

abbott
House

sunbeams



*A talented Abbott House girl paints a mural in downtown Mitchell
as part of the Community Mural Project.*

Two Opportunities to
Play Golf and Help
Abbott House Youth
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Hope In Action Event
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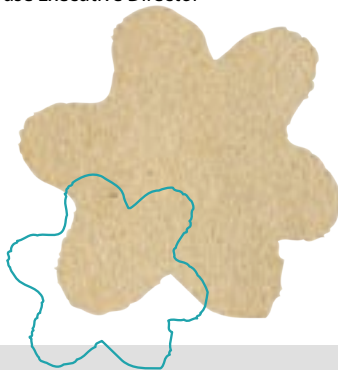
2024 Children's
Champion Awards
Winners
pg. 8



605.996.2486
www.abbotthouse.org



Eric Klooz
Abbott House Executive Director



Looking Into Our Future

Henry Ford said *“When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.”*

Life is not an easy game. I see young people every day that have been dealt a tough hand. Without a bit of help many of them might not make it. They have so many headwinds to contend with.

Over the past 10 years, Abbott House has been working to grow family options and apartment living for youth who don't have a family to support them. Just last year we completed work in Sioux Falls for 2 more of our Bridges family homes. These homes are owned by the Agency and we use them to create a family for up to 6 children in need. As of today, we have 10 of these homes in operation across South Dakota and it's not enough.

Soon Abbott House will embark

on another expansion of this program in Rapid City. We will be adding two additional homes in that community in 2025 and then will begin work to add more homes in Sioux Falls in 2026. I have said it many times but when I look back on my time working for Abbott House I will be so happy to have provided families for children.

While we had the vision for this new programming, we did not have the resources. So many businesses, foundations, churches and individuals have come together to make these homes a reality. As we begin a new project in Rapid City to add two more of these life changing homes, we ask for your prayers and support. If you feel the call to help, please contact us to help provide some hope for children that are facing so much.

Building Bridges to a Brighter Future

Abbott House Will Kick Off Campaign to Expand Therapeutic Foster Care Program

For 85 years, Abbott House has provided hope and stability for South Dakota's most vulnerable youth. In 2013, we took a groundbreaking step by opening our first Bridges Therapeutic Foster Home in Mitchell, SD. This initiative allowed young girls in our care to experience the love and security of a family. Since then, our impact has grown significantly. Today, we operate 10 therapeutic foster homes across the state—four for boys and six for girls—offering a safe, nurturing environment for youth up to age 18 who are homeless and without family support.

The need for foster care continues to rise. With more than 1,710 children in foster care statewide, Abbott House is answering the call to do more. For the third time, the South Dakota Department of Social Services has asked us to expand our Bridges Therapeutic Foster Care Program. In response, we have committed to **opening two additional foster homes in Rapid City**—one for boys and one for girls in 2025-2026.

In Rapid City alone, over 530 children are in foster care, yet there are only about 100 foster families available to provide the care and stability they need. Without intervention, these children face an uncertain future, with higher risks of instability, homelessness, and adverse life outcomes.

Abbott House is taking action to break the cycle of homelessness and trauma. A team of Abbott House supporters will be raising \$2.5 million to help us build two more 7-bedroom therapeutic foster homes in Rapid City. A stable, loving foster home, combined with access to education, life skills training, and therapeutic support, gives children the tools they need to heal, grow, and thrive, and paves the way for a successful future.

Together, we can change lives and create brighter futures for South Dakota's youth. We believe that every child deserves a place to belong. Stay tuned for updates on our expansion and how you can be part of this life-changing mission.



Two Opportunities to Play Golf and Help Abbott House Youth Bridges for Hope Golf Classic



Get ready to swing for a purpose at the Bridges of Hope Golf Classic on **Friday, August 1, 2025** at the Grand Falls Casino & Golf Resort.

Whether you're a seasoned golfer or just enjoy supporting a great cause, this exciting 18-hole, 2-person scramble offers the perfect mix of

competition, camaraderie, and community impact. More than just a day on the course, your participation helps South Dakota's at-risk youth—providing hope, healing, and a brighter future for children who have endured trauma, neglect, and abuse.

By playing, sponsoring, or donating, you directly support the life-changing work of Abbott House. Don't miss this opportunity to make a difference!



Friday, Aug. 1, 2025 • Event Details:

- Grand Falls Casino & Golf Resort
- 1:00 PM Registration | 2:00 PM Shotgun Start
- Poolside Dinner to Follow

For more details, contact:

Mike Frost

mikef@abbotthousesd.com

605-951-2766

Hitting for Hope Golf Classic



It's time to hit the greens again! We're thrilled to bring back the Hitting for Hope Golf Classic - bigger and better than ever. This year, we're switching things up with a 2-person scramble at the beautiful Hart Ranch Golf Course in Rapid City.

Join us on **Thursday,**

September 18, 2025 for a fun-filled day of golf and making a meaningful impact for the children and families of Abbott House in Rapid City. Whether you're a seasoned golfer or just looking for a fun way to support a great cause, this tournament is for you!

Mark your calendars, grab your partner, and get ready to tee off for Abbott House! Sign up by May 31 and get a special golfer gift for early bird registration.



Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025 • Event Details:

- Hart Ranch Golf Club
- 7:00 AM Registration | 8:00 AM Shotgun Start
- Lunch immediately following

For more details, contact:

Dawn Galloway

dawng@abbotthousesd.com

605-786-7631

Double Your Impact in 2025!

In 2025, your generosity can go twice as far for the children of Abbott House! A generous donor has pledged \$120,000 in matching funds—dollar for dollar—to maximize your contribution. Here's the twist:

- \$70,000 will match annual funding, supporting essential programs and services.
- \$50,000 will match gifts to the Abbott House endowment, ensuring lasting support for the future.

This is your chance to make an even bigger difference in the lives of the children we serve. Contact Development Director, Virginia Wishard Lambert, at vwlambert@abbotthousesd.com to take advantage of this opportunity. Donate today and double your impact!



Hope in Action: A Morning of Inspiration & Impact



John Stiegelmeier

Join us for a powerful morning at the Hope in Action Breakfast on **Thursday, September 25, 2025**, at the Holiday Inn City Centre in Sioux Falls, SD. This event shines a light on the life-changing impact Abbott House has on youth who have endured trauma, abuse, and neglect, helping them find hope, healing, and a brighter future.

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

- **Coach John Stiegelmeier** – Legendary head coach who led South Dakota State University to a national championship and became the winningest coach in the college's history. His passion for leadership and youth development will inspire you.
- **Dana Dykhouse** – One of the most successful business leaders in the state, sharing why First Premier supports Abbott House and the vital work being done for South Dakota's youth.

This is more than just a breakfast—it's an opportunity to come together, learn, and take action for a cause that transforms lives. Join us and be part of something truly meaningful.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mike Frost • mikef@abbotthousesd.com • 605-951-2766

Thank You for an Unforgettable Evening!



Abbott House extends our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended and supported A Holiday Collage, a Christmas concert featuring the talented Alex Massa and friends! On December 21, 2024, the historic theater at the Performing Arts Center in Rapid City came alive with the joyous sounds of the holiday season.

With over 20 talented musicians from the Black Hills region, the concert was a spectacular celebration of holiday music, both traditional and modern. Your enthusiasm and support helped make this event truly special. The evening was filled with warmth, community spirit, and the magic of music, bringing together families, friends, music fans, and supporters of Abbott House.

A portion of the proceeds from the concert directly benefit the youth we serve, providing them with care, opportunity, and a brighter future. We truly appreciate Alex Massa for asking us to be a part of this evening, the incredibly talented musicians, and everyone who played a role in making the evening a success.

Thank you to the show's generous sponsors: Dacotah Bank; Nooney and Solay; Brad Estes; The Homeslice Group; Nell's; Breadroot Co-op; Herb Cleveland; Bob Scull; Lost Cabin; MG Oil; Heartland Health and Wellness; and West River Comedy Club.

Take a Journey of Hope

Have you ever wondered how your support truly impacts the children of Abbott House? This is your chance to see firsthand how your generosity transforms the lives of children across South Dakota.

Join us for a Journey of Hope tour, where you'll gain insight into the challenges our children face and the healing they experience through our programs. Tours are available every 6 to 8 weeks in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, and our psychiatric residential therapeutic facility in Mitchell.

If you're interested in learning more about childhood trauma, trauma therapy, and the life-changing work we do, we invite you to take part in this meaningful experience.

To find the next tour date in your area, contact Alex at alexandria@abbotthousesd.com or 605-996-2486 ext. 191.



Abbott House Gymnasium is Unveiled

The last room in the entire Abbott House PRTF building has officially been updated! Over the past few years, we have been slowly updating the rooms throughout our building to better serve the children in our care. Previously, we told you about the updated classrooms and brand new sensory room. Now, we're proud to show off our new Gymnasium!

Our updated gymnasium is designed to meet the sensory needs of our children. The plastic-tile floors were replaced with rubber-tile floors, making it more comfortable to sit on as well as reducing the risk of injury if a child were to fall. The walls of the gym were covered in sound-absorbing tiles which will keep echoing to a minimum and prevent our children from becoming overwhelmed by loud noises. We also incorporated new electric blinds, adjustable lighting, and a brand-new projector and screen so the space can be used flexibly for any activity.

GYM SPONSORS:

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- Mitchell Area Charitable Foundation
- Exchange Club of Mitchell
- Patzer Woodworking Inc.



One of the most exciting pieces of equipment in our new gym is our iWall, which was donated by Patzer Woodworking Inc. The iWall is a gaming platform that encourages our kids to be physically active. With over 100 pre-loaded games, our kids have access to countless healthy activities that get their bodies moving and regulate their emotions. A few challenges our kids can partake in are skiing, yoga, parkour, and so much more designed to look like video games!

With all these new upgrades, the only thing left to do was make it less "sterile" by bringing light and warmth into the room. To do that, we incorporated a new 8ft x 33ft painted mural by Jessica Callies, a local artist! Jessica took inspiration from the artwork our young girls have made. "I took a whole bunch of pictures and their quotes and then took colors and the concepts right off their artwork," Jessica shared. The mural depicts three young girls, all of different ethnicities, against a colorful background filled with flowers and quotes like "Shine Bright" and "Love Yourself First".

The new gym has been open to our students since late fall and has been utilized for at least one activity every day. Thank you to our sponsors for their support in providing our children with a safe, bright, and up-to-date environment to heal and learn in!



Around the House



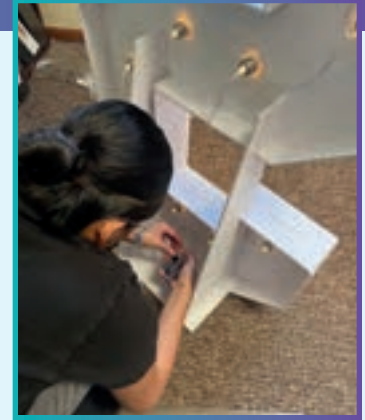
No matter their home situation, every child deserves a little Christmas magic.



An Abbott House girl gets to be the first to taste her winning burger creation at The Back 40 in Mitchell.



Our girls had fun making pies for those in need during Thanksgiving with the help of one of our loyal volunteers, Carol!



This young girl volunteered to help get ready for the 85th Anniversary Celebration!



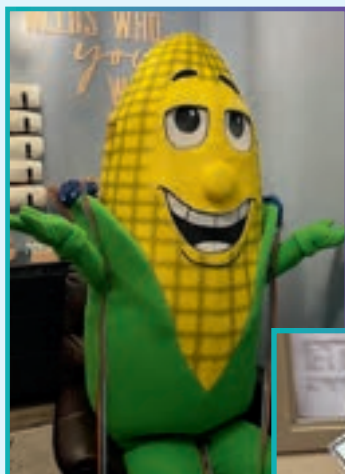
After picking out pumpkins at Lee's Red Barn, our girls enjoyed fresh apples during the ride home -- delicious!



Every year, our girls compete in pumpkin painting. This one won Best Overall!



Some of our foster kids got the chance to see Christmas Lights at the Winter Wonderland in Falls Park.



Cornelia from the Corn Palace took a tour of our building and even tried out our Neurofeedback Machine!

If you're working with kids, then you must get serious about Halloween. We're so lucky our staff go above and beyond to make our kids smile!



This young lady was ready to cheer for her favorite team during the Super Bowl this year!



The Dakota Women in Faith took a weekend tour of Abbott House—what a turn out! Make sure to call us if you would like a tour!



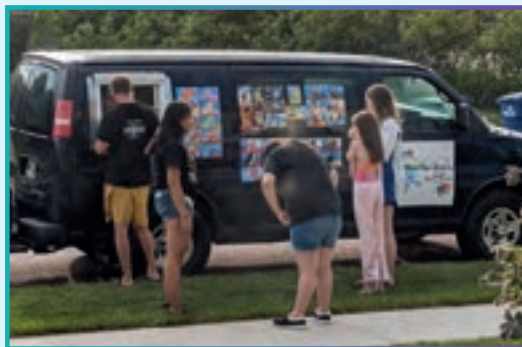
Students look through old Abbott House newsletters and articles as well as old yearbooks from Eugene Field School, which once occupied our current building.



These are just a few of our Christmas Elves wrapping presents for the children in our care!



After visiting the local movie theater, Abbott House girls returned to find their first gifts of the night ready to be opened!



We love supporting local! This foster dad decided to treat his daughters at Martha Ann's Ice Cream Van in Mitchell!



Justin Warner, owner and chef at Bokujo Ramen in Rapid City, took time out of his busy schedule to teach our Rapid City foster kids how to make quick and easy recipes!



With the help of Badges for Hope, our Rapid City foster home kids got to "Shop with A Cop" this past Christmas to pick out Christmas gifts for their loved ones.



The finished mural painted by one of our past residents is located in downtown Mitchell for the community to enjoy.



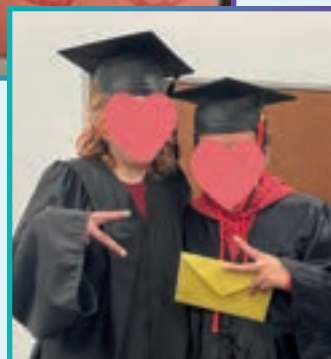
The girls in this Abbott House living area made their own Christmas set up for the month of December!



An alumna's parents brought caramel apples for staff to enjoy in appreciation of all their hard work.



Our girls were getting into the spirit for our 85th Anniversary!



These two students ended the year on a high note—they graduated high school while staying with us!



When our girls heard that Gary Gjesdal, who has loyally supported our children for years, had lost his house in a fire, they jumped right into making cards and a tie blanket to keep him warm at night!

Celebrating Those Who Helped Us Reach 85 Years



Abbott House wrapped up 2024 by celebrating 85 years of healing South Dakota youth. Guests had the unique opportunity to hear from a current Abbott House client, a successful Abbott House alumna, Trisha Gary, and Lisa Hohn Larson, a local suicide survivor and prevention advocate. Lisa shared why services like Abbott House are a necessity for our communities.

During the luncheon, three Children's Champion Awards were given away:

Children's Generosity Champion Award Winner

This award goes to a group of people who have helped Abbott House children heal for more than 40 years. The Iroquois United Women in Faith have held an annual event for the last 40 years with proceeds going

to the Abbott House. In fact, this small church has given well over \$40,000 to help children in our care find hope and healing. Through the years, the group hosted musicians, performed skits, prepared food, and so much more to raise funds for Abbott House children. On behalf of the church, Barb DeJong, Darcy Miller, Bonnie Moffitt, and Pastor Tia accepted the award.

Children's Volunteer Champion Award Winner

The 2024 Children's Volunteer Champion is someone who is close to many of our children's hearts. David Thompson, who earned both a bachelor's and master's degree in industrial engineering from SDSU and Iowa State University respectively, has been offering his math expertise to help tutor Abbott House children for nearly two years. David volunteers 2-3 days a week and has even used Zoom to continue tutoring sessions with our children when he is out of state for the winter. David spent time as a statistician for the Strategic Air Command near Omaha after graduating college. After his wife, Lila, passed away, David returned to Mitchell and has kept busy volunteering at several other organizations around town. In 2009, David also witnessed the opening of the David and Lila Thompson High School in Namayemba, Uganda.



Children's Lifetime Giving Champion Award

The winner of the Children's Lifetime Giving Champion Award is no stranger to helping at-risk children and meeting their needs. Mary Fuchs is a mother of three, grandmother of six, and served as an emergency foster parent to 48 children across four counties during the 1980's. Mary served on the Abbott House Board of Director for nine years, as well as serving more than 20 years on the Board of Directors of Community Counseling Services and 16 years as a commissioner for the Huron Housing and Redevelopment Commission. With Mary's leadership, Abbott House opened four therapeutic foster homes in Rapid City, a boy's therapeutic foster home in Mitchell, and two therapeutic foster homes in Sioux Falls. Mary and her husband, Dr. Michael Fuchs, have also established a scholarship fund for Abbott House alums that provides more than \$5,000 in scholarships every year.

We would like to give special thanks to our 85th Anniversary Celebration sponsors, which included Bank West, Avera, Dice Financial, McLeod's Printing, Plains Commerce Bank, and First National Bank. We'd also like to thank our 85th Anniversary Planning Committee for creating such a beautiful event!



Picking Up the Pieces

After their father's funeral, his two surviving children faced the daunting task of sorting through his financial records. What they discovered was both surprising and overwhelming:

1. Their father, a retired human services worker, quietly built significant wealth through conservative investments and frugal living.
2. He had been a generous supporter of several charitable organizations.
3. He had left no will or instructions to guide them in managing his estate.

Without clear directives, the siblings were left to make difficult decisions about distributing his assets. They wanted to honor his legacy by continuing his charitable giving, but they could only guess which organizations he would have chosen and in what proportions.

This uncertainty only compounded their grief. Losing a loved one is hard enough—but without a will, it becomes even more challenging. Important financial and legal decisions must be made quickly, often under emotional strain. How much simpler and less stressful it would have been if their father had taken the time to create a will.

Having an up-to-date will is one of the greatest gifts a parent can leave their family. It ensures that wishes are clearly documented, reducing the burden on loved ones during an already difficult time.

Abbott House can provide you with helpful information to navigate this crucial aspect of planning. Contact Virginia Wishard Lambert, Development Director, at vwlambert@abbotthousesd.com or 605-996-2486 ext. 120 for more information.



Brandon Jones JAM's for Abbott House

Brandon Jones returned for another unforgettable night of live music, bringing his high-energy performance to the Nerdy Nuts Expo Building at the Central States Fairgrounds. This year, he was joined by The Rathco, creating an electric atmosphere that had the crowd dancing and singing along. With a packed house and an enthusiastic audience, the night was filled with great music and an even greater purpose - supporting the youth and aging population served by Abbott House and Black Hills Center for Aging.

Attendees enjoyed delicious Fork Real cheesecakes while taking part in an exciting raffle with fantastic prizes. Thanks to the incredible support of the Rapid City community, the event was a huge success, raising crucial funds to help provide healing and opportunities for the children in Abbott House's care. Proceeds from the event were shared with Black Hills Center for Aging to support their effort to provide connection and care for Rapid City seniors.

A special thank you to Homeslice Media for their marketing and promotional efforts, and of course, to Brandon Jones and The Rathco for sharing their talents to make a difference. It was truly a night to remember!



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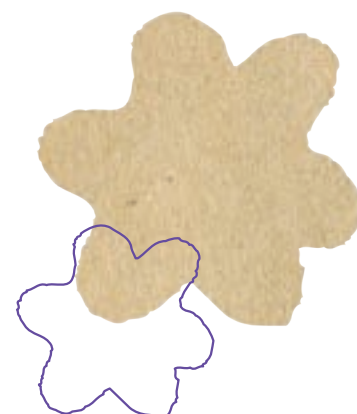
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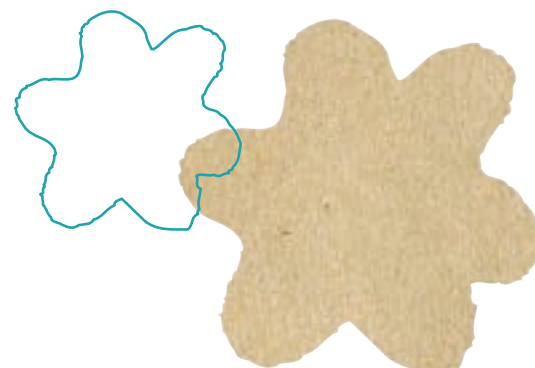
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Michael Sweeney
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Patricia Zwetzig

Honors

Honor gifts were given between September 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025, in tribute, gratitude, or celebration of family members, birthdays, or special celebrations. Honor gift recognition brochures are available by request.

In honor of Doug Backlund
Daniel and Tama Backlund
In honor of Mike, Ashley, Whitney, Charlie, & Owen
Fellows
Dwight and Laurie Vondra

In honor of Catherine
Gallucci
Rosemarie Gallucci
In honor of Hitchcock
Leadership: Jeffrey & Sheila
Gatzke, Craig & Carla Brock,
Todd & Jennifer Cole, Bev
Day, Rita & Ray Waldner, Ray
& Leahdee Wright, Lisa &
Randy Haigh, Corey & Teresa
Mallon, Megan Tollefson,
Annie Olsen, Lyle Lips, Carol
Carlson, and Ellen Kay Haigh
*Pastors Steve and Hazel
Behrens*
In honor of Jynelle's Birthday
Anonymous
In honor of Tim & Martha
Malone
Robert Jr. and Sharon Kellis
In honor of Anne McGovern
*Susan McGovern and
James Rowen*
In honor of My Grandchildren
*Mary Holien**
In honor of Theo, Gabbie,
and Brielle
Dennis and Tammy Mettler
In honor of Jim & Mary Uthe
Travas and Sherri Uthe
In honor of TJ, Elisa, Brody, &
Colby Vondra
Dwight and Laurie Vondra
In honor of Ashley Fellows,
Andrew Vondra, TJ Vondra, &
Their Families
Dwight and Laurie Vondra
In honor of Kathy Wilmot &
Christmas
Linda and James Hosek

Memorials

Memorial gifts are gifts given between September 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025, in memory of family members or friends who have passed away.

In memory of Sonja Adrian
Larry and Carol Speich
In memory of Mike Babcock
Linda Babcock
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In memory of Orval, Rita, &
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Ken and Deb Bussmus
In memory of Barb Carroll
Daniel and Tama Backlund
In memory of George J.
Corrigan
Eileen Ohlinger
In memory of Lloyd Dennert
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Trish Delaney*
In memory of Marlys "Marty"
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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, 2024. These gifts ensure that South Dakota children who need healing and support will never be turned away.

In memory of Daryle Kuhle
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In memory of Jeanne Speich
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In memory of Shirley Tanner
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In memory of Tehlula Lee
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In memory of Wilma "Joy"
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Hazel Knutson

In memory of Carol Yager
Ken Yager

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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Artesian Area Quilting Queens
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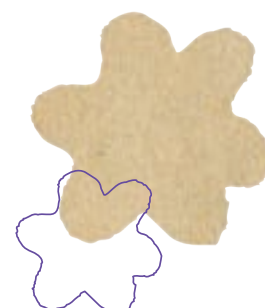
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www.abbotthouse.org

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)
- Sidewalk chalk
- Small stress balls
- School Supplies
- Sports equipment – volleyballs, basketballs, badminton, pickle ball
- New Board Games- Candy Land, Spindoole, Don't Break The Ice, Guess Who, Mancala, playing cards
- 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
- Switch 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
- New 100% cotton “no show” socks
- Learning How to Draw Books
- 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
- Finger Nail Polish

Wish List for Foster Children and Young Adults

- School Supplies for Fall 2025
- 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
- Bluetooth speakers
- Toiletry Items- toothbrushes, hairbrushes, towels, washcloths, etc.
- Mattress Covers for XL Twin Beds
- 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
- Crochet and Knitting materials
- Family pass to South Dakota State Parks
- Remote control cars
- Drones
- Lava lamps
- Gift cards to clothing stores and restaurants
- Gift cards for nail/hair salons
- Tickets to Wild Water West, Thunder Road, Bear Country, Great Plains Zoo, Museum of Natural History, Cave Tours, Washington Pavilion