

abbott House sunbeams



EmpowHer, named and redesigned by the Abbott House girls, is ready to be taken home by one lucky winner. You can purchase your raffle tickets in this newsletter or online.

Sensory Room Helps
Youth
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Double Your End Of
Year Gift
Pg. 3

605-996-2486
www.abbotthouse.org



Eric Klooz,
Executive Director

Abbott House Continues Expansion to Serve Children

Abbott House has been a beacon of light for children since 1939. We help many young people restore hope and begin to dream of a bright future. To do that we continue to be adaptive to the needs of the children we serve. In the early 2000's, we realized that children were coming into facility care and staying for too long — sometimes up to 6 years at that time. Why? Because they had no other place to go and no one that would take them. In response we created the Bridges program.

Bridges is a system of therapeutic foster homes that Abbott House owns in both Mitchell and Rapid City. We hire a married couple and then we provide the home, vehicles, food and everything the family needs. In addition, we arrange for therapy services for the children. Up to 6 children live in each home and they experience the same things my children did -- a loving home, public school, sports, family vacations etc.

These homes provide a safe, loving environment, where children can continue to heal from past experiences and have the opportunity to chart a new path.

I'm very excited to announce Abbott House has embarked on another expansion to the Bridges program. We are currently working to raise funds to open two new homes in Sioux Falls, SD. Soon we will have room for 12 more children in need. If you are interested in helping support one of these homes contact our Development Director, Virginia Wishard Lambert here at the Abbott House.



Sensory Room Provides Therapy for Our Youth

Abbott House has been under some major changes this year in our residential facility in Mitchell, SD. We have spent months renovating two classrooms and our sensory room. While we have kept this project under wraps for a while now, we are excited to reveal the finished rooms to the public!



All of our responses to life experiences are managed by how our brain processes the information. Every child in our psychiatric residential treatment program is given a "sensory-diet", which is a set of activities that will help them develop appropriate responses to life experiences.

For years, we have been assessing our children to better understand what they need to assist them from a sensory perspective. Many children benefited from our sensory room, which included several different sensory toys, weighted balls, scented lotions, bean bag chairs, and a swing. Now, with the help of a generous donor, our sensory room is bigger and better! After being moved to a larger room and undergoing some construction, the sensory room now also includes a rock-climbing wall, a punching bag, a whiteboard table, dimmable lighting, and so much more!

We also remodeled two classrooms. Each classroom serves roughly 15 students every single day. While the classrooms we spent years teaching in were well loved and carried memories of the Eugene Field School, the elementary school that occupied this building before us, we realized it was time to upgrade our rooms to better accommodate the children using them. The new classrooms feature new flooring, new cabinets, cubby storage space, different seating options to meet the needs of every girl, new individual technology options and dimmable lights!

Every small idea put into this project has come together to create a new, sensory-safe environment for our children. We are so proud of the end results of this project! We would like to extend a special thank you to Chris and Mark Buche, who were major supporters of this remodeling project! If you would like to see these rooms in person, please contact Alex or Virginia at the Abbott House by phone (605-996-2486) or email vw Lambert@abbotthousesd.com or alexandria@abbotthousesd.com to schedule a tour.



Abbott House Plans to Expand Bridges Foster Home Program

The number of children who need foster care in South Dakota continues to increase. In 2021 there were 1,647 children in foster care. Today there are more than 200 children waiting for a foster care family. In the last five years, that number fluctuated slightly but overall foster care needs are as high now as they have ever been.

Since 2013 Abbott House has opened eight therapeutic foster homes across the state – four in Mitchell and four in Rapid City. Each home provides a family for up to six youth who do not have a home. Currently, there are two boys and two girls homes in Rapid City and three girls and one boys home in Mitchell.

The South Dakota Department of Social Services is, again, asking Abbott House to step up and create two more therapeutic foster homes in the Sioux Falls area. That is why the Abbott House Board of Directors has authorized a \$2 million initiative to purchase and remodel two current homes for six boys and six girls up to age 18. The initiative has already been gifted more than \$620,000 from private donors to get the project started.

The project officially kicked off on November 1. If you are interested in learning more about this project, please contact Virginia at 605-996-2486 ext. 120 or vwlambert@abbotthousesd.com.



Two Opportunities to be a Hero and Double Your Gift!



You have two opportunities to double your gift for Abbott House children at the end of the year!

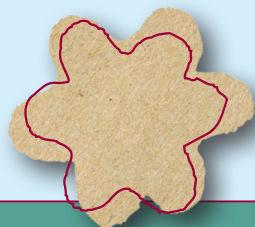
Giving Tuesday

On Giving Tuesday, November 28th, be a hero for our children and make a gift. The first \$10,000 given to the Abbott House on Giving Tuesday will be doubled by two generous donors. Every dollar given will be used to make the holidays special for our children.

Year End Gifts

If you miss the opportunity to give on Giving Tuesday, you can still double your money with a generous year-end \$25,000 matching gift! This is your opportunity to have an impact and change the lives of South Dakota children.

If you are a Thrivent member, you can also use your Thrivent dollars and Thrivent Action Team cards to help our kids! If you need assistance, please reach out to Alex at 605-996-2486 ext. 191 or email her at alexandria@abbotthousesd.com.



Abbott House First Hitting for Hope Golf Classic a Success

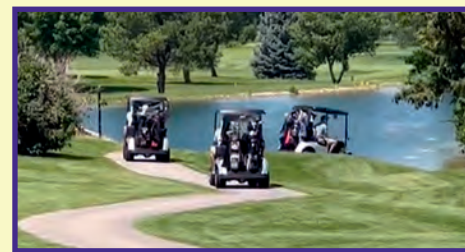
Abbott House hosted its first golf tournament on July 24, 2023, at Arrowhead Golf Course in Rapid City, with the Eagles Club of Rapid City as our Community Sponsor. Many thanks to committee members Mark Massa, Bob DeWald, and Rachel Menkens for their time and commitment to making this event a success. Arrowhead Golf Course is 18 holes of championship golf with a scenic view of the Black Hills. This was the first of many golf tournaments thanks to Dream Design committing to 10 years as the Premier Sponsor of this event.

The turnout for this first time was impressive. There were 21 registered teams and 29 hole sponsors raising a total of \$26,901.84! These funds will be used to give our children the specialized therapy they desperately need in their healing journeys.

Next year, Hitting for Hope Golf Classic will be held on Monday, August 19, 2024, and every third Monday of August for the next 9 years.



One of the many team and hole sponsors. Thank You!



And they are OFF!!!

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!!!!!!

Around the House



Jacki Miskimins, the Director of Marketing at Vantage Point, was the guest speaker at the 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony, where nine young girls graduated!



Our foster parents are so awesome! These foster parents went all out on decorations for a young man's birthday!



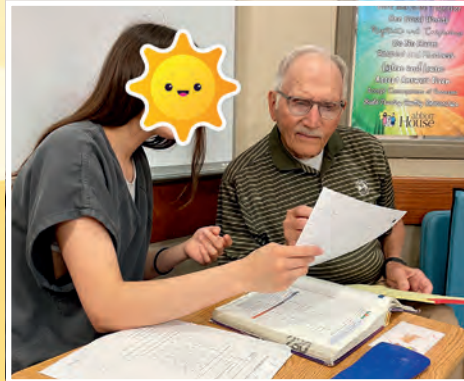
A young girl works with her favorite horse at Reclamation Ranch, where we practice Equine Therapy.



We love our furry friends! Abbott House girls enjoyed spending time with a staff member's cuddly cat, Atlas!



Abbott House girls get ready to take off on an exciting Corn Palace Festival ride!



David Thompson loves to volunteer his time to tutor Abbott House girls during the school day!



The Local Compassion Ministry Group from Fountain Springs Church in Rapid City spent one of their Saturday Serve days doing yard work at our foster home!



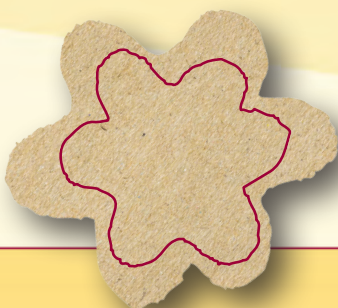
Volunteers from the Mitchell Fusion Church spent the day playing games with Abbott House girls. These girls were excited to teach others how to play Catan!



Abbott House girls and Miss Banana were excited to welcome back one of their favorite case managers!



We decided to celebrate Pi Day by eating delicious pies donated by a generous donor!



Abbott House girls go hiking and exploring around Lake Mitchell!





Abbott House girls try a group hoop dance led by Starr Chief Eagle, an American Indian Culture Interpreter representing the Lakota Sioux people of the Northern Great Plains.



Our foster families love the summertime because of all the activities they can do with their kids!



These young ladies are showing off their 2023 Abbott House Summer Games t-shirts, designed by one of their classmates!



SDSU Extension visited Abbott House girls and taught them a few quick and healthy recipes!



This young girl had an exciting 4th of July with the help of her foster dad!



Many of our girls have been missing their grandparents. This visit to the Firesteel Healthcare Center certainly cheered them up!



This young lady wants to be a Department of Social Services Worker when she grows up!



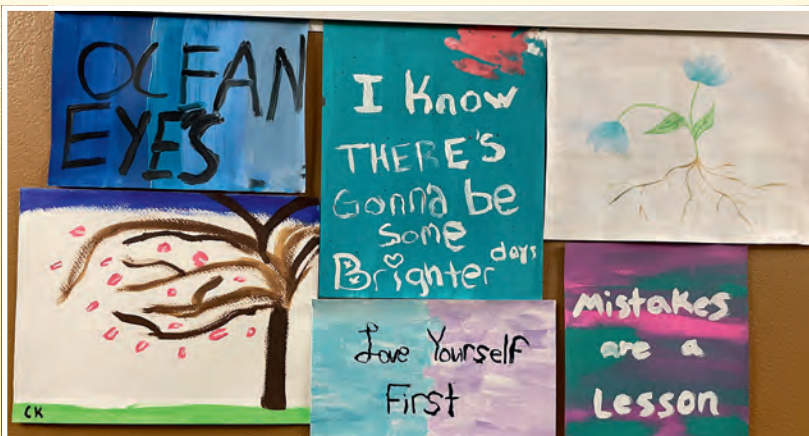
Splash splash! Abbott House girls race to fill a water bucket during the 2023 Abbott House Summer Games!



Eric Klooz, Abbott House Executive Director, and Virginia Wishard Lambert, Director of Development, accept the Hometown Hero Award from Stephanie Judson (right), South Dakota Community Foundation President and CEO.



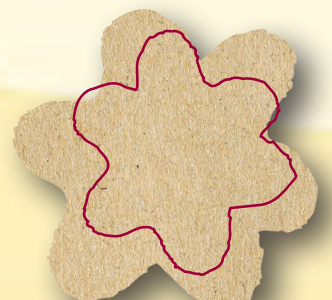
Abbott House girls take on the heat by playing with water balloons outside!



Our kids are fantastic artists! We want to encourage their passion and their ability to express themselves creatively!



Volunteers from Hitchcock Methodist Church helped our girls feel beautiful with manicures!



Abbott House and Western Dakota Technical College Hold Estate Planning Workshop



Abbott House and Western Dakota Technical College joined forces in Rapid City to create a seminar designed to share information and tools to help people in various stages of their lives plan for their futures. More than 13 people attended the meeting to better understand estate planning and how to accomplish their goals.

McLean Thompson Kerver, an attorney at Lynn, Jackson, Shultz & Lebrun, P.C., shared her estate planning expertise and many different tools available for individuals who want to plan for the future. She discussed the fact that estate planning is not just for the wealthy or the elderly; it is an important step for anyone who wishes to leave a lasting impact. Estate planning lays out a plan and ensures that your wishes are fulfilled and your desires are carried out even after you are no longer in this world.

Many times people don't think about their financial wishes until they are in a health crisis and have changes in the family unit and that can make things much more

difficult. If you would like more information about estate planning, please contact Virginia Wishard Lambert at 605-996-2486 ext. 120 or vw Lambert@abbotthousesd.com

Galloway joins the Abbott House team

Dawn Galloway recently joined Abbott House as the new Donor Engagement and Marketing Coordinator. Dawn grew up in Columbia, South Carolina, but she has called Rapid City her home for the last 15 years. She attended Black Hills State University, where she got her bachelor's and master's degrees in education.

Dawn's passion for youth advocacy brought her to Abbott House. Dawn was an elementary school teacher for Rapid City Area Schools for 11 years and saw first-hand the need for places like Abbott House in the community; in fact, some of her very own students have been clients of Abbott House. She is excited to work on behalf of this great organization to raise awareness of the services it provides and educate people on how they can help further its mission.

Dawn lives in Rapid City with her husband Aaron and their two children, Jack and Emma. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, reading, and exploring the Black Hills.

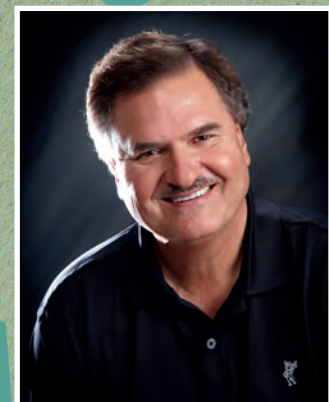


Dawn Galloway

Smith joins Abbott House Foundation Board

We are excited to announce that Tim 'Smith' Grivna will be joining the Abbott House Foundation Board of Directors! Tim served as General Manager of the Mitchell Radio group for over 25 years, and was the broadcast voice for Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell High School, and area sports for 43 years before retiring in 2021. He continues to call DWU games online and for local Cable TV.

Tim is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and Brown Institute of Broadcasting. He has won several awards including being named the South Dakota Sportscaster of the Year five times, the Distinguished Service award from the SD High School Activities Association, the E-S-D Conference Award of Merit, and the Mitchell Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award. The broadcast booth at the Corn Palace is named in his honor.



Tim 'Smith' Grivna

Tim is a past president of the Abbott House Board of Directors and the Lifequest Board of Directors. He continues to serve on several other boards including the Mitchell Sports and Events Authority, Mitchell Charitable Foundation, Dakota Wesleyan TeamMakers, and the South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame. He is also a member of the Mitchell Rotary Club as well as the Dakota Wesleyan and Mitchell High School Halls of Fame. Tim and his wife, Sandi, have five children and nine grandchildren.

"It's great to be working with Abbott House again," Tim said, "They've done so much for South Dakota children, and I look forward to helping them continue their effort."

Find Your Heart Raffle a Success for Abbott House Kids



In the summer of 2022, Abbott House rolled out a new fundraiser: the “Find Your Heart” Progressive Raffle. This game of chance used a standard deck of 52 cards and 2 jokers. Each week, players would purchase chances and select a mystery envelope, hoping to find the 5 of Hearts, which represents the 5 children dying of abuse every day. As the envelopes slowly started to reveal the cards inside, the jackpot grew, and we caught the attention of players all over the Midwest!

On June 9, 2023, Eric Klooz, Abbott House Executive Director, and Virginia Wishard-Lambert, Abbott House Development Director, held the Week 49 Find Your Heart drawing at GF Advertising in Mitchell, SD. This was no routine weekly drawing, though, as Klooz opened envelope #48 to reveal the 5 of Hearts!

Stephanie Van Zee, of Mitchell, was the lucky winner of the “Find Your Heart” Progressive Raffle. Stephanie met with Eric and Virginia at Abbott House to accept her check and share her gratitude. “This is amazing!” expressed Van Zee, “I never win anything! Thank you!”

The final jackpot total at the end of the raffle was **\$42,401.70!** This jackpot was split evenly between Van Zee and Abbott House children. The funds raised for Abbott House children will be used to help them on their healing journey, including covering costs for therapy, education, and personal needs.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our “Find Your Heart” Raffle, as well as the local businesses of South Dakota who hosted the weekly drawings. The success of this fundraiser is owed to all of you!

Abbott House Girls Redesign EmpowerHer Motorcycle and Want You to Win It!

The Abbott House girls, with the help of Laura Klock and team, have officially completed the 2023 Helping With Horsepower™ Bike Rebuild! Their beautifully redesigned 2007 Harley Davidson Road Glide caught a lot of attention during its unveiling at the 2023 Biker Belles Event. Diva Amy Skaling, who helped with the unveiling, donated her motorcycle to the Abbott House girls to redesign and rebuild. This bike received new handlebars, fenders, seat, exhaust, and other features. The design, developed from several Abbott House girls’ ideas, includes colorful flames, a sparkling paint job, and surprise jewels waiting to be found!

After all that hard work, this bike needed a name. The girls wanted something to honor Diva Amy and all the women supporting them, while still looking toward their future. One young girl working on the bike suggested ‘EmpowHer’ because, “It makes me feel powerful working on the bike. Like I can do anything if I can do this. And I think the other girls feel the same way.” And so, EmpowHer was born!

You can win this bike! We will be raffling this bike off to one lucky winner! Funds raised from this raffle will help with therapy and education expenses for the very children who worked on EmpowHer! Tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100. Sales have now opened. You can purchase your tickets on our website at www.abbotthouse.org or send back the form on the right with your preferred payment method.



TO ORDER TICKETS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

OF TICKETS: _____ \$ _____ AMT ENCLOSED

____ CHECK ENCLOSED

____ CREDIT CARD

CC #: _____ EXP DATE: _____ CVV: _____



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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, a service of Social Current.
- 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.

Christmas is for kids!

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 and X-Box Kinect games
- Yard games
- Puzzles/Crossword puzzle books
- Books – teen and pre-teen check our website for entire list
- 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 teen boys and girls
- 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