

abbott  
House

# sunbeams



Abbott House girls show off their new stuffed animals and snuggies!

Abbott House  
Alum Overcomes  
Challenges  
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Helping With  
Horsepower  
Motorcycle Rebuild  
Project is back!  
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Brandon Jones JAM  
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Youth  
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605-996-2486  
[www.abbotthouse.org](http://www.abbotthouse.org)



**Eric Klooz,**  
Executive Director

## Looking Back and Looking Ahead

This old Abbott House has been at it for over 80 years now. However, we never stop looking for new ways to do what we do and serve the kids and families. Just in the last 18 years, I have witnessed so many amazing things that have been added to improve the outcomes we are seeing today.

Most recently our residential program added Neurofeedback to our bag of therapeutic treatments. This program allows us to do brain scans and we can actually see improvement in brain function. This is so exciting not only because it works but also because of the hope that it instills both in our staff and the child and family receiving treatment! The average time a youth used to spend in our residential program was over 3 years. Today, the average is just 11 months, and then they are ready for a family setting!!

Eighteen years ago we had one “foster home” and today we have 8 of them and 16 apartments that make up the Bridges program.

This wonderful program allow boys and girls to have a home and family and gives them a place to go after completing a residential program. This year we will serve over 100 youth in this program in both Mitchell and Rapid City. There are many positives to the Bridges program, but for me, seeing these young people living with a family is absolutely wonderful and gives them a great roadmap for their future.

I could go on and on. However as much as I like to reminisce about what has been done there is not much time for that. We have so much more we plan to do! And.... As Always..... we could not have done any of it without so many of you that are reading this newsletter. Thank you so much for not only believing in Abbott House but for believing that with the right help these young people can have a very bright future.



## Belinda Joe Joins Abbott House Board of Directors



Abbott House is excited to welcome Belinda Joe to the Board of Directors. Belinda earned two Master's Degrees in Education and Education Leadership and was the first Native American court reporter to graduate from Mile Hi Court Reporting College. Belinda comes from a long line of strong Dakota grandmothers and is now a Dakota language, music, and dance teacher as well as a storyteller. Currently, Belinda is a Bush Foundation Native Nations Community Rebuilder and Scholar.

Belinda first learned of Abbott House when a close family friend spent time here many years ago. Belinda watched as Abbott House grew and improved throughout the years. She saw the commitment Abbott House made to serving children in the community, and how determined the staff was to always improve their programs.

Belinda took on this role as an Abbott House Board Member to continue her journey in advocating for children. She understands the importance of not only protecting children, but also teaching them the traditions and values that were passed down to her and may have been lost to our children. We are excited to see what strengths Belinda brings to our team and what future she has in mind for Abbott House children.

*Welcome to the Abbott House board Belinda!*

## Sid Bartholow Has Overcome Challenges Since the Day He was Born

When Sid Bartholow was born, both of his parents were on drugs and provided an unsteady home life in North Carolina. While pregnant with Sid, his parents decided to attend the Sturgis Rally. At the time they also had a one-year-old daughter, Sid's sister. While in Sturgis, they decided not to return to North Carolina, and they moved to Custer, SD. Sid's parents continued to use drugs. One night his mom did not come home, and his father took the kids to Oregon without permission. Sid's father tried to home school the kids, ages 4 and 6, but he was reported to the Department of Social Services. This was the start of foster care and instability for Sid and his sister.

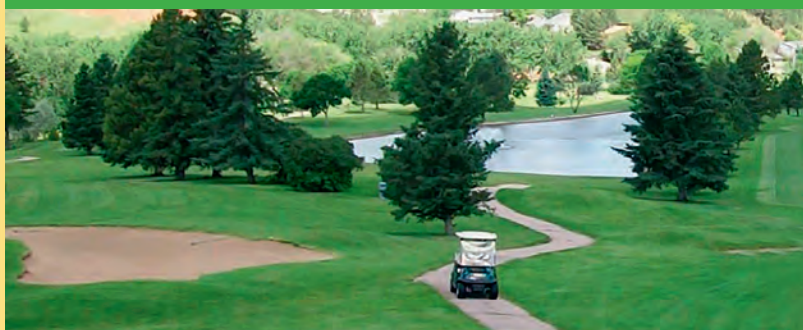
Through the years, they were in and out of both good and abusive foster care families. One of Sid's favorite foster families wanted to adopt Sid and his sister in Oregon, but their mother was being released from jail and she wanted her kids back. Sid's father had already gone back to North Carolina after DSS took the children away, and his mother remarried his stepdad who treated the children just as badly. Both Sid's mom and stepdad became addicted to meth. They moved the entire family from Oregon to Rapid City and lived with their meth dealer. When the dealer cleaned them out of all their possessions, they were left homeless.

Sid was given the opportunity to move into Rapid City's first boy's foster home with Marty and Gary Johnson as his foster parents. Sid continued to be in contact with his dad in North Carolina. Through the course of text messages, his dad promised a wonderful life in North Carolina if he ever wanted to come and stay. Sid's dad even sent money for a bus ticket if he ever wanted to visit. Sid took him up on the offer, leaving Mary and Gary's home before he turned 18. When Sid arrived in North Carolina everything his dad said was untrue. Sid stayed for a while but knew he had to come back to Rapid City. He had turned 18 while away so he did not know where to go. He called his contact at the Abbott House and asked if he could be part of the Independent Living Program. After much discussion and knowing that we at Abbott House are here to help kids, Sid was accepted into the program.

Today Sid is in his early 20's, engaged to be married, and has a beautiful daughter. He is working in construction as a window installer and will be joining the United States Navy in six months. Even though Sid was with the Abbott House for a short time, the tools he was taught stay with him and he continues to use them to this day. "I am not the same angry teenager I was," he said. "I use the tools I learned through Abbott House to stay calm and think things through." Sid is thankful every day for Marty and Gary and the Bridges Independent Living Program.



## Abbott House Plans Hitting for Hope Golf Tournament



Abbott House will host Hitting for Hope its first annual golf tournament at Arrowhead Golf Course in Rapid City on Monday, July 24, 2023. Plan to spend the day golfing, having fun, meeting some new friends, eating great food, and helping the kids at the Abbott House.

Thanks to Dream Design International's support of this tournament your participation will help Abbott House kids build and maintain healthy relationships, learn to recognize and master

internal anxiety, learn and utilize skills that will support success, and the development of an individualized program that is tailored to their needs.

**WHEN:** Monday, July 24, 2023

**TIME:** Noon – 5 pm

**TYPE:** Scramble 2 par max  
with 5 mulligans per team

\$700 per team of 4



Businesses can also help sponsor the event at numerous different levels. For sponsorship information and to participate contact: Beth-Anne Ferley at 605-484-7145

## The Original Helping with Horsepower™ Bike Rebuild Program has Launched Again at Abbott House

Abbott House girls are once again rebuilding a motorcycle as part of the Helping With Horsepower™ Bike Rebuild Program. This time the bike being rebuilt is a legacy motorcycle that already has an amazing story and sparkling presence. Together the girls at the Abbott House will re-design, repair, and customize a 2007 Harley-Davidson Road Glide that was donated by influential ambassador for women in motorcycling, Diva Amy Skaling.

“Diva Glide One” is an expression of the motorcycle life of a long time Helping with Horsepower supporter,” said Laura Klock, President and Founder of South Dakota non-profit, Helping with Horsepower. “Diva Amy has moved forward in her journey to a new motorcycle but wanted to give back with an opportunity for Abbott House girls to be hands-on in a unique motorcycle makeover through our program.”

The girls were introduced to the motorcycle in March and were given the homework of providing their design ideas to re-invent “Diva Glide One”. So the makeover has started!

“It has been almost 2 years since we did a project so all of the girls will be new to it,” Eric Klooz, Abbott House executive director, said. “As the girls learn the various types and uses of tools and how to remove motorcycle parts they also learn about perseverance, teamwork, design, and problem solving. It is truly amazing to see the pride, confidence and self-esteem generated by the program. The project is great for the young people we work with and it also raises awareness and much needed funding,” Klooz said. “We are excited to be starting again!”

Once the makeover is complete, a special unveil will take place on August 8, 2023 at the Biker Belles event during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. “Working with Laura Klock as one of our Biker Belles founders and Diva Amy as our long standing Ambassador feels like coming home with Diva Glide One and Abbott House,” Toni Woodruff, Biker Belles Director shared. “We have been there since the beginning, helping to create these amazing bikes while rebuilding lives through Laura’s curriculum and amazing partners. This bike is special, and it will be wonderful to watch it and those involved transform it. As we enter our 15th year of celebrating women in motorcycling, Biker Belles has become known as the Home for Women in Motorcycling at our annual Sturgis event. This year, we continue our mission of raising funds for local charities, while continuing to honor our past and empower our future, encouraging and riding together.”

Someone will WIN this motorcycle. The project is also a fundraiser for Abbott House and tickets will be sold for the motorcycle while the story of the amazing work the girls performed hands-on is told. Drawing will be held at a special event to be determined. Watch for future announcements!

“Industry leading companies join us as we begin the makeover, providing parts, time and talents to help the girls discover and learn hands-on. We couldn’t do any of these projects without all of the amazing support we receive,” Laura Klock said. “We can’t wait to tell you more!”



# Brandon Jones JAM for Abbott House Benefit Concert



Brandon Jones, an up-and-coming singer, and his band from Rapid City along with a few of his musical friends organized and performed a JAM for the Abbott House Benefit Concert. Brandon heard the Abbott House story and wanted to share his talent to help. It was an exciting idea but a scary one. His dream was to sing on stage at the Performing Arts Center in Rapid City, and he wanted other groups involved. It was loud. It was noisy, and the almost 400 people in attendance had a great time. Together they raised nearly \$10,000 for Abbott House kids.



Rowan Grace, a junior from Rapid City Central High and a recent top 10 finalist on The Voice where Gwen Stefani and Blake Shelton were her coaches, wanted to help kids and was excited to participate. Other Rapid City groups were a young family band called The RathCo and an Acapella Quartet Mixed Nuts.

There was something for everyone. This event was the first for Abbott House as we have never had a concert before and the first benefit concert for Brandon Jones. Thanks to Homeslice Media for providing the marketing and promotion for this event. Thanks also to everyone who attended and to all of our sponsors: Modern Woodmen- Ken Beer, Black Hills Energy, Highmark Credit Union, Pioneer Bank & Trust, The Bestro and Print Mark-et. It was a fun night of good music and a great crowd.

## If you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or a Qualified Retirement Plan, please read this article carefully

You need to be aware of the special tax considerations that apply to IRAs and Qualified Retirement Plans when we leave these to our heirs. A spouse can receive these funds as the primary beneficiary and they can use these plans as their own. When non-spouse heirs receive these funds at our death, they become fully taxable to the heirs. Donating IRAs or retirement assets can be a tax-wise and simple way of making a gift to Abbott House. Abbott House can help you with a strategy to reduce taxes for your heirs.

### Benefits to designating Abbott House as Beneficiary

- You can avoid both income and estate taxes on the portion of your retirement account that you designate for Abbott House, allowing 100% of the assets to be applied to the charitable purpose you designate.
- You will give your most-taxed estate asset to the Abbott House tax-free and leave more favorably taxed property to your heirs.
- You can continue to take withdrawals during your lifetime.
- You can modify your beneficiary at any time if your circumstances change.

To learn more about the many benefits available in making charitable gifts from your IRA or Qualified Retirement Plan, Abbott House has a helpful brochure entitled "Donating Retirement Plan Assets." You can receive your free copy by calling 605-996-2486 or returning the enclosed coupon to Abbott House, PO Box 700, Mitchell, SD 57301.

### CLIP, COMPLETE AND MAIL TO:

Virginia Wishard Lambert  
Development Director

Abbott House • PO Box 700 • Mitchell, SD 57301



Please send me, without cost or obligation, your brochure "Donating Retirement Plan Assets."

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# Around the House



A few girls take a break from school to get into mischief with Clark The Elf.



For a lot of our kids, sensory work means getting active and burning off their restless energy. These young ladies are working up a sweat by tossing tires!



Our first high school graduate of 2023!



Students from Second Chance in Mitchell, SD, dropped off Christmas treats!



Megan Luther volunteers to host book clubs for our Abbott House girls, providing snacks and thoughtful discussions!



Miss Banana strikes again!



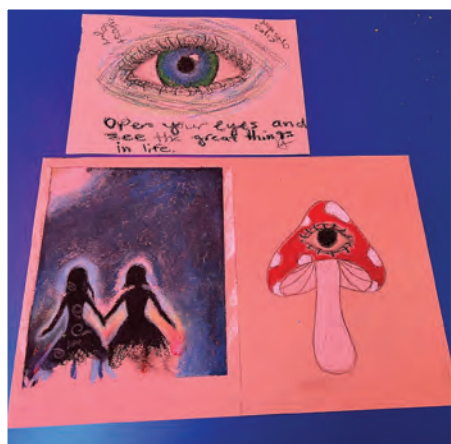
These young ladies were so grateful for everyone that chooses to support their healing. They decided to help bake Christmas treats as a thank you to our donors!



We want all of our kids to feel comfortable and confident in their own skin. Ruth Clemente volunteered to teach our African American girls how to properly care for their hair and even styled their hair in braids to boost their confidence!



The Abbott House girls spent the Christmas season hand delivering Christmas cards to the police station, nursing homes, hospitals, and more!



Our kids are very creative! We encourage them to express their thoughts and feelings through art—and they love it!



Foster siblings in Rapid City spend Christmas together!



CorInsurance in Mitchell, SD, made a generous Christmas donation of puzzles, stuffed animals, hygiene products, sensory toys, pajamas, and more to Abbott House children!



Every young girl loves a fall photo shoot! This young lady decided she wanted her foster dad to join her!



The Mitchell Kiwanis Club gave Abbott House a Lettuce Grow Farmstand! The Abbott House girls are now caring for the various plants, and will learn how to properly grow and make some of their own food!



Foster parents are rock stars! Here they are preparing to host a multi-foster family Christmas party!



A young girl decided she wanted to be a cow for Halloween! She even found a matching pumpkin to complete the look!



This young lady is concentrating hard on beautifully painting her chosen pumpkin for Halloween!



Abbott House girls had the chance to pick out their very own pumpkins at Hanselman's Pumpkin Patch!

All 8 foster homes came together in October to celebrate Halloween with treats and costumes!



Every member of the family got into the Halloween spirit!

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**Honors**  
 Honor gifts were given between  
 January 1 and December 31, 2022,  
 in tribute, gratitude, or celebration  
 of family members, birthdays, or  
 special celebrations. Honor gift  
 recognition brochures are available  
 by request.

In honor of All Veterans  
*Lewis E. and Barbara J. Wingert*  
 In honor of Charlie Dyck  
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 In honor of Jim & Mary Uthe  
*Travas and Sherri Uthe*  
 In honor of Maddeline Cannon  
*Katy and Mark Urban*  
 In honor of Mary, Marshall,  
 Sheldon, Tate, & Travas Uthe  
*Jim and Mary Uthe*  
 In honor of My 4 Children, 5  
 Grandchildren, & 3 Great  
 Grandchildren  
*Marilyn J Rabn\**  
 In honor of My Healthy  
 Grandchildren  
*Mary Holien\**  
 In honor of Rick, Chris, Jeff, & Lisa  
*Marilyn J Rabn\**  
 In honor of Samuel Heth  
*Sean Heth*

**Memorials**  
 Memorial gifts are given in memory  
 of family members or friends who  
 have passed away.

In memory of Ardis Krieger  
*Mary Dappen*  
 In memory of Arla Johnson  
*Linda S. Miller*  
 In memory of Bea Laursen  
*David and Virginia Wishard  
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 In memory of Bob & Jane Kellis  
*Robert and Sharon Kellis*  
 In memory of Bob Brooks  
*Bernice Brooks\**  
 In memory of Boyd Ostren  
*Roma L. Halvorson*  
 In memory of Bruce Hartman  
*Lewis E. and Barbara J. Wingert*  
 In memory of Carde Wirt  
*Daniel and Tama Backlund*  
 In memory of Caryl Schene  
*Lou Ora F. Houk*

In memory of Charles "Chuck"  
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*Casey and Heidi Eitemiller  
 Douglas Pelton  
 Kathy Walz*  
 In memory of Charles Schuchard  
*Karyl Wishard and Family*  
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 In memory of Evelyn Blumer  
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 In memory of Evelyn Kelly  
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 In memory of Forrest Vitense  
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The donors listed on these pages made a life-changing gift to Abbott House or Bridges by Abbott House between January 1 – December 31, 2022. These gifts ensure that South Dakota children who need healing and support will never be turned away.

In memory of Jim Cody  
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In memory of My Family  
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### In-Kind Gifts

In-Kind gifts are goods or services given to Abbott House or Bridges children. Annually, hundreds of in-kind gifts are received. These gifts include volunteer work, Christmas presents, food, personal hygiene products, games, clothing, quilts, passes to local attractions and special events, gift cards, art supplies, and much more.

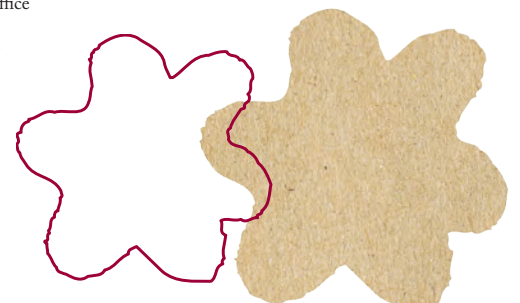
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Wessington Springs School  
Wilma Pageler\*

\*Gave more than one gift of this type.





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You can visit

[www.abbotthouse.org](https://www.abbotthouse.org)

to make an online donation and  
view our annual report.

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- 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
- Modeling Clay or Play Doh
- Posters for bedrooms (cute animals, inspirational)
- Fidgets
- Barbies and accessories
- Newer Wii 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
- 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