

abbott
House

sunbeams



Many Abbott House youth have not been on a farm before—so we took the opportunity to tour Farm Life Creamery! They learned about and pet all sorts of farm animals, learned how cheese is made, played mini golf, and even got some special ice cream treats!

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Youth
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605-996-2486
www.abbotthouse.org



Eric Klooz,
Executive Director

Planning for the value of our future.

Albert Einstein said “Strive not to be a success, strive to be of value.” I love this statement as it really provides a roadmap for any nonprofit organization to be successful. To be successful you need to be valuable to those you serve and to those that provide the means for you to do that work.

Recently the Abbott House Board of Directors, staff members and members of the Abbott House Foundation Board came together for two days to review what has been accomplished over the past number of years and to make plans that will carry the Agency into the future. There have been many wonderful things happen during the past 5 years. We have added foster homes in Rapid City and Mitchell, the number of youth and families we are serving has grown, the assets in our foundation have grown, and just recently we added another home in Mitchell that will allow us to vacate one of our older homes and possibly provide something new for those in need.

However, even with these successes, we all understand if we want to continue to be a vibrant organization we need to plan for the future. We understand that we exist to fill a gap and be a great

value to the kids and families we serve as well as to our donors and volunteers.

I am excited and hopeful about what the future holds for Abbott House. We are blessed to have so many people come together to support the programs we offer and we will continue to be of great value to those we serve.

The Find Your Heart Progressive Raffle Encourages Participants to Give from Their Hearts.

What is the Find Your Heart Raffle? This game of chance is a fun way to raise money for therapy and increasing food costs for Abbott House children. As a progressive raffle, the jackpot accumulates from week-to-week until it is won and the game is then over. Each week participants purchase chances in the denominations of 3 for \$10, 10 for \$20 and/or 50 for \$50. Participants also choose an envelope number containing a playing card. If the weekly drawing winners' envelope contains the 5 of hearts they will win the accumulated pot and the game will end. If the weekly drawing winners' envelope does not contain the 5 of hearts that envelope number is removed and the reduced deck is kept for the following week's game and the jackpot rolls over to the next week. The funds collected each week will be distributed in this way: 50% to the Abbott House, 10% to the winner of the weekly drawing, and the remaining 40% goes into the accumulated jackpot.



To play go to www.abbotthouse.org, choose the amount and number of chances you would like and fill out your name and contact information. You will also indicate which envelope number you think contains the 5 of hearts. It is that easy. We have had weekly winners from all across the state. It is a fun and easy way to support Abbott House kids.

IRA Gifting Guidelines *A Special Opportunity for People 70½ Years Old and Older*



If you are at least age 70½, you can give any amount (up to \$100,000) per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity like Abbott House without having to pay taxes on the money. In addition, starting in the year you turn 70 ½ (72 if born after July 1, 1949), you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD). These required minimum distributions are subject to income taxes.

Abbott House can help you with strategies to reduce taxes on IRA distributions. Already this year children at the Abbott House have benefitted from rollover distributions that have allowed us to nearly pay off our newest foster home and provide more desperately needed therapy.

Learn More

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

Virginia Wishard Lambert
Director of Development

vw Lambert@abbothousesd.com
605-996-2486

Double Your Gift During Give For Kids On Giving Tuesday

In the past 10 years, Abbott House has gone from serving 43 children at any one time to serving 109, a 150% increase in number of children served! That means more youth and young adults have a home and a family, and it also means we have many more youth who need your assistance.

With increases in food and supply costs, we are working hard to ensure we can create wonderful memories for the youth in our care during the holiday season. A generous donor has stepped up to the plate to help us with this. This year, on Giving Tuesday, November 29, every dollar given will be used to help with holiday celebration costs – and every dollar given will be **doubled up to \$20,000!** That means if you give \$50, Abbott House will get \$100; give \$100, Abbott House gets \$200. This is your day to Give For Kids. Please consider giving or increasing your gift on Giving Tuesday to help Abbott House children make wonderful Christmas memories.



The Secret of the Little Girl Next Door

Paige Smith is the little girl who lives next door. She carried a secret for a very long time -- from when she was a toddler until the age of 12. This secret involved a family member who sexually abused her, which caused her to act out. When Paige was 5 years old, she began cutting herself, trying to kill herself, and constantly making bad decisions. She did not know of another way to express herself. Her parents knew there was something wrong but did not know what. They enlisted the help of multiple agencies in Rapid City but no one could figure out what was causing these bad behaviors; Paige was very good at keeping this secret.

Paige finally said something while eating ice cream with her grandmother, "I don't feel comfortable with him," she said. Her grandmother immediately knew what everyone had been trying to figure out for so long. It was then that a different approach was taken to help Paige.

At age 13, Paige's parents, Ward and Randee Wasserburger, enrolled her in the Abbott House. The first time she came to the program, she was in and out in 1 hour, and her Dad took her back home. After multiple bad choices again her parents feared they would wake up and Paige would no longer be with them, so they brought her back to the Abbott House. She didn't stay very long. Finally, after the third time, Paige decided to take the program seriously. She realized that she was not able to manipulate the teachers and counselors, they were not falling for her antics.

As Paige looks back she is forever grateful for the counselors and teachers at the Abbott House. "Without Abbott House, I would not be where I am today. The staff there never stop believing in you. They know there is good in every person and they work hard to find it."

Two people that really helped Paige deal with her trauma were Laura Klock, a volunteer who worked with the girls rebuilding a motorcycle, and Dawn, an amazing counselor who gave Paige the tools to live today. The impact Abbott House had on Paige gave her the opportunity to heal and the time needed to stay alive. It took a couple of years but it gave her what she needed to be on the right path. Paige says the counselors and teachers show that you can make something better. They never give up on young people. They teach every young person to "Love Yourself." Today Paige is 27 and has a position with Kahler Realtor.

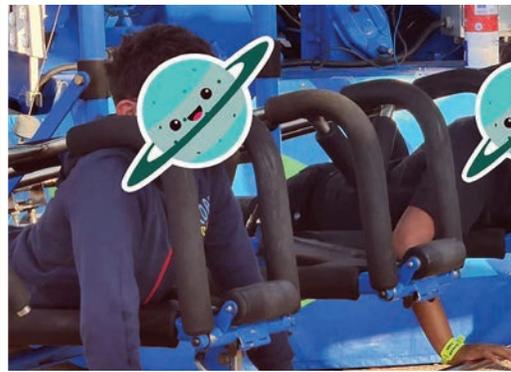
When asked how someone can help young people like herself she says to "put your foot forward, if you see or hear anything say something, be involved."



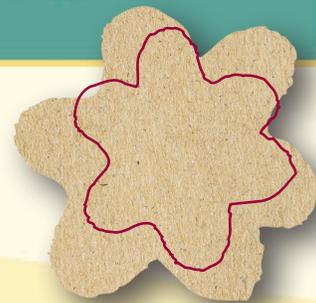
Around **the** House



Fun field trips are a must for children—so we took our girls bowling as a special treat!



Our foster kids prepare for a wild ride at an amusement park.



Some of our kids spent a warm afternoon fishing at the Cabela's Pond—many for the first time ever!



Nothing warms our hearts like seeing foster families form a bond. Here, a young girl in our foster homes asks her new foster mom to pose with her for a selfie!



Miss Banana is a reminder to us all to have a little fun! With Abbott House children to help her, Miss Banana loves to decorate offices for birthdays!



Some girls take a break to enjoy some much needed puppy love!



As children grow up, they want to explore new interests and hobbies. Our foster parents encourage this growth! This young boy decided he wanted to try out skateboarding!



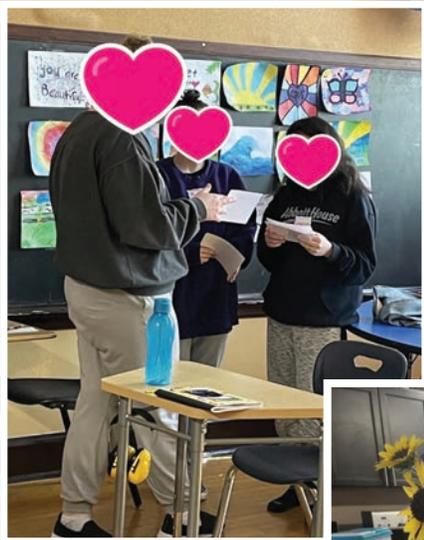
We love to celebrate our kid's accomplishments! A young girl met her goal of consistently staying safe—and her reward was plying her teacher!





This ain't my first rodeo—but for many of our children, it was!

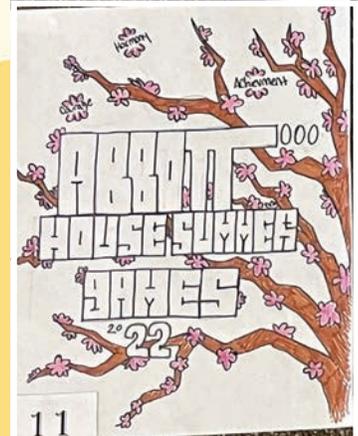
Abbott House girls show off their fresh nails courtesy of Hitchcock Methodist Church!



We want to ensure that our children are ready for the world when they leave our care. That's why we invited Lutheran Social Services to talk with our girls about making proud and informed choices!



Abbott House girls enjoyed some fun water balloon games on a very hot summer day!



30 girls in the Abbott House submitted their t-shirt designs for Abbott House Summer Games—but only one could be the winner!



Our foster home kids are so creative!



During the United Way Day of Caring, volunteers from ELO cleaned up the yard of our newest therapeutic foster home in Mitchell, which will open in late 2022.



This young lady graduated from high school at Abbott House and has big dreams for college!



Abbott House Honors Donors, Ohitika Boys Foster Home in Mitchell

On June 2, 2022, Abbott House opened its fourth therapeutic foster home in Mitchell, and its first boys foster home in Mitchell. The house, named the Ohitka (which means “brave”) Foster Home, provides a family for six homeless boys under 18 years of age and independent living apartments for four young adult men who have aged out of foster care, but have no family and no place to live.

“This home gives us the ability to serve young girls AND boys in Mitchell and in Rapid City. It gives them a safe place to live and grow while still maintaining healthy relationships with family and friends,” Eric Klooz, Abbott House executive director, said. “We have 48 foster care youth in our programs – 24 in Rapid City and 24 in Mitchell in addition to eight young adults in each community living independently with our support.”

In 2010, Abbott House served 43 youth at a time and approximately 80 young people annually. Today, Abbott House has 109 youth in its care at a time and it serves nearly 200 young people annually. “This would not be possible without the incredible support we have received from people throughout the state,” Klooz said.



Abbott House Board member RJ Rylance, (left to right) and Abbott House Board President, Mary Fuchs, cut the ribbon to officially open the Ohitika home along with Executive Director, Eric Klooz, The Honorable Bob Everson, Mayor of Mitchell, foster mom, Autumn Dalton, and Abbott House Director of Development, Virginia Wishard Lambert.



Don and Margie Schryvers

idea of encouraging our children to brush their teeth regularly and practice good dental hygiene,” Klooz, said. “We had no dental chair, no tools, nothing, but that didn’t matter to Pat because she had a vision and she made it happen.”



Marty and Gary Johnson

During the open house and ribbon cutting, Abbott House also honored Don and Margie Schryvers, Pat Aylward and Marty and Gary Johnson.

Don and Margie are not sure how or why they started supporting Abbott House, but they “...have always believed in the work that Abbott House does,” Don said. They have been helping Abbott House children heal for more than 35 years. “We support various good causes and Abbott house is one of those good causes,” Don said. The Schryvers were recipients of the Lifetime Giving Children’s Champion Award.

Pat Aylward received the Volunteer Children’s Champion Award for her volunteer dental hygiene services at the Abbott House, the Firesteel Nursing Home, Big Friend, Little Friend, the Hanson School District and other locations. “Pat came to Abbott House with the



Pat Aylward

In 2004, after 30 years of ministry, Gary and Marty Johnson decided to take a short leave of absence and try something different. That led them to the Abbott House. Nearly 20 years later, they have changed the lives of hundreds of youth while they worked as Abbott House foster parents.

Through the years, Gary and Marty developed a successful foster home program for the Abbott House and, in 2015, they moved to Rapid City to help Abbott House expand the foster program.

“When you become a foster parent you can become a mom and dad to a child who has no one else to really count on in life,” Gary said. “you can make a difference in the life of a child that has been rejected, abused, broken and left alone. You are giving them the chance to experience what a real family can be.” Marty and Gary were named the 2022 Children’s Champions.

Dr. Jennifer Tegethoff Joins Abbott House Board of Directors

As a pediatrician with Avera for the past 18 years, Jennifer Tegethoff is an expert in helping children heal. Jennifer has been married to Todd Tegethoff for 24 years and they have six children that range in age from 5 to 22. In addition, they are foster parents and currently have two other children living with them.

Jennifer attended the University of South Dakota for her undergraduate and medical school degrees. Then she went on to complete a pediatric residency in Omaha, Nebraska through UNMC and Creighton.

When she is not working, Jennifer serves as a member of the Avera Queen of Peace Board of Directors. She also teaches elementary education classes at Trinity Lutheran Church, coaches the Robotics team at Mitchell Christian School and enjoys running. In fact, Jennifer has run four marathons and 15 half marathons. Her family loves camping and other outdoor activities.

"I have a passion for all things involving kids, especially ways to improve physical and mental health," Jennifer said. "So when a previous board member asked me about joining the Abbott House board, it seemed like a natural fit to me."



Six Abbott House Students Celebrate Accomplishments



This year, the Abbott House celebrated six young girls' educational accomplishments! Five girls graduated from the 8th grade, and one girl graduated high school at Abbott House.

Belinda Joe, a great grandmother and Dakota instructor from Fort Thompson, was the featured speaker during 8th grade graduation. Belinda is also a new Abbott House board member.

Belinda strongly believes in knowing who you are before moving forward. She asked our young graduates to think about three things:

- 1. Know where you come from.**
- 2. Know who you are today.**
- 3. Know where you are going.**

Belinda said, by knowing your history, you can form a steady foundation to build your life upon and move forward. By knowing who you are today, you can recognize the things within you that you love and the things within you that you want to change. By knowing where you are going, you can make the first courageous step on the right path. Without knowing these three things, you can get lost in life's challenges and bury the shine you carry within yourself.

While the questions Belinda laid out for the girls was daunting, there was hope in their eyes as they accepted their diplomas. They were proud of what they had accomplished and so were their family members and Abbott House children and staff members who celebrated this special occasion.

Family members of Abbott House children and staff members joined us for the special occasion. Celebrating these accomplishments is very important for all children, and especially for Abbott House girls who do not believe they will ever complete their education. Thank you to Belinda and all of you for supporting Abbott House children and providing tools to enrich the education and therapy children in our care need to succeed.

Abbott House Graduates Leave Permanent Mark on Our Tree and in Our Hearts

The Abbott House is a place of hope and comfort to many children. It becomes a large part of their life, and they make memories that can never be replaced here. The children we serve leave a mark on us just as we leave a mark on them. To highlight their importance to us, a colorful tree was painted in the lobby of the Abbott House. Though many of the tree's leaves are currently blank, it is slowly being filled by the signatures of young ladies who have successfully completed our programs.

At the end of each child's program, Abbott House staff and children come together to congratulate and say goodbye to the young girl. Stories and memories are shared, tears are shed, and, finally, everyone makes their way to the tree to watch the child write her initials and her last day with us on her chosen leaf.

Each child we care for has roots in Abbott House. It is a safe and structured place, meant to be sturdy enough for them to grow and flourish. The leaves represent their growth and bright future, whichever future they choose.

We will never forget our children, and will continue to leave our hearts open to them if they ever need support.





Abbott House Foundation
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youtube.com/channel/UCsvWrH2AhWfnNuxqsGUdY1A

You can visit

www.abbotthouse.org

to make an online donation and
 view our annual report.



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- Abbott House is accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services.
- Licensed by the South Dakota Department of Social Services.
- Approved by the South Dakota Department of Education and Cultural Affairs.
- Member of the National Fellowship of Child Care Executives and the Residential Care Consortium.

Wish List for Abbott House Children:

- Arts and Crafts supplies (please no sharpeners, only washable and non-toxic materials useable)
- Small stress balls
- School Supplies
- Sports equipment – volleyballs, basketballs, badminton, pickle ball • Newer Board Games- Monopoly, Pie in the face, Uno Attack, Sorry, Phase 10, Bounce Off, decks of cards, Mexican dominos, Skipbo, Yahtzee, Headbanz, Farkle, Battleship, Escape Room, Pictionary, Emoji game, Rubix cube
- Essential oils: lavender and other calming, soothing or cheery scents
- Lotions with peaceful scents – anything soothing, calming or cheery
- Modelling Clay or Play Doh
- Posters for bedrooms (cute animals, inspirational)
- Fidgets
- Barbies and accessories
- Newer Wii and X-Box Kinect games
- Yard games
- Puzzles/Crossword puzzle books
- Sudoku
- Stickers
- Sketch pads, stamps and ink pads
- Gift cards for Walmart, Maurices, Cato, Shoe Sensation, sports stores, fastfood restaurants
- Tickets to Wild Water West, Thunder Road, Bear Country, caves in the Black Hills
- Tickets to Great Plains Zoo and Delbridge Museum of Natural History
- Tickets to Hair/Nail salon gifts

Wish List for foster children in Mitchell and Rapid City

- School Supplies
- Arts & craft supplies (stickers, paper, markers, pencils, glue, stencils)
- Movie tickets and/or movie theatre gift cards (for concessions) • Play Doh or modeling clay • Wireless Bluetooth headphones • Barbies- House, clothes, etc. • Bluetooth speakers • Light up speakers • MP3 players • Dream Catchers • Nerf Guns
- LEGO's
- PS4, Xbox, and Wii video games
- Sidewalk chalk and sidewalk paint
- Winter coats, hats and mittens (no scarves)
- New cotton underwear for youth and young adults
- New 100% cotton "no show" socks
- Crochet and Knitting materials
- Puzzles
- Family pass to South Dakota State Parks
- Remote control cars
- Drones
- Legos
- Lava lamps
- DVD Players