

abbott
House

sunbeams



Curiosity spans across generations of Abbott House children. Join us on Oct. 26th to celebrate 85 years of helping children heal.

**Celebrating 85 Years
of Healing**
pg. 2

**Celebrate Christmas
with Music and Help
Abbott House Children**
pg. 4

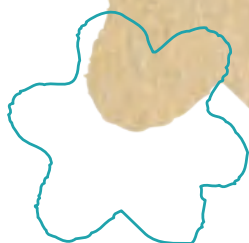
**Find Your Heart
Progressive Raffle in Full
Swing**
pg. 8

abbott
House
85 YEARS

605.996.2486
www.abbotthouse.org



Eric Klooz
Abbott House Executive Director



85 Years of Caring

Abbott House has been there for children and families for 85 years. When I stop to think about all the work and effort that has gone into creating an organization that is focused on providing hope for a better future, I am simply in awe!

Recently, I met with a retired gentleman who has been volunteering multiple times a week in our school. His piece of the operation is to come and give his time and share his mathematical talents with the children by providing tutoring. To some, that may seem like a small part of what happens at Abbott House, but in reality, **it is the very essence of what we do.** People selflessly giving themselves to provide hope to other people. Beautiful....

I witness our staff doing this every day. Our parents who work in our foster homes, our cooks in the kitchen, our therapists who listen while children cry, and so many more. Our work provides hope for children who have endured difficulties or just been dealt a tough hand in life.

Today, I'm happy to report that we are as strong as ever and HOPE does live on in the work that we continue to do. I am so very thankful to all those who have come before us to pave the way for the amazing things we are doing today.

Without those of you reading this, our amazing Agency would not be here. Thank you so much for the part you play in helping provide hope and healing for children in need. Here's to 85 more years!

Celebrate 85 Years of Healing with Us!

Imagine this: it's the Dirty Thirties; you have just lost a parent to sickness, and your other parent is struggling to feed you and your three siblings. With the threat of starvation hanging over your head, your parent might have made the difficult decision to bring you to the newly opened Abbott House, a place where boys and girls alike live together in a home and are taken care of by caring workers.

This was a common story amongst the children joining our care in the early years of our organization. We first opened our doors to children in need in 1939. Now, in 2024, we are celebrating 85 years of helping South Dakota youth!

Join us on October 26th at the Dakota Wesleyan University Sherman Center to help us celebrate 85 years of healing. We want to use this opportunity to thank those who have been supporting us over the years, as well as show the community just how much we have grown and transformed in striving for the best services for our kids. Guests will hear from Trisha Gary, an Abbott House alumna who beat the odds and became a White House senior advisor, and local suicide survivor and prevention advocate, Lisa Hohn Larson, while enjoying lunch and honoring the 2024 Children's Champion Award Winners.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, or \$25 at the door. To purchase your tickets go to www.abbotthouse.org/ways-to-support-abbotthouse/85th-anniversary-celebration or contact Alex Fieseler at 605-996-2486 ext. 191 or alexandria@abbotthousesd.com.



Make The Best of The Rest of 2024!

Take advantage of the two opportunities to double your gift for Abbott House children before the year is over!

Day of Giving

This year's South Dakota Day of Giving is set for Tuesday, December 3rd. This is your chance to join a statewide movement of generosity while providing our children with safe and memorable holidays. The first \$10,000 raised will be doubled by two generous donors! You can give online at www.abbotthouse.org, call us at 605-996-2486, or bring a gift to one of the development team members. All of the money raised on Giving Tuesday is used to give our children holiday and birthday celebrations.



Year End Gifts

If you miss the opportunity to donate on Giving Tuesday, you can still double your gift before the year is over! Because of the generosity of one of our donors, all new or increased gifts made until the end of 2024 will be doubled up to \$20,000. What an amazing opportunity to help children!

Look Here For Other Ways to Get Involved:

1. Share Our Story

Help us spread the story of Abbott House and our mission. Share our Day of Giving posts on social media and tell your friends and family about why you support Abbott House. Your voice can inspire others to give!

2. Set Up a Recurring Gift

One of the best ways to help is by becoming a monthly donor. By setting up a recurring donation, you provide ongoing support for Abbott House, which allows us to plan for the future and ensure we have the resources needed year-round.

3. Volunteer Your Time

While financial donations are important, we also value your time. Reach out to us about volunteer opportunities, such as helping at an event, wrapping presents for kids, or mentoring a child in our care – we'd love to have you as part of the Abbott House team!



Bridges Alum Creates New Life While Saving Others



Aria with Doug and Jenn Bird, her foster parents. just before her 16th birthday, Bridges by Abbott House staff met with Aria, learned her story, and were able to place her in one of our loving Rapid City foster homes. Aria moved into our Nesheim Family Bridges foster home, where she lived with five other foster children, her foster parents Doug and Jen, and their two dogs.

When Aria joined the Abbott House family, she was considerably behind in her education and on the verge of being dropped from her local school district for poor attendance. Fearing she was too behind to catch up, she had even considered dropping out of high school. With support from her new foster family and the help of our online schooling program, Aria was able to catch up on missed credits, improve her grades, and graduate on time.

Being a teenager in foster care comes with unique challenges. For Aria, the desire to experience the same freedoms as her peers was met with many obstacles. Something as simple as getting a driver's license—a rite of passage for most teens—became an uphill battle without easy access to the documents she needed for the DMV. This lack of mobility also made it difficult to secure a job, hindering her journey toward independence. Despite these challenges, Aria eventually got her license and worked throughout her senior year, giving her a newfound sense of accomplishment and pride.

After graduating high school, Aria moved into Abbott House's Independent Living Program, where she was able to live in an apartment and get a sense of freedom she hadn't known before. Living alone was scary at first, but with the continued support of Abbott House, she was able to successfully transition from foster care to an independent young adult life.

During that time, Aria even helped save a neighbor's garage from burning down when a

July 4th celebration turned into a potential disaster. Aria noticed a neighbor's trash can was on fire during an early morning walk, so she alerted the neighbors, doused the flames with water, and called the fire department. A brave act by a brave and resourceful young woman! Thanks to her selflessness and quick thinking, no one was harmed, and the family is forever grateful for Aria.

Today, Aria is living on campus as a university student—proud to be the first in her family to attend college. She's considering a major in psychology, inspired by her passion for understanding people. She's also drawn to political science after volunteering for a local politician's campaign.

Whatever path Aria chooses, she's thrilled to finally have control over her future. With her determination and resilience, that future is sure to be bright.



The first day of college.



Aria with her "move in" team on BHSU campus.

Around the House



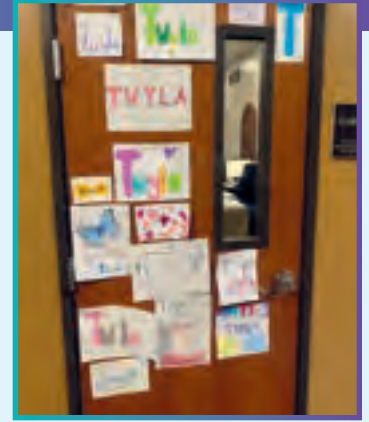
Abbott House girls spend time making tie blankets for kittens at the Mitchell Animal Rescue.



Rapid City foster families made a visit to Outlaw Ranch and tried many activities together, including horseback riding!



Abbott House Student Council members made sure everyone felt loved on Valentine's Day by passing out flowers to every girl!



Students in the Abbott House school make their new teacher, Twyla, feel welcomed by decorating her classroom door.



EmpowHer Motorcycle winners, Jennifer and Todd Togetherhoff, pose with Helping with Horsepower's Executive Director, Laura Klock, and Abbott House's Executive Director, Eric Klooz, in front of their new bike.

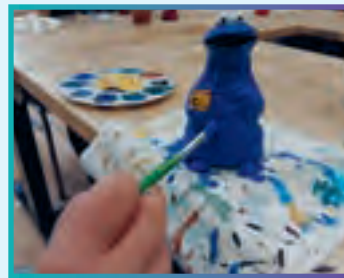
A young lady falls as she crosses the finish line during the Potato Sack Race.



Callie Mueller, this year's Miss Rodeo South Dakota, visited Abbott House girls to share her message of faith!



Thanks to a generous donor, our Rapid City families had a fun night at the circus!



Our girls had a relaxing afternoon painting ceramics at Your Shop in Mitchell!



Abbott House girls strengthen their bond with one of the horses at Reclamation Ranch.



Our girls are serious about competition. Here is one girl giving it her all at the long-jump competition during the 2024 Summer Games!



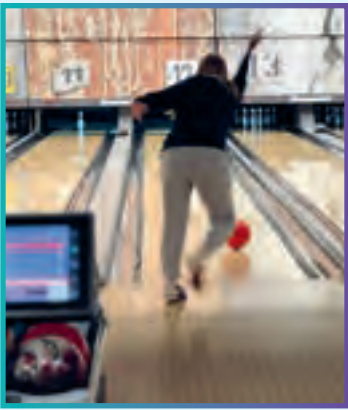
With the help of a local donor, our Rapid City foster parents were able to start their own garden with their kids!



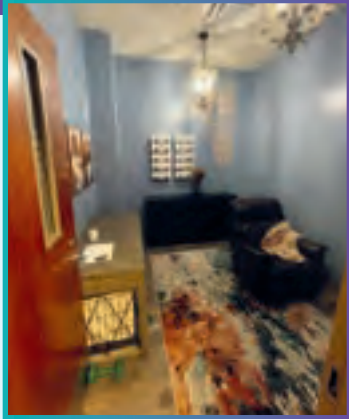
Our Activities Director, Erick Flores, organizes themed potlucks for staff to enjoy every other month!



One of our girls from our foster homes celebrates with her family after graduating high school.



Abbott House girls took a break from routine to have some fun at the bowling alley!



A sneak peek at one of our new Neurofeedback rooms.



Our Executive Director, Eric Klooz, is always willing to do the hard work. He went out with some of our Abbott House girls to grill and sell hotdogs at Mitchell's County Fair!



This young lady just couldn't contain her excitement as she got ready to sign the Tree of Hope during her dismissal ceremony!

First Day of School posters aren't just for kids! Our Teacher's Aide, Brittany, dreams of being retired. We sure hope that's not too soon!



Lisa Erck and members of Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church collected items for our Sioux Falls Foster Homes Wishlist and made our foster parents' day!



Staff from Montgomery's of Sioux Falls lent us a hand to move new furniture into our Sioux Falls Foster Homes!



We love to see kids helping kids! Mitchell High School Student Council collected clothing, hygiene items, and books to donate to Abbott House youth.



A young girl accepts her certificate, rose, and teddy bear at this year's 8th Grade Graduation.



Abbott House girls pose next to their art project for school.



Our staff, Jakob, encouraged his whole wrestling team to help us move furniture during DWU Day of Service!



Mike Frost Joins Abbott House team

Michael Frost recently joined Abbott House as the Assistant Development Director for the Sioux Falls area. With over two decades of professional sales and nonprofit leadership, Michael is a seasoned fundraising professional known for his ability to foster meaningful relationships that drive lasting change. A native of the Watertown, SD area and a proud graduate of South Dakota State University with a degree in Journalism and Advertising, Michael combines his deep local roots with an unwavering dedication to the values of service, philanthropy, and community growth.

Throughout his career, Michael has

held key executive roles and served on boards for numerous Sioux Falls area nonprofits. His expertise extends beyond local efforts, having consulted with organizations nationwide to implement effective, high-impact fundraising strategies. His work is fueled by a genuine passion for building strong, healthy families and strengthening communities.

Outside of his professional life, Michael enjoys quality time with his wife Stacy and their three children: Kelsey, Hannah, and Jacob. In his downtime, you'll find him working in his yard, fishing, or hitting the trails for a run.

Find Your Heart Progressive Raffle in Full Swing

Our popular **Find Your Heart Raffle** is back for its second year, and it's bigger and better than ever! This exciting fundraiser is a fun way to support the Abbott House while giving you the chance to win an ever-growing jackpot.

Here's how it works: as a progressive raffle, the jackpot increases every week until someone finds the lucky **5 of Hearts**. Why the 5 of Hearts? Because in America, 5 children die of child abuse every day. This fundraiser is an opportunity to not only raise awareness of this tragedy, but to raise funds to heal survivors of child abuse, such as Abbott House children. Participants can purchase chances in the following denominations:

- ♥ 3 chances for \$10
- ♥ 10 chances for \$20
- ♥ 50 chances for \$50

Each week funds are distributed like this:

- ♥ 10% goes to the winner of that week's drawing
- ♥ 90% rolls over into the accumulating jackpot



If the weekly winner's envelope reveals the **5 of Hearts**, they win half of the total jackpot, with the other half going towards the needs of Abbott House children, and the game is over! If not, that envelope is removed from play and the jackpot rolls over to the next week, with even more chances to win. If you find one of two Jokers, you'll win an extra \$250 in addition to 10% of that week's sales.

It's easy to join the fun! Just visit www.abbotthouse.org, select the number of chances you'd like to purchase, fill in your contact information, and pick the envelope number you believe holds the lucky **5 of Hearts**.

With weekly winners from across South Dakota, and all over the country, this is a simple and exciting way to make a difference for Abbott House kids. Don't miss out on your chance to play, win, and support a great cause!

Good luck and may the **5 of Hearts** be with you! ♥

Hitting For Hope Golf Classic Participants Give Back to Children

It was a beautiful day for some golf. Abbott House hosted its second golf tournament on August 19, 2024, at Arrowhead Golf Course in Rapid City, SD, with the Eagles Club and Eagle Riders of Rapid City as our Community Sponsor. Many thanks to committee members Mark Massa, Bob DeWald, Rachel Menkens, and Dawn Claymore for their time and commitment to making this event a success.


Golf games, including a Putting Green Game, Hole of Fortune, and Play the Pro, were added this year to create extra excitement. Sponsorship of these games and hole-in-one sponsors raised a net total of \$26,179.69! These funds will be used to give our children the specialized therapy they desperately need in their healing journeys.

Thank you to our leading sponsors:

Premier Sponsor: Dream Design

Gold Sponsor and Putt to Win Sponsor: Medical Air Rescue Company

Silver Sponsors: Monument Health and Scull Construction

Scull Construction 

Putt to Win sponsors:

bb's natural

Bin 605 Wine Beer & Tapas Bar

Cohort Craft Brewery

Contraband

LIV Hospitality

Massage Envy

Mr. Liquor

Scheels

Smith's Liquor Gallery

Timmons Market.



Thank you to all of our generous hole sponsors including:

Black Hills Federal Credit Union

Cain Creek Outfitters

Century Glass

Chadron Motors

Conrad's Big "C" Electric

Don Ward

First American Title Company of South Dakota

First Western Federal Savings Bank

Medical Air Rescue Company – MARC

Massage Envy

McKie Ford Lincoln

Mel's Auto Body & Glass

Midwest Marketing

Monument Health

Nooney & Solay, LLP

Northwest Pipe Fittings

Quality Roofing & Construction

Rushmore Countertops

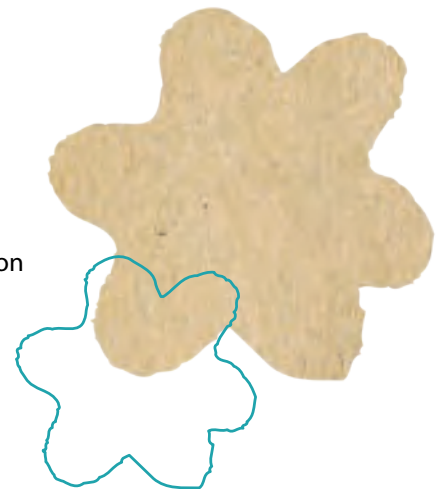
Scull Construction Service

Security First Bank

Star Spangled Batter

Stec's Advertising Specialties

Steve and Marty Kalkman



Mark your calendars
for next year
Hitting for Hope
Golf Classic on
Monday, Aug. 4, 2025.
See you next year!

Required Minimum Distribution Requirements Can Help Abbott House Children

If you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) please read this carefully. You need to be aware of the special tax considerations that apply to IRAs. When you reach age 73 you generally must start taking an annual "Required Minimum Distribution" or RMD from your retirement accounts. At age 70 1/2 or older you may make a "Qualified Charitable Distribution" or QCD to a qualified charity. An RMD may or may not be subject to income tax, so make sure to check with your financial advisor as you make these decisions.

You may even want to consider an IRA Charitable Rollover. Under this provision, your RMD is excluded from income if the distribution is made directly to charity.



The benefits of an IRA charitable rollover are:

- Avoiding taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to Abbott House or other nonprofits
- Satisfying your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year;
- Reducing your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions; and
- Supporting the work and mission of the Abbott House.

These distributions can be confusing so make sure to check with your financial advisor. If you are interested in learning more about the benefits available in making charitable gifts from an IRA, Abbott House has a helpful brochure available for your use.

You can receive your free copy by calling the office at 605-996-2486 and talking with Virginia or emailing her at vw Lambert@abbotthousesd.com.

abbotthousesd.com. 

Brandon Jones JAMs for Abbott House Again

Brandon Jones grew up in the beautiful Black Hills and, as his website says, is one of the "Midwest's premiere entertainers." Since the first time Brandon heard the Abbott House story, he continues to want to share his talent and support. Brandon, along with his favorite group, Flannel, a 90's music group, put on another fabulous concert to help not only Abbott House, but also Badges for Hope. Brandon loves kids, especially after becoming a new Dad this year! He wants to do everything he can to make life better for kids in South Dakota.

The venue changed to the Central States Fairgrounds Nerdy Nuts building, but it was just as loud and noisy as the first jam! Individuals from all walks of life came together for this benefit, with over 100 people in attendance. Together, they raised more than \$5,000 for kids!

This event was successful in large part because of our generous sponsors: Lynn Jackson, Rushmore Countertops, Casey Peterson and Associates, Black Hills Exteriors, Medical Air Rescue Company, Highmark Federal Credit Union, Erv Nesheim, Toni Owan for Eagle Riders, and Fork Real.

A special thank you to Homeslice Media for providing the marketing and promotion for this event. It was a fun night of good music and a great crowd.

