

**CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA**  
ANNUAL REPORT - FISCAL YEAR 2015



## OUR MISSION

Children's Home Society of Minnesota is committed to help children thrive, and to build, strengthen and sustain individual, family and community life.

## OUR CORE PURPOSE

Children's Home knows that a child in a safe, nurturing home is a child who thrives. We work to give every child security, opportunity and a loving family.



## DEAR FRIENDS,

**As the world is round, so too are the stories that connect us to one another and come full circle in giving back to the institutions that support life and well-being.**

Children's Home Society of Minnesota stories here illustrate the dynamic synergy of love that goes around and comes around. Focused always on the well-being of children worldwide, Children's Home is dedicated to building, strengthening and sustaining individual, family and community life in the best interest of children everywhere. Our services include adoption, both internationally and in the U.S., post-adoption services to support ongoing needs of adoptees and their families, pregnancy services, and global support for programs outside of adoption that lead to children thriving in their home countries.

This year I was thrilled to return to Children's Home as President. During my tenure as past CEO and President, I had the privilege of helping guide the partnership with Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota to strengthen our financial standing. Together, Children's Home and LSS are able to provide a comprehensive array of adoption services in support of children and families.

Your generosity in all its forms, through your financial gifts, your time and talents as a volunteer and your heart-felt friendship, strengthens Children's Home and undergirds our ability to stay strong.

Adoption has been the cornerstone of our work for over 125 years. As societal needs change, so must we adapt to meet the ever changing needs of children and youth in today's world. The impact of your gift means a child will be welcomed home to a loving, nurturing family. It means more children waiting in foster care will find permanency and more children internationally will have the support they need to thrive.

**We are truly grateful for your stewardship and honored that you have entrusted us with your gifts.** We are excited to move forward, together with you, as we strive to create the best outcomes for children everywhere.

**With Gratitude,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maureen E. Warren".

**MAUREEN WARREN**  
PRESIDENT

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia A. Kruegger".

**PATRICIA KRUEGGER**  
BOARD CHAIR

# OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

**222**  
CHILDREN  
**ADOPTED**  
THROUGH  
CHILDREN'S HOME & LSS

GLOBAL FAMILY  
SUPPORT EFFORTS IN  
**16 COUNTRIES**

- CHILDREN'S HOME
- LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE
- GLOBAL FAMILY SUPPORT





**488 individuals**  
attended our foster care  
adoption education classes.



**47 infants** joined families  
through an open adoption.

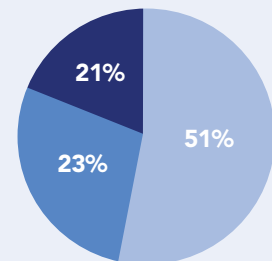
Our Adoption Support Fund  
awarded **\$150,260**  
in grants to help  
**40 children** join  
their new families.

**3,358** people contacted us  
for the first time  
to learn about **adoption.**

**58** expectant parents received  
pregnancy counseling services.

**119 youth** in foster care worked  
with our staff to identify adoptive families  
and positive adult connections through  
Child Specific Recruitment services.

**222 children**  
joined their adoptive  
families in **2015**



- International Adoption **113**
- Adoption from Foster Care **62**
- Domestic Infant Adoption **47**



**62 children** living in foster care  
were placed in permanent adoptive families.

**374 children** advocated for in  
the U.S. & 9 international countries.



**113 children**  
from **9 countries**  
joined families through  
**international** adoption.

**91 kids** in grades K-8 attended Adoption Day Camp.

**95** travelers participated in  
our **Tour Korea!** birth  
country travel program.

Our staff **helped**  
**600 individuals**  
searching for birth family  
members & medical  
background information.

Since 1998 we have distributed over  
**\$5 million in 24 countries**  
to support Global Family Support  
projects that promote the care,  
protection, health and education  
of vulnerable children  
and families in  
communities  
around the world.



Find Us!





## OUR SERVICES

### THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD IS AT THE CENTER OF ALL WE DO.

We define family as two or more people, whether living together or apart, related by blood, marriage, adoption or commitment to care for one another. We believe that all children deserve and need permanent families.

We recognize that adoption is a lifelong journey and believe that all members of the adoption circle should have access to education, support and resources at every stage of life.

#### **Adoption Support Fund**

For older children, sibling groups and children with identified needs, the adoption support fund means the difference between growing up in an orphanage or foster care and spending a lifetime in a loving family. Grants of up to \$3,000 help remove financial barriers for families eager to adopt waiting children. Grants are also available to adoptees and birth parents for search and reunion services.

#### **Foster Care Adoption**

We help youth living in foster care find safe, permanent homes. There is a great need for families able to provide permanent homes for school-aged children, siblings and children with identified needs.

#### **Infant Adoption**

We help families create an open adoption plan that benefits the child, the birth parents and the adoptive parents. Our goal is for each child to grow up with information about their family of origin and the awareness of the love that went into their adoption plan.

#### **International Adoption**

We help children of all ages and backgrounds find permanent, loving families. Trained adoption staff specialize in each

country where we work, providing families access to a wide range of resources to help them make the best decision for their family.

#### **Global Family Support**

With our worldwide partners, Children's Home supports efforts that promote the care, protection, health and education of children in countries all around the globe. Global Family Support ensures children living in orphanages receive the best possible care and supports community-based economic development projects that help families remain intact.

#### **Post-Adoption Services**

We support adopted individuals and their families throughout their lifelong journey. Post-Adoption Services provide education and build community including Adoption Day Camp, a mentoring program, search and background services, support groups, educational events and volunteer opportunities.

#### **Pregnancy Services**

We provide non-directive counseling to expectant parents, respecting all of their decisions. We offer practical guidelines and emotional support to every expectant mother and/or father.

## TOUR KOREA!

**Children's Home Tour Korea! reconnects Korean adoptees to their birth country, keeping cultural heritage alive and helping Korean adoptees and their families explore issues of identity and belonging together.**

In the summer of 2015, Laura and Scott Stevens, along with their children Ben (15) and Julia (12), chose to travel with the Children's Home Dragon Tour so support from Children's Home staff was never far from reach as their children re-experienced their birth country.

Laura says meeting Ben's birth mom and both children's foster moms was a memory they will treasure forever.

"Meeting Ben's birth mom and both kids' foster moms stands out as the most memorable event for our whole family. We consider ourselves very fortunate to have been able to have this experience and both Children's Home and Eastern [Social] Welfare Society were integral in making these meetings happen. For this, we are forever grateful."

## POST - ADOPTION

Ben and Julia had been talking about going back to visit Korea for a long time.

"The trip to Korea was a very positive experience for our whole family. We loved getting to explore so much of the country,

eat delicious food, learn about Korean history and culture, and meet wonderful people on the tour. Both kids loved Korea, but for Ben, especially, getting to spend time in Korea has strengthened his sense of identity."





## FOSTER CARE ADOPTION

### AN AMAZING SYNCHRONICITY

Sometimes incredible synchronicity creates unimagined magic. Extra. Ordinary. Put them together and the magnitude of what happens can be outside our imaginings.

Two siblings in foster care. Adopted by two different families — on the same day, in the same courthouse. Extraordinary. The magic that followed means each child gained a new family and each family embraced new extended family. The siblings have an extraordinary opportunity to remain in close contact. The built-in mutual support the families give each other also means 11-year-old Josie and her brother have the comfort of each other and the stability of a permanent, loving family.

Adopting an older child from foster care can come with some unexpected challenges. John and Heidi, taking a leap of faith and great love, embraced Josie as their own. Heidi explains, “You have to change your whole life to accommodate another person you don’t know.” In this case, this also included forming strong connections with another adoptive family to keep the siblings’ relationship intact.

“We are very grateful for the whole experience and want people to know there are successes out there.”

“We are very grateful for the whole experience.”



### LOVE IN ACTION

**Children’s Home is in the business of protecting and nurturing the hearts of children, of making miracles commonplace.**

We help facilitate the miracle of family for children around the globe who are orphaned, abandoned or under state guardianship. There are no shortages of people and places that need our gifts to transcend everyday challenges. The task becomes the discerning process — where we are deeply connected, our treasure is sure to follow.

Financial support through Children’s Home Global Family Support reveals the discerning hearts of Pat and Colleen Bollom. It is an act of giving back to the birth country of their adopted children, Abhi and Yashoda. Deeply committed to Uma Karki and the Inspiration Society of Nepal, the Bolloms’ bond with Uma began years ago when Uma was the caregiver for Abhi.

Taken by Uma’s vision of an orphanage in Kathmandu, the Bolloms committed to financial support for the Inspiration Society of Nepal. Undeterred by lack of government funding, Uma founded the homelike orphanage, dedicating herself to providing

safety, security and education to a small band of children and to helping Nepalese women in need of employment and shelter who now work as caregivers.

With the suspension of international adoptions from Nepal, and no options to reunite the children with family, Uma is committed to raising them to successful adulthood. The Bolloms have an equally fierce dedication to helping her make it through. Knowing Uma Karki is at the helm, the Bolloms, and Children’s Home, have the assurance the children are well cared for and the orphanage is well-managed. “It is so clear she is doing good work,” says Colleen. “She can focus on the children and she knows we have her back financially.”

The immediate and obvious impact on this small Nepalese community, and Uma’s drive and compassion keeps the Bolloms’ giving at the leadership level.

For Pat Bollom, international connections led the way to Nepal. With family in Asia, a childhood history of international travel, and business connections to Nepal, it was a natural fit for the Bolloms to adopt

## LEADERSHIP GIVING

internationally. Now the international connection is kept alive through the consistent support to a small orphanage in Kathmandu, a place where love can grow up the children at the Inspiration Society of Nepal.





# THANK YOU, DONORS!

Many adoptive families have discovered a profound truth – that love is universal and beautiful, whether for biological or adopted children.

Your gifts are evidence that you believe this fundamental truth. Adoption is filled with sweet stories of redemption and homecoming thanks to Children's Home supporters who believe children need and deserve loving families.

In FY15 (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015), Children's Home joined 222 children with adoptive families and provided more than 5,200 individuals with adoption, post-adoption and pregnancy support. This work is only possible because of your heartfelt compassion for children and families and the generous gifts you have made to help sustain the work of Children's Home.

We are deeply grateful you have chosen to partner with us in changing children's lives for the better. With heartfelt thanks, we acknowledge the 4,140 gifts totaling over \$2 million dollars in FY15.

Because of these remarkable gifts Children's Home can continue to provide children with security, opportunity and permanent, loving families — not just this year, but for generations to come.

## THANK YOU!

### \$200,000 + INDIVIDUALS

\*Dorothy M. Allen

### \$100,000 - \$199,999 INDIVIDUALS

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Ms. Ardith Fischer

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**\$1,000 - \$2,499**

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**\$500 - \$999**

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Kenton & Stefanie Yoder  
\*deceased

**PLANNED GIVING**

**COMING FULL CIRCLE**



**Timeless as the love of parents and children, the deep care for the well-being of children runs through the Whitney family history.**

David and his two sisters were adopted from Children's Home in the early 1960s. Long before they came home to parents Kim and Helen, David's great-grandmother, Alice Wheelock Whitney, served on the board of Children's Home. Her grandson, Kim, followed in her footsteps, serving for many years on the Children's Home board of directors.

The Whitneys, wanting to share the joy they experienced in raising a family, made a generous gift to Children's Home through the Minneapolis Foundation, ensuring Children's Home continues into the future.

David celebrates the memory of his parents and their love through his financial support of Children's Home. Coming full circle in the family tradition, he has made a legacy gift to Children's Home in his estate plans, while also contributing annually. Soft spoken and passionate about giving back, memories of his parents' love play a key role in the legacy of David Whitney and the enduring power of family.



# FOUNDATION GIVING

## HUBBARD BROADCASTING FOUNDATION



**A powerful testament to strong family ties, the Hubbard family continues to honor past generations by paying it forward for children and families.**

Kari Hubbard Rominski, executive director of the Hubbard Broadcasting Foundation, says it began with her grandfather who started the foundation and instilled the value of giving back. Fast forward, Kari and her siblings honor their grandfather and their mother by continuing to support Children's Home.

Their mother, Karen Hubbard, served with dedication and passion on the board of directors of Children's Home in the 1980s. Growing up hearing the stories about the good work of Children's Home led the Hubbard siblings to honor the love of family by giving to Children's Home so others can experience the gift of family as well.

In all they do, the Hubbard family — through the gifts of the family foundation — strive to be good community neighbors. By supporting organizations focused on the well-being of children and helping children home to permanent, loving families, the Hubbards come full circle — honoring the past by looking to the future.

### \$250 - \$499

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Reverend Audrey L. Benjamin

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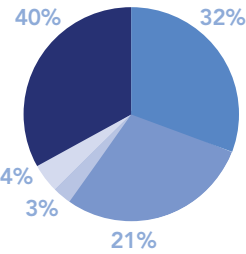
\*deceased

*We have made every effort to recognize all individuals and organizations that have contributed \$250 or more in this list. If we have erred or have not presented your name as you prefer, please let us know. Your call is welcomed at 651.969.2342.*



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## SUPPORT & REVENUE



- **Contributions**  
INCLUDING UNITED WAY & IN-KIND DONATIONS  
**\$2,110,495**
- **Fees for Service**  
**\$1,729,191**
- **Fees & Grants**  
FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCIES  
**\$1,115,444**
- **Investment Income**  
**\$185,561**
- **Miscellaneous Income**  
**\$195,201**

**TOTAL REVENUE**  
**\$5,335,892**

**TOTAL EXPENSES**  
**\$5,276,246**

Our annual report is available online:  
[chlss.org/about-us/annual-reports/](http://chlss.org/about-us/annual-reports/)

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## CONTACT US

### Main Office

1605 Eustis Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55108  
651.646.7771 | 800.952.9302

### East Office

8555 16th Street, Suite 600  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
301.562.6500 | 888.904.2229



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