men we serve each year who have done just this. Oftentimes victims of abuse feel they are not worthy or are weak or not brave. But I see the exact opposite each time a victim of abuse has taken the bold step to come to our door.

Once in our home, the sense of family comes alive. The women in our shelter develop a camaraderie that often gives them the strength they need to overcome the barriers they face. With our amazing staff as part of this team, those in shelter often support one another in a way only they can as they are all here for a similar reason. While that reason may have left them feeling alone and hopeless outside of our walls, here, they are unified and better together. It is a powerful thing to witness.

In our world today, where kindness toward one another is being challenged in ways we have never thought possible, this value becomes more important than ever. Women, men, and children who seek help from Children's Inn have come from environments where kindness did not exist. When I see those we serve exhibit kindness to others, it is proof that no matter the circumstances we come from, being kind is something we can all do.

The world around us is in a state of uncertainty and unrest. But something we all have control over is our actions toward others. We can all play a role in contributing to our community in a positive way. Each of you has already done that for Children's Inn whether as a donor, a volunteer, a community partner, or a friend. Thank you for your support and kindness. Together, we are better!

Anthony remembers

continued from page 1

chatting about life, school, hobbies, and interests. The fact that a complete stranger could care so much about me was amazing. I don't recall feeling scared or nervous at all during my stay there."

When asked if he could reach back and share one piece of advice with his former self—the 12-year-old Anthony—he replied, "...it would be to keep your head up and take it one day at a time. I feel like everything happens for a reason. I would not want my family to go through any of those past painful experiences. But maybe this is why I have had the desire to help other children so much, and why I became a teacher."

Anthony continues, "I decided that I am in a stable/mature enough place in my life to reach out and thank you all for being a big part of my childhood, if even for such a short time. It truly is amazing how much you all do for so many families!"

ABOUT US

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

PUBLISHED BY CHS MARKETING:
Janet Andersen, *Marketing Manager*
Debra Moritz, *Senior Writer*
Staci Kropuenske, *Editor*
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.



– ARCHITECT'S SKETCH OF NEW FACILITY –



Children's Inn is the only domestic violence shelter in the Sioux Falls area that is accessible to victims 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, filling a need in the community that no one else does.

Now, more than ever, Children's Inn needs your help.

All in! A Building Plan Update

In 2016, a board-led task force examined the capacity of Children's Inn to meet the increasing demand for its services, and concluded that more space was needed. Since that time, the need has grown even more.

As the only domestic violence shelter in the area, Children's Inn serves Minnehaha, Lincoln, Turner, Union, and McCook counties—a population of over 329,000—in a building with a 40-bed capacity: 28 shelter beds for women and their children and 12 shelter beds for children in protective custody.

Children's Inn continues to “make do” in spite of the major shortage of space in its current facility on Western Avenue in Sioux Falls. At the same time, the staff looks forward to the day they can move into a larger facility, and better serve the growing numbers of abuse victims.

Building plans for a new facility include offices, dining facilities, a commercial kitchen, support areas, and two residential villages with two stories each, totaling 38 rooms with 95 available beds.

The search for a new location has culminated in the identification of a piece of property just east of the Empower Campus (formerly known as The School for the Deaf). The purchase of this property is pending, awaiting zoning protocols and final approval by the City of Sioux Falls.

While a lead gift has been secured for a new building, a long-term funding plan is still necessary to fund the increased operating expenses of this larger facility.

Federal and State grants, and City and County funds account for only 34% of Children's Inn's budget. The remaining 66% of the budget comes from charitable support—14% through the Sioux Empire United Way and 52% from fund-raising efforts and donations.

To fund the increased operating expenses estimated to grow over time to be up to \$1.2 million per year, it is critical that an endowment fund be created to provide the funds that will be needed each year to operate the new facility. An endowment of \$24 million would be needed to generate \$1.2 million each year (a 5% annual distribution).

A feasibility study has been launched to address the ability to commit to, and reach, the increased funding goal necessary to operate a larger facility. Children's Home Society, which operates Children's Inn, is committed to fiscal responsibility, and will break ground on the new facility only when a significant amount of the \$24 million endowment is funded.

**CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Tim Hamel, President
- Laura Johnson, Vice President
- Scott Sletten, Secretary
- Mick Gibbs, Treasurer
- Sally Anderson (Honorary Member)

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Jim Berman | John Rozell |
| Helen Boer | Maggie Russo |
| Darla Crown | Tim Rustand |
| Paulette Davidson | Karen Schreier |
| Gina Hopkins | Greg Schweiss |
| Lafawn Janis | Norbert Sebade |
| Deanna Larson | Chirag Shukla |
| Eric Lee | Carolynn Stavenger |
| Jack Marsh | Maureen Suga |
| John McGrath | Marilyn Van Demark |
| Dustin Morrison | Meg Warder |

**CHILDREN'S HOME FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Julie Anderson Friesen, President
- Diana Dufur-Day, Vice President
- George Twitero, Secretary
- Bob Baker, Treasurer

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Greg Blomberg | Lori Lewison |
| John Brewer | Bill Lindquist |
| Mike Buckingham | Dave Schmidt |
| Kim Burma | Jeff Skinner |
| Mary Howard | Joe Sztapka |
| Phil Lampert | |

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



Pictured left to right: CHS Board member, Carolynn Stavenger, with Children's Inn staff Amy Carter, Michele, Carmen, and Kobi Ringling.

Children's Inn 2020 Rising Star of the Year

Each year, Children's Home Society gives an award for Employee of the Year. New this year, The Rising Star Award was given to one employee from the entire Children's Home Society family who has been with the agency for at least one year, but less than two. And in that short time, his/her co-workers already see "star quality" in the performance of his/her job, and exceptional qualities as a person.

The very first recipient of this award is Children's Inn staff member Carmen. In addition to being valued and recognized by co-workers, Carmen received a \$500 cash award.

Carmen began her career at Children's Inn in a part-time position. She worked through many personal and professional growth opportunities to reach her goal of obtaining a full-time position with the Brave Beginnings children's program.

Excerpts from nomination statements:

"In her role, Carmen works hard every day to ensure the children staying with us receive the care they deserve. She advocates for the children when they may feel like they have no voice. She speaks up for what is in the best interest of the child, even if that means it may not be what is easy for staff."

"Carmen has an ability to connect with the children in a way only she can. Her approach is firm and strong, but kind-hearted. She is a team player through and through. Carmen is knowledgeable, resilient, willing to help her co-workers, committed to the children in our care, and eager to be the best she can be."



Congratulations, Carmen!

Hope is Stronger than Fear.

Drive Out Domestic Violence Campaign Posts a Strong Finish!

Now in its third year, **Drive Out Domestic Violence Fueled by Vern Eide Motorcars**, was held during the month of July 2020. This social awareness campaign was a resounding success from the starting line to the checkered flag!

Though COVID-19 has put the yellow flag on many fundraising events this year, **Drive Out Domestic Violence** already had the event framework in place to continue as a virtual event.

Many area community ambassador volunteers helped “step on the gas” of the social media reach of the event, creating more than 10.3 million impressions! Daily posts ran through July on all of Children’s Inn’s social media channels including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

In addition, media partners at Dakota News Now, Midco, and Results Radio laid the groundwork to open the conversation about domestic violence. And wow—did people talk!

In addition to *Hope is Stronger Than Fear* apparel sales in 28 states, the campaign was also covered by a Hollywood column!

Thanks to many generous sponsors and participants, over \$62,000 was raised for Children’s Inn!



Jim Lake of Vern Eide Motorcars (right) presents a \$25,000 check to Sarah Javers, Children’s Home Foundation Digital Campaign Coordinator, and Amy Carter, Children’s Inn Operations Director.

We were able to reach those in need of safety and support, as domestic violence victims actively reached out for help. A few of the comments made on social media during the campaign are highlighted below:

“As a kid our mom had to move us kids to Children’s Inn in the middle of the night ‘cuz her boyfriend tried to kill us all! Children’s Inn was a life saver for all of us!”

“I left my husband in 2014 due to violence and started a new life with my son, who was 5 at the time, and my 3-year-old daughter. It was hard at first but now 6 years later, I got this!”

“I stayed in a relationship where I was beaten everyday by a man I thought and felt “loved” me. My mother found out about the abuse on the same night I almost died by the hands of this man. I had all the love and support a family could offer a person, but I was too ashamed to reach out. No woman should live in fear because of a man. God bless you and all the survivors of Children’s Inn.”

“I didn’t even know about this! Thanks for educating me! I’m glad there are resources like that here.”

“Thank you for supporting survivors of domestic violence. I, myself, am a survivor. It’s been 20 years of freedom from his hold on me. 7 years ago I lost my sister and my niece to domestic violence. They were killed together in their home.”

“This was my married life. Thank you for speaking out and bringing more of an awareness to this.”

DRIVE OUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!



Needs List

CAN YOU HELP?

GROCERY

- Canned fruit & vegetables
- Cereal
- Coffee & nondairy creamer
- Frozen meats (ham, turkey or pork loin)
- Snacks (granola bars, cereal bars, pudding cups, fruit snacks)
- Soup (Cream of Mushroom or Chicken)
- Sugar

FOR LITTLE ONES

- Baby lotion, oil, powder, & shampoo
- Clothing
- Diapers & wet wipes
- Diaper rash cream
- Formula
- Pajamas, sleepers, & sleep sacks

PERSONAL CARE (regular sizes)

- Body wash (adult & child)
- Combs, brushes & hair accessories
- Deodorant
- Feminine hygiene products
- Lotion (scented & unscented)
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Toothbrushes & toothpaste (adult & child)

THAT OTHER STUFF!

- Batteries
- Bath towel sets
- Dish soap
- Disinfectant wipes
- Fabric softener/dryer sheets
- Gloves—Latex or Nitrile (Med/L)
- Laundry detergent (HE only)
- Paper products (Kleenex, napkins, paper towels, toilet paper)

GIFTS

- Grocery gift cards
- Gas gift cards
- Toys and gifts for kids ages 0-17
(used for Christmas and birthdays all year!)

*Donations accepted by
appointment. Please call:*

605.338.0116

Find our complete list of holiday wishes at
chssd.org/support/wish-lists

Do you prefer to shop online?
Shop our registry at
tgt.gifts/childrensinnfsd
and ship directly to Children's Inn!

Happy Birthday, Bright Start!

Twenty years ago, Bright Start was "born" in South Dakota!

Bright Start is a resource and support program that offers nurse home visitation services to high risk, first-time parents. Each family in the program receives support from a highly trained nurse who will share information about nutrition, prenatal care, home safety, and how to create a positive and nurturing home environment.

Bright Start in Sioux Falls has been a program of Children's Home Society since 2001. Over 2,000 families have had healthier pregnancies, healthier babies, and healthier families because of the amazing work done by the Bright Start team!

Happy Birthday, Bright Start! ...and many more!

32ND ANNUAL

Media One Funski

SAVE THE DATE!

January 22 & 23, 2021

Great Bear Ski Valley • Sioux Falls

Over the past 31 years, the Media One Funski has raised over \$930,000 to support the programs and services of Children's Inn.

Mark your calendar and make plans to join us at Great Bear Ski Valley for a weekend of fun in the snow!



www.funski.org



Guardians *of the* Children

GUARDIANS OF THE CHILDREN is a legacy program established to recognize and honor those people whose vision, philanthropy, and love of children has been demonstrated by a planned estate gift to Children's Home Foundation. Funds from the Foundation support programs of Children's Home Society including Children's Inn, Black Hills Children's Home, and Sioux Falls Children's Home.

You've got to love a guy who has the self-confidence (and self-deprecating humor!) to unknowingly wear two different shoes to an annual CHS Board Meeting—and then laugh about it!

Over the course of the last 30 years, George and Donna Roberts have become cherished friends of Children's Home Society, and are two of its biggest cheerleaders!

George served as a Children's Home Society (CHS) board member from 1989–1995, and from 1997–2009, for a total of 18 years. He then served an additional seven years as a board member for Children's Home Foundation (CHF) from 2010–2017, and was Board President from 2014–2015. To date, George has logged 25 years of service! You will also find George working as a faithful volunteer at CHS fundraising events.

“Though it now seems like only yesterday, it was over 30 years ago that Dennis Stene asked me if I would consider serving as a board member for Children's Home Society. I said, ‘Yes!’— and it was one of the greatest decisions I ever made.” — George

Donna has served in her own right by introducing many friends to the CHS mission, as well as assisting with many CHS fundraising events, such as The Orion Classic. Most notably is her time as a member of The North Pole Elf Squad—helping with a variety of Christmas activities and gift preparation for the kids at Sioux Falls Children's Home.

“Working with CHS is so rewarding. I had the privilege of joining ‘The North Pole Elf Squad’ to help with Christmas-giving activity in December. It's amazing to see the generosity of our community. So many give their time and energy to make the holiday special for the CHS kids!” — Donna

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

Rick Weber
Development Director

P: **605.965.3127**
E: **rick.weber@chssd.org**



George and Donna Roberts

“A number of years ago, CHS started the GUARDIANS OF THE CHILDREN program. The idea is simple, but powerful. You can make CHS part of your estate plan, and it is not complicated at all. People can put CHS in their will, add CHS as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, or maybe include CHS as a pension beneficiary. Some options are very simple and have little or no cost.

Because the CHS mission is so important to us, Donna and I have done this in our own planning. We love the idea that we will be able to help children far beyond our time on this earth! I would encourage anyone who feels the same way to consider doing the same.”

— George Roberts

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.

- Hang lights
- Bake cookies
- Put up the tree
- Send Christmas cards
- Plan dinner menu
- Make grocery list
- Finish shopping
- Wrap gifts

We Can Take **ONE** Thing Off Your Holiday "To-Do" List!

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

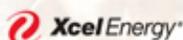
Friday, December 4 – Thursday, December 24

– HOURS MAY VARY –

Check our website for up-to-date hours of operation.

All proceeds benefit Children's Inn!

FIND OUR HOLIDAY WISH LISTS AT:
CHSSD.ORG/SUPPORT/WISH-LISTS



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS:



Great Western Bank
Making Life Great[®]
Member FDIC

