



CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA  
ANNUAL REPORT - FISCAL YEAR 2017



## INTRODUCING OUR NEW LOGO!



A great logo visually expresses who we are and what we do so that our community can easily find us and connect to our mission — today, tomorrow and for years to come. In 2018, Children's Home is updating our visual identity to let people know that we are ready and able to meet their changing needs.

The new logos for both Children's Home and Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota will strengthen the shared identity of our adoption programs. The new Children's Home logo conveys different aspects of our mission:

- A visual representation of our name and the loving adoptive homes that we work to build
- A symbol of the changing faces of the children we serve, as well as the relationships of our adoptees as they grow
- A reference to sibling groups, the children who often wait the longest
- A nod to our work to help raise children and raise up our communities

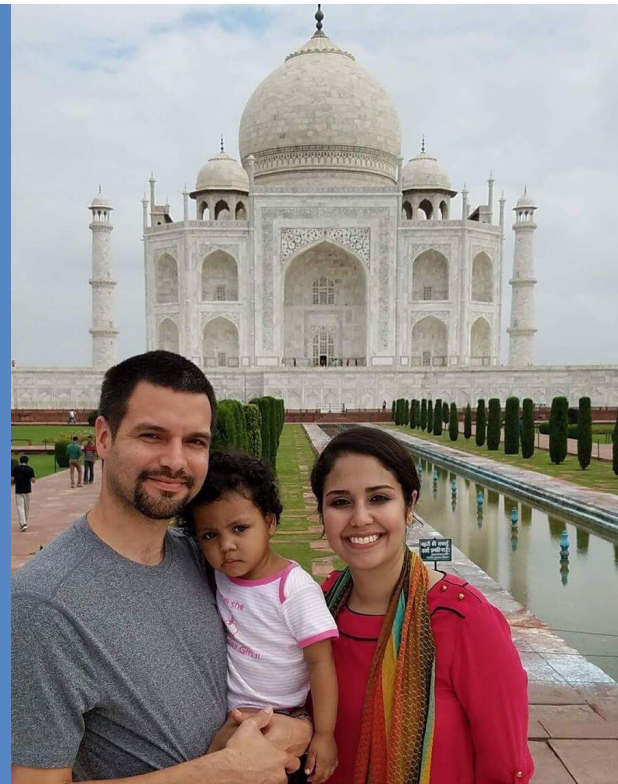


### OUR MISSION

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

### OUR 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 2017 draws to a close, we reflect on where we have been as an adoption agency and on what faces us in today's world. In doing so, we are filled with both gratitude and determination.**

Our gratitude stems from multiple fronts. Thanks to your generosity, Children's Home is in a strong financial position to address the increasing demands of finding adoptive families for children across the globe. We are grateful and honored that, with your support, we helped 275 children be matched with their forever families this year.

And, we are thankful to be celebrating our fifth anniversary of the partnership with Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. In our coming together as adoption agencies, we are able to serve more children and parents in their adoption and post adoption journeys. Together, we can provide an array of services that address the full spectrum of the adoption cycle.

Our determination is grounded in the facts we face every day: there are an increasing number of children who face out-of-home placement in foster care. And, while more children have been adopted from foster care than ever before, more children are also waiting in foster care for permanent, loving families.

We are reminded that adoption, in all its multiplicity, is both a story of hope and love found, and can equally be a story of loss.

We are grateful that we are poised to help match more families with waiting children. And we are grateful that we have the capacity and expertise to support families through the adoption and post adoption cycle, with both the joy and grief that can come with it.

Amid complexities we remain committed to supporting international adoption. We continue to see the need for families for school-aged children, sibling groups and children with identified needs. We're excited to help an increasing number of families consider our India program.

We continue to be deeply grateful for your stewardship. Your generosity through your financial gifts, your commitment of time and talent, and your steadfast friendship help keep Children's Home strong.

**In gratitude and affection,**

**MAUREEN WARREN**  
PRESIDENT

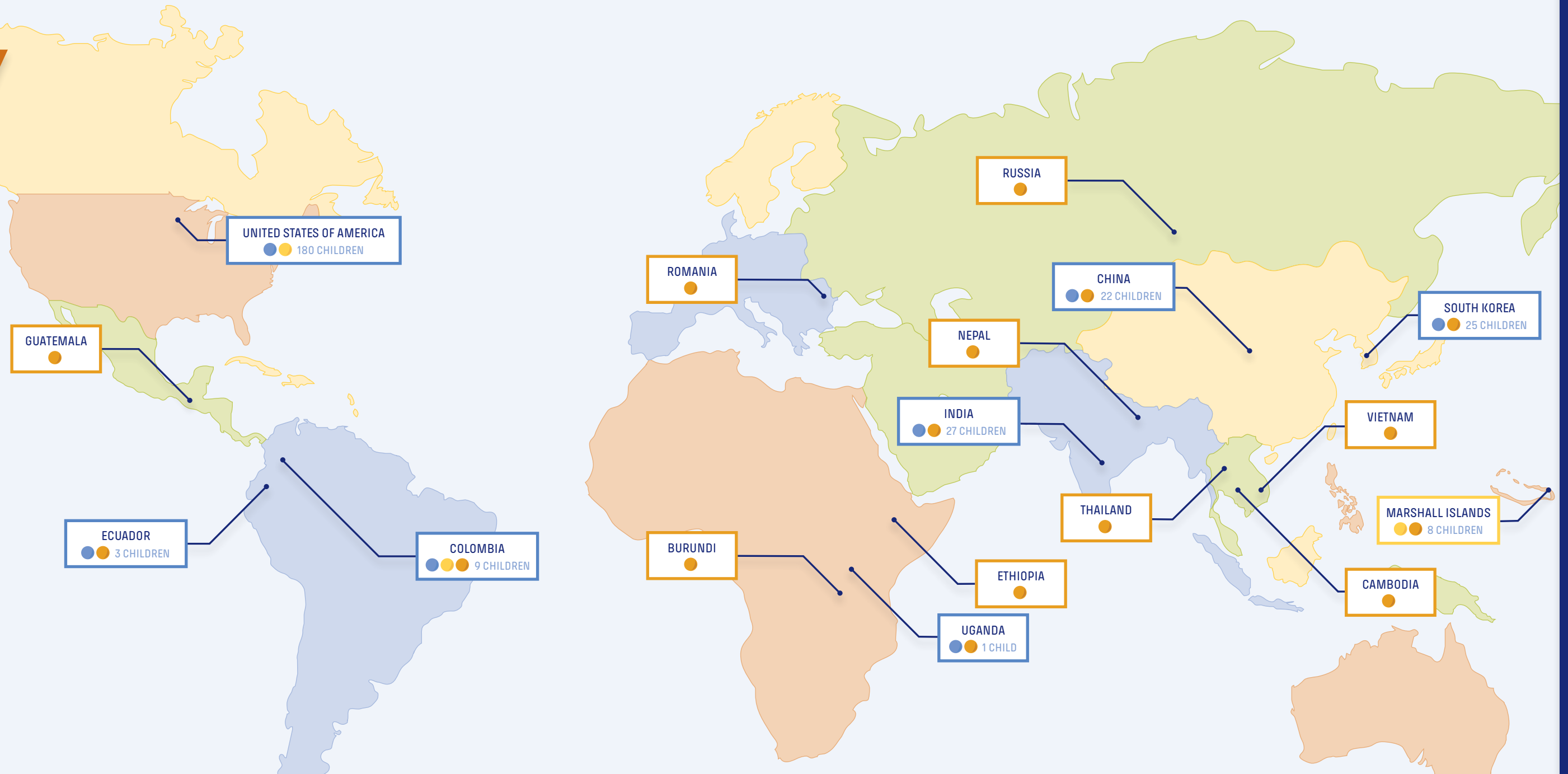
**PATRICIA KRUEGER**  
BOARD CHAIR

## OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

275 CHILDREN  
ADOPTED THROUGH  
CHILDREN'S HOME & LSS

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

GLOBAL FAMILY  
SUPPORT EFFORTS IN  
16 COUNTRIES







2,814 PEOPLE contacted us for the FIRST TIME to learn about adoption.

Since 1998, we have distributed over \$6 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.

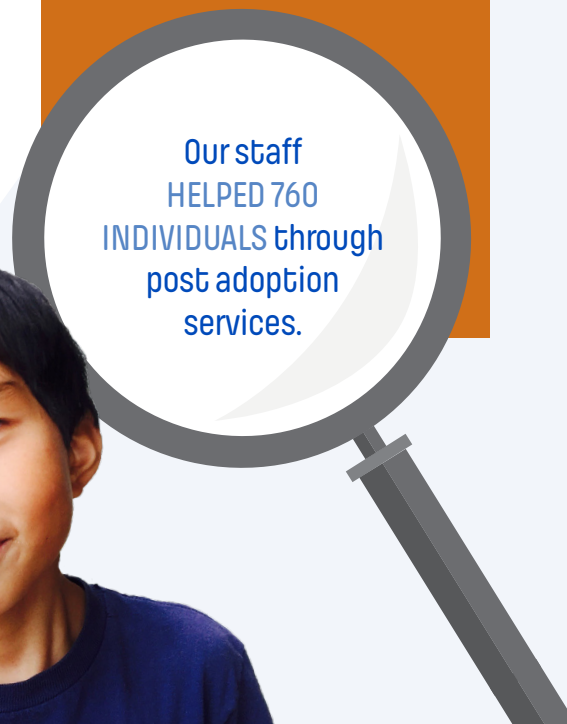


95 CHILDREN from 8 countries joined families through INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION.

217 people attended ADOPTION FAIRS.

69 YOUTH in foster care worked with our staff to identify adoptive families and positive adult connections through CHILD-SPECIFIC RECRUITMENT SERVICES.

Our staff HELPED 760 INDIVIDUALS through post adoption services.



We have 33 recorded webinars that were viewed 4,320 times.

## TOP 5 MOST VIEWED WEBINARS

1. Trauma: What You Need to Know
2. Debunking Myths Surrounding Foster Care Adoption
3. Adopt from India
4. Supporting Your Child's Racial/Ethnic Identity
5. Older Child Adoption

491 INDIVIDUALS attended our FOSTER CARE ADOPTION EDUCATION classes.



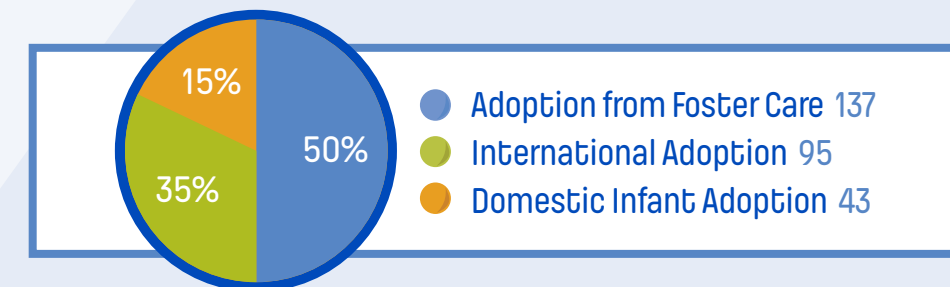
275 CHILDREN JOINED THEIR ADOPTIVE FAMILIES IN 2017.

248 CHILDREN ADVOCATED FOR in the U.S. & 8 international countries.

104 KIDS in grades K-8 attended ADOPTION DAY CAMP.

79 TRAVELERS participated in our TOUR KOREA! birthland travel program.

4 CHILD-SPECIFIC GRANTS awarded for international waiting children.



43 INFANTS joined their adoptive families through OPEN ADOPTION.

53 expectant parents received PREGNANCY COUNSELING services.

137 CHILDREN adopted from MINNESOTA FOSTER CARE.

Our Adoption Support Fund awarded \$107,747 IN GRANTS.





## OUR SERVICES



*"Some of these special needs seem scary, but they're really not. It's amazing how much kids can overcome and adapt. At the end of the day, kids just want to be involved and feel loved. Dean really feels like he belongs."*

*— Heidi Ellenmeier, adoptive parent*

**We know children thrive when they are given security, opportunity and a loving family.**

At Children's Home, 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.

### FOSTER CARE ADOPTION

For the first time in recent history, our combined adoption programs placed more children from Minnesota foster care than any other program — exceeding our contractual expectations. As part of our work, we offer diverse support for foster adoption families including child-specific recruitment and kinship adoption.

### INFANT ADOPTION

We help families in Maryland, Minnesota, and Virginia create an open adoption plan that benefits the child, the birth parents and adoptive parents. We have increased and modernized our outreach services to help more families connect to expectant parents.

### INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION

Through a variety of international adoption programs, we are able to find families across the U.S. for children who wait globally. Our advocacy efforts focus on helping children who have a wide spectrum of identified needs.

### POST ADOPTION SERVICES

We continue to increase our services for those touched by adoption. Throughout each year, we host support groups for birth parents, adoptees, parents of adopted adults and children. We're also meeting the increased need for navigating the complexities of reunion, especially with the advent of DNA search and the increased connectivity that the internet provides.

**Our heart and our work is centered in the wellbeing of children. In addition to adoption services, we also support children and families in the following ways:**

### ADOPTION SUPPORT FUND

We provide grants designed specifically to help with the placement of older children, sibling groups and children with identified needs. Grants are also available for domestic and international post adoption services.

### GLOBAL FAMILY SUPPORT

With our worldwide partners, Global Family Support ensures children living in orphanages receive the best care possible and supports economic development projects that help families remain intact.

### PREGNANCY SERVICES

Our professionally trained staff offer non-directive counseling, emotional support and practical resources for expectant mothers and/or fathers.

## POST ADOPTION

### FINDING CONNECTION AND COMMONALITIES IN REUNION

**Thinking it a mistake, Ruth Rose ignored a letter from Children's Home she received in September 2016. A second, corrected letter prompted her response — profoundly changing her life and that of her son she placed for adoption in 1960.**

Bill Monson always wanted to find his birth parents. By request, he waited until his adoptive father died 24 years ago to begin his search. His adoptive mom had passed away when Bill was a teen. Within months, *Ancestry.com* connected him with his birth father and six half-siblings.

Finding Ruth proved more challenging. Bill didn't know his birth name, and the laws at the time limited the information Children's Home, which placed him with his adoptive family, could provide. In 2016, Children's Home reopened its search, writing to Ruth.

Our Post Adoption Services monitored letters and calls between Ruth and Bill, ensuring their safety and comfort in the budding relationship. More than comfortable, both were thrilled!

Recalling their first meeting in January 2017, Bill said, "That was the hardest door I've ever walked through. There were a lot of mixed emotions."

In less than a year, their lives have been fully integrated. They talk most days and meet weekly to banter about shared interests like classic cars and fishing while playing cribbage, a mutual favorite. Bill has gained a relationship with a younger brother, Ruth's only other child, and his two kids. Ruth is tickled to have three more grandchildren. She was an honored guest at Bill's daughter's wedding in September.

*"Finding Bill has changed my life!" gushed Ruth, who held back from finding her son for fear of disrupting his life. "You don't know how thankful I am."*

"Other than my aunt and uncle who I lived with [when I was pregnant], I never told anyone about Bill," she said, reflecting on giving birth at a Saint Paul home for unwed mothers. "Once I could finally tell people, it was wonderful."

Despite having a rich life with his adoptive family, including a sister and a brother, Bill echoes Ruth's delight in their reunion.

*"A big part of my heart was empty. Now, my heart is so full!"*  
— Bill





## FOSTER CARE ADOPTION



*The best interest of the child is at the heart of all we do.*

### GRIEVING THE LOSS OF A SON AND FATHER

Sonny's unexpected death happened when his daughter, Marianna, was just three months old. He had been battling drug addiction and had developed a blood infection which, ultimately, took his life. Sonny's mother and father, Lena and Dan, were grieving the death of their 23-year-old son, when they found out Marianna's mother was also struggling with drug addiction.

When Marianna was born, she was going through withdrawals. "She cried for 23 hours straight until she got her fix," said Lena. "When we found this out, we were brought to tears." Lena and Dan had been unaware of all that Marianna had endured during the first three months of her life.

"When Sonny passed away, he was sober," said Lena. "He told me he was going to do it for Marianna." Both Marianna's parents were working towards sobriety, but after Sonny passed away, Marianna's mom relapsed. "That's when she called me and told me she was losing her parental rights," said Lena. "So of course I jumped in and fought to adopt her."

"I was told I wasn't being considered to become the caretaker for my granddaughter," said Lena.

"We had to go to court." Her lawyer pointed her towards Children's Home for assistance. That is when she finally felt some relief. "At first, I felt like the world was against me, but then the staff at Children's Home were so helpful. They offered me so many resources and support."

Lena and Dan became foster parents so that Marianna could live with them while the adoption finalized. "Now we're grandma-mom and grandpa-dad," said Lena. As their family works to heal from the trauma they've endured during the past four years, they take comfort in the fact that they get to spend their life together.

**THE CHILDREN'S HOME FOSTER CARE ADOPTION program serves children who are in state guardianship or tribal jurisdiction with a goal of permanency through adoption.**

**WE HELP FAMILIES prepare for adopting children from foster care with a home study, pre-adoptive training, foster care licensing and ongoing support throughout every step of the process.**

## A LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

**Mrs. Hyun Sook Han was introduced to Children's Home in 1970, during a four month trip from Seoul, South Korea to the United States. In this short trip, she made life-changing connections. She introduced Children's Home to the Social Welfare Society of Korea, which was instrumental in the future success of our international adoption program.**

A few years later, Mrs. Han and her husband decided they wanted to move from Seoul to Minnesota. Mrs. Han reconnected with Children's Home's then executive director, Roger Toogood, and was hired as a social worker. During her nearly 30 years with the organization, her role extended far beyond social work.

The Korean children and the American parents matched together through Children's Home were in need of support and guidance. In response, Mrs. Han created a handbook for parents of Korean adoptees providing the parents with knowledge and tools to help their children live in connection with their birth country. She also started Korea Day — a workshop for adoptive parents to learn about Korean culture.

In addition, Mrs. Han started many programs for Korean adoptees. Children's Day, a traditional Korean celebration dedicated to children, wasn't celebrated in Minnesota until Mrs. Han created a space for it. She also implemented post adoption support groups.

At times, Mrs. Han was so dedicated to the success of Korean children that she was working four nights a

week in addition to her full days. She made a lot of trips to and from Korea to foster communication between Korea and America — keeping international adoption at the forefront of government and media discussions.

Shortly after Mrs. Han began her career at Children's Home, she got involved with fundraising by starting the Korean Benefit Dinner. The first year, the dinner raised \$3,700. At its height, the benefit raised \$70,000.

After retiring in 2003, Mrs. Han spent the next seven years as a member of the Children's Home board of directors. She was the first former employee who was invited to participate as a board member. Now that her time on the board is complete, she continues to volunteer her time for the Korean community in Minnesota. She has spent the past six years as the president of the Korean American Association — an organization that supports Koreans living in Minnesota.

Most recently, in November 2017, Mrs. Han hosted her 80th birthday celebration with the proceeds benefiting the Children's Home Han Endowment Fund. "I started the endowment fund with \$10,000 in 1995 after my husband's death," she said. More than 20 years later, she continues to show her commitment to children and families by donating her time and skills while fundraising.

**We are thankful for Mrs. Han's dedication to helping both Korean birth mothers and their children.**

## LEGACY GIVING



*"I worked for Children's Home for 30 years. My time went so quickly. For the life of children, I would do anything."*  
— Mrs. Han





# THANK YOU, DONORS!

Today, children and the families they joined through Children’s Home are celebrating daily life together. Those celebrations come in a tender smile, a gentle touch, a kiss on the forehead — and through many firsts: learning to ride a bike or drive a car, graduating from school and so much more!

Your generous support helped make those family celebrations a reality for so many through adoption. At Children’s Home, we honor the bonds of families in all forms. We know you, too, genuinely care about children and helping support strong families.

We can’t do this work without you. It is your generosity that keeps us strong and helps children thrive all year long.

We are deeply grateful for your stewardship. With heartfelt thanks, we acknowledge the more than 2,700 donors who partner with us to make children’s lives better.

## \$100,000 + INDIVIDUALS

\*Dorothy M. Allen

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\$500 - \$999

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\$250 - \$499

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\*deceased

LEADERSHIP GIVING



STEVE & JOANNE WITH THEIR GRANDCHILDREN

GRATEFUL TO MAKE FAMILIES LIKE THEIRS POSSIBLE

As one of thousands of infants Children's Home has placed into loving, forever families, Steve Zenz's life has been significantly influenced by the organization. It stands to reason that he welcomed a co-worker's invitation to learn more about Children's Home in 1992 — nearly 40 years after he joined his adoptive family.

That introduction led Steve and his wife, Joanne, to become more involved — he on the Board of Directors and she as a volunteer in the Children's Home office. The grandparents to three, who have been married just over 40 years, also began giving

more intentionally and have become two of our most generous, longest individual donors.

“Having been adopted through Children's Home as a baby, I am forever grateful to the organization for placing me with a wonderful family,” said Steve, who has served nearly 20 non-consecutive years on the Board. Steve's business consulting expertise helped guide us through tight financial times, our affiliation with Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, and the construction of our current headquarters. He helped the organization shift its focus from primarily international adoptions in 1992, to today's nearly equal split in domestic and international adoptions.

“My involvement has continued to reinforce for me the great work Children's Home does in bringing families together,” he said. “I see example after example.” He credits the dedicated employees who believe in and live the organization's mission every day to making the dream of a family a rich reality for so many, including himself.



STEVE'S ADOPTION DAY



FOUNDATION GIVING

FRED C. AND KATHERINE B. ANDERSEN FOUNDATION EXTENDS LEGACY OF COMPASSION

Many knew Fred C. Andersen, the president of Andersen Corporation from 1914 until 1960, as a man of high ideals and integrity, and as a humanitarian. Equally noteworthy, his wife, Katherine, worked as a scientist after earning her master’s degree in a time when women rarely attained higher education.

The couple provided leadership and financial support to many organizations; among them the Mayo Clinic and several youth organizations, including the Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Clubs, and scouting programs.

In 1959, they established the Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation to formalize their philanthropic efforts and to direct their legacy.

Just one year after its founding, the Foundation began its perpetual support of Children’s Home because the Andersens felt children deserve a safe and stable environment.

The Foundation has supported Children’s Home general operations, pre- and post-adoption services, the Little Red Stocking holiday fundraising campaign, and programs in Washington County, Minnesota, where the Andersens lived prior to their passing. The Foundation continues to support Children’s Home because our child-centered approach and best practices deliver excellent results for children and families.

Even beyond their lives — Mr. Andersen passed away in 1979 and Mrs. Andersen in 1996 — the Andersens are providing hope and opportunity for many through adoption.

\$250 - \$499

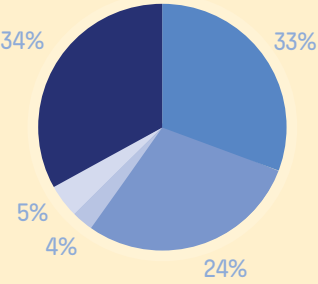
INDIVIDUALS CONTINUED

- Jerry Kelley
- Shirley & Hiram Kilborn
- Jane Killgore & Thomas D’Albani
- Leslie Kimes
- Eloise M. Kinne
- Barbara & Gerald Kitzman
- Wendy Kleiser
- Leslie Kopietz & Mark Steinhauser
- Kris Kopischke
- Mary Kosel & Robert Redding
- Jean & Arnold Kroll
- Matthew J. Kuennen
- Amy & Gary Larsen
- Stephanie & David Larsen
- Sally & Daniel Larson
- Lisa & Todd Latterell
- Carol & James LeDuc
- Carol Letch
- Peter Lopez
- Mary Magnuson & John Apitz
- Jan & Michael Martin
- Scott Martin
- Patricia & Wayne Marzolf
- Mary Lou Mathiowetz
- Jennifer & Rick Mattox
- Karla & Joseph Mavencamp
- Elizabeth & Rodney McCrea
- Joyce & Richard McFarland
- Elizabeth & David McQuoid
- Janet & Richard Metcalf
- Tina Milano & Derek Holmes
- Thomas A. Morgan
- Jean & Dale Moss
- Sue & Dan Murray

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- Catherine & William Nellist
- Janet & Thomas Nelson
- Kathleen & Timothy Nelson
- Steven Nelson
- Susan & Michael Newburg
- Alexis Oberdorfer & Marcus Hill
- Martha O’Brien & Mark Jenssen
- Charles Officer
- Marlys Ogle
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- Anneliese K. Opitz
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- Hazel Sinning
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- Jacqueline & David Stoen
- Linda Stouffer
- Karen & Matthew Sundeen
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- Jennie & James Tomhave
- Kate Tomlinson & Roger Labrie
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- W. R. Westrom
- Janet & Carl Weyer
- Lucretia & James Whiting
- Timothy Wiering
- Janet A. Wilke
- Mollie & Thomas Wise
- Nan Zhang & Yong Wu
- \*deceased

FINANCIAL REPORT



- CONTRIBUTIONS  
Including United Way & In-Kind Donations  
\$1,659,746
- FEES FOR SERVICE  
\$1,595,631
- FEES & GRANTS  
From Government Agencies  
\$1,195,211
- INVESTMENT INCOME  
\$183,032
- MISCELLANEOUS INCOME  
\$251,968

Children’s Home received support from 2,739 DONORS.

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.

TOTAL REVENUE \$4,885,588  
TOTAL EXPENSES \$4,538,847



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OUR ANNUAL REPORT IS  
AVAILABLE ONLINE:

[chlss.org/  
annual-reports](http://chlss.org/annual-reports)

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Children's Home Society of Minnesota

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Retired, St. Cloud State University Admissions

BILL SOTH, Vice-Chair  
Retired, former partner Dorsey & Whitney, LLP

STEVE ZENZ, Treasurer & Secretary  
Retired, Audit Partner in charge, KPMG LLP



*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.*



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[chlss.org](http://chlss.org)



**Children's  
Home Society**  
of Minnesota